

begging and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for abolition of begging and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

*The Motion was adopted.*

SHRI KUSUMA KRISHAN MURTHY:  
Introduce the Bill.

15.45 hrs.

BORROWING (FIXATION OF LIMIT)  
BILL\*

[English]

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): I beg to move for leave to introduce\*\* a Bill to provide for fixing the limit on borrowing by the Government of India under article 292 of the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for fixing the limit on borrowing by the Government of India under article 292 of the Constitution of India."

*The Motion was adopted*

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I introduce the Bill.

15.45 1/2 hrs.

DISABLED PERSONS (REHABILITATION  
AND WELFARE) BILL

[English]

By SHRI UTTAM RATHOD

MR. CHAIRMAN: We now take up further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri Uttam Rathod on the 7th September, 1990, namely:-

"That the Bill to provide for the rehabilitation and welfare of the disabled, be taken into consideration."

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: You can continue where you had left off last time. Three minutes in the time that you have already taken. You have got plenty of time now.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD (Hingoli): Since there are less people; so I can take some more time.

This Bill, the Disabled Persons (Rehabilitation and Welfare) (Fixation of Limit) Bill was brought with the sole idea of providing welfare and rehabilitation to these unfortunate people. You are aware that due to lack of hospitals and other facilities the people from the rural areas suffer disabilities which ultimately result in inability to get any implement for them. It is with this idea that I had introduced the Bill so that care can be taken to educate that man, train him for a particular purpose and provide him some employment.

Last time when I was speaking Mr. Banatwalla asked me whether whatever reservations that were meant for these people have also been withdrawn? There is a great discontent among the disabled people about the reservations. They want to know if the same reservations are continued or not. So, I would request the hon. Minister while replying to this Bill to clarify whether the reservations still continue in the Central Government and Central Government public undertakings as well as in the different States. If that is so, the people who are disabled will feel satisfied that somebody is taking care of them.

We have seen that there are different agencies working in different fields. For example, take the problem of the blind. The

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\*\*Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

[Sh. Uttam Rathod]

National Association for the Blind, the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind and all such societies are helping the blind people. For the rehabilitation they receive some training which will help them and to prepare those people to get a job and earn their livelihood.

We have seen in Bombay that there is one Workshop for the Blind, where they train boys in different trades. And these boys—we have seen—are not only employed in private and public undertakings, but they start their own business and earn their livelihood. I want this idea to be propagated all over the country and especially in the backward areas which have not adopted this new idea or concept. They should be encouraged to have more institutions in their area. These institutions will require some more funds. I know, because I run a Blind School and I found that certain aids are required, certain equipment is required to train these boys and girls. These items of equipment are very costly and sometimes we have to import them. It is difficult for these institutions to bear the duties like the excise duties, the customs duty and other things. So, I have mentioned it here and I requested the Government of to impose any levy be it castern or excise .

I have suggested in this Bill that there should be a national council to take care of different schemes which have been introduced by the Government of India. Last time we had seen that when the Education Policy was declared and we discussed it, It includes Integrated Educated Scheme for the Physically Handicapped was also introduced. It is a very good scheme. In Maharashtra we have tried it and I am sure that the other States also will also try it. I expect the hon. Minister to enlighten on this aspect and let us know as to how many States have implemented it and what is the result. At the State level, I have also suggested a State Council. The idea is to see that there is coordination, cooperation and all the institutions in the State function properly. I have seen in many physically handicapped institutions that the training that is to be imparted to them is not

fully imparted. This may be due to lack of finance and equipment. The State Council and the national Council should take care of such matter and try to help them.

These people should not only be provided employment but also the housing facility should be given to them. Interest free loans should be given to these people for this purpose. If we do that, they can serve the nation well.

We have a member, Shri Yamuna Prasad Shastri, in this House, who is blind. He is functioning very well. Similar was the experience in Maharashtra. Shri Bhai Shetey was quite effective in his work. I also know one Professor of Law, who was blind, who submitted a thesis on " Space laws." Unfortunately that could not be published during his life time. It has to be released after his death by Shri Hidayatullah, the then Vice President.

We have seen that the physically handicapped persons can do a lot. In Egypt, after the revolution, the first Education Minister was Dr. Taha Hussain, was blind. He introduced revolutionary ideas in education. We want the services of these physically handicapped people for the betterment of our society.

I have said about homes for these disabled people. Of course there are many institutions which do not subscribe to this idea. But I think that there must be some institutions, where these people can go, stay and pay some nominal charge and get their food and cheap accommodation. If that is done, then it will reduce the anxiety of the physically handicapped people.

I have also said about research. Everyday new things are coming up. Earlier we had big talking books. Now, small machines have been introduced and they are very effective. Australia has given these equipments. Earlier USA had given the talking books. With the help of these equipments, the handicapped people can easily improve their capability. Such equipments should be

made available to our institutions and to these people.

I have also recommended that if any institution or person is found not doing the work properly, they should be penalised. I have recommended that jobs should be provided to physically handicapped people in the Central and State Governments. Day before yesterday, I had a discussion with some of the handicapped people. They had suggested that even the private organisations can also provide jobs to these people. In Maharashtra, small PBX has been given to these people and they have been handling very capably. With these objectives, I have introduced this Bill.

I am sure the hon. Minister will accept it in principle and see that these people are taken care of. Let us send a message to these people that the Government equally shares the responsibility of these unfortunate souls. These physically handicapped people do not want any pity. They want you to care for them a little. A little care and recognition will definitely encourage them. They also can contribute to the welfare of our society. Let us take their cooperation and see that our society becomes richer.

[Translation]

SHRI GULAB CHAND KATARIA (Udaipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the disabled person is unable to work as a normal person. If the society and the Government do not extend their assistance to him, his life will become very difficult. If the other people of the society start hating and disliking him he will develop an inferiority complex and consequently his life and the life of his family members will turn miserable. I welcome the Bill that has been brought by you in this House. I also welcome the sentiments put forth by the medium of this Bill. The Government and the society should work for helping them to make progress in their lives and providing them new rays of hope. We will come across such people in all walks of life whom we can help by providing them certain means of education and by creating job opportunities for them. There are many in-

stitutions which work for the welfare of the disabled. Some public and voluntary institutions are there who are doing this work but it is essential for the Government to closely monitor their activities because there are certain people who have made these institutions as a source of their earning and instead of extending their assistance to them they have started exploiting them. They obtain grants in the name of helping the disabled but instead of helping the disabled they misuse the money for their own selfish ends.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a school for blinds situated in Udaipur. A Society was established to run this school. The society embezzled a huge amount of money which was also proved but despite this, no action has been taken against the management. The only action taken by the State Government is that a single person has been appointed to supervise the functioning of the institution. If such malpractices are allowed to continue in these institutions we shall not succeed in doing any thing good for the welfare of the disabled. Our efforts will not bear any fruits. Thus the Government should make arrangement for streamlining the functioning of these institutions.

We should give a thought to the fact, as to how the students of the institutions for blinds can be provided better education and training. As per my opinion blind students can prove to be excellent teachers. They can perform superb cultural programmes. They can perform good musical programmes and these are many other activities in which blind children can make good progress. Such people have extraordinary energy, capability and will power. If they are engaged in these works they can make good progress.

PROF. RAMGANESH KAPSE (Thane): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I request you to...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you on a point of order?

PROF. RAM GANESH KAPSE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, yes, I am on a point of order. My point of order is that the hon. Minister entrusted with this portfolio is not present

[Prof Ram Ganesh Kapse]

here at the moment His presence is necessary. The Minister of social welfare is not present

MR CHAIRMAN It is generally the joint responsibility of the cabinet and a Minister from the Cabinet is present here You please take your seat

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA) Mr Chairman, Sir, hon Minister of Social welfare is busy in Rajya Sabha

SHRI MANDHATA SINGH (Lucknow) Mr. Chairman, Sir, the day fixed for Private Members Bill is not being considered to be of any importance and this is obvious by the absence of the concerned Minister This attitude is not only being adopted by this Government but such instances have occurred in the past also Therefore, no hon Ministers should take it as a sarcastic remark on him The Government has always adopted the policy of ignoring this day which has been fixed for the Private Members Bill

MR CHAIRMAN Mandate Singhji you please take your seat In this matter it is the collective responsibility of the cabinet Although the concerned Minister's presence is desirable here but as per the information received just now, he is busy in the other House He is working there also Another Minister is present here and he is looking after this matter Gulab Chandji, you may speak

SHRI GULAB CHAND KATARIA Mr Chairman, Sir, keeping in view the kind of disability they are suffering from, we should work for their welfare The Government can provide various facilities to the people who are physically handicapped

16.00 hrs.

We can provide them different types of instruments free of cost They can be allotted

with public telephone connections which can be used by the general public If STD connections, as given to private parties are allotted to disabled persons on priority basis, I think that would greatly help a large number of helpless people Similarly there are many dumb persons but they can see and hear, so all the disabled persons should be provided with the jobs according to suitability and ability I do agree that the Government have made efforts in this direction but not to that extent as it should have been Perhaps the number of disabled in our country is highest as compare to any other country of the world The Government should certainly think about it as to why such a large number of handicapped and disabled persons are there in our country Is it due to malnutrition or due to non-availability of any other facilities? It is the responsibility of the Government to think over it and the Government should do it

16.02 hrs.

[*English*]

MR CHAIRMAN I find an absence of quorum I am obliged to have a quorum for running the House Let the bell be rung

16.03 hrs.

[MR DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the chair*]

16.04 hrs.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER Now quorum is there You can continue Mr Kataria

[*Translation*]

SHRI GULAB CHAND KATARIA First of all the Government should make arrangements, for the education of disabled persons and their livelihood They should be given free education and concession in transportation also so that they may lead a good life Besides, training should also be imparted to them according to their ability and suitability so that they may not feel themselves as burden on the society and can lead a respectable life The efforts which have been made during these years are

negligible as compare to the large number of disabled. In cities centres have been opened for deaf and dumb and hostels facility has been provided for them but how many such centres are there in rural areas. We should first conduct a survey of disabled persons in rural areas. Since it is a census year, the Government can constitute a forum which may conduct the survey in respect of disabled persons. If such data is collected as to how many deaf, blind or dumb persons are there, the Government can formulate schemes for their rehabilitation so that they may lead a respectable life. We have been reading it in the newspapers that India is leading in respect of the numbers of disabled but as compared to the large number of disabled, we have not been able to efforts for their rehabilitation. You cannot find any education centre for deaf, dumb and blind even in the Divisional headquarters. Even if these disabled persons want to get a medical certificate, they do not get it. It is regrettable that they face so many difficulties in getting medical certificate from the doctor.

Therefore, I would request the Government to organise such camps atleast in each Tehsil headquarters where these disabled persons may get medical certificates easily. Such facility must be provided for them. On the basis of such certificates they can get benefits in different fields. We should extend our full cooperation in rehabilitating them. I welcome the spirit with which the Bill has been brought and I would humbly request if the Government really intends to help the disabled, it should conduct a comprehensive survey so that plans may be formulated accordingly. We can extend out cooperation and the voluntary Organisation working in the field can be given encouragement. The organisations who are getting grants from the Government in the name of disabled persons and try to run their own business, should be checked and if necessary, the Government should take over these organisations. It has been seen that some organisations who are running such schools are making money and taking grant from the Government

but they are compelling the disabled persons to lead a deplorable life.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to make humble submission to the hon. Minister that it is a sensitive issue and therefore, the Government should think over it seriously and prepare a complete outline to solve their problems, if not for even, to a great extent. We should definitely make efforts in this direction.

With these words I conclude.

[English]

SHRI MANDHATA SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this non-official Bill which has been entitled as "Disabled Persons (Rehabilitation and Welfare) Bill, 1990".

I am grateful to the mover of the Bill, Mr. Rathod, who has taken pains to draft the Bill and bring it before the House. This has given us an opportunity to look into the plight of those who have been unfortunately handicapped or disabled due to various factors. Some are disabled due to accident, some are disabled due to war as they fight as our Defence Forces, some are disabled from work, some have certain serious ailments. So, the category of disabled and handicapped persons is very large and especially the poverty stricken masses which cannot afford even two square meals a day. Everybody knows that millions and millions of our young boys and girls become blind because of the deficiency of Vitamin A and because of the deficiency of protein intake in their bodies they get handicapped mentally as well as physically. So, the problem is very big, very gigantic and the suggestion of the mover is to form a National Council which can look after these activities, coordinate the activities at the Central and the State level and also coordinate the activities of the State agencies with the voluntary or private agencies as they are called. So, the aims are laudable. The aims and objectives of the Bill are very clear and nobody can have any serious objection against them. But I want to utilise this opportunity for highlighting certain spe-

[Sh. Mandhata Singh]

cific categories of persons who are still deprived of the meagre faculties that have been given to the disabled persons by the various departments and the various agencies. At the outset, I would like to point out that I cannot understand that in almost all the States of the country and especially the State to which I belong, the State of Uttar Pradesh which is called the heartland of the country, there the Departments of Harijan Welfare and social Welfare are linked as if harijan and social welfare can go together and they are put under the charge of one Minister, one secretary at the State level and at the district levels also, there is one officer who is designated as District Harijan and Social Welfare Officer. So, the problems of harijans alone are so vast and gigantic that they cannot be and should not be mixed up with the problems of social welfare which should form a separate Ministry by itself and a separate departmental head at the State headquarters and their agencies down below at the district and lower levels should be appointed.

Sir, everybody knows and we are proud of calling ourselves a 'welfare state' and during all these 43 years of freedom we have been talking about building up a 'welfare state'. But these millions of people, young and old have not yet been given the minimum facilities required for their living, required for their working and they have not yet been given even a opportunity to get the proper kind of education that they should receive. Lakhs of handicapped children and lakhs of disabled persons suffer from many kinds of hardships and difficulties. During the last two days I have come across two very good examples which indicate how negligent we are, how callous we are, how unresponsive we are and how insensitive we are to the sufferings of the disabled persons. When I say 'we', it means the entire system in which we are functioning.

Sir, I shall narrate to you, with your permission, and to the other Members of the House my experience during the last two days I met a delegation of a voluntary

organisation which is based at Uttar Pradesh. It caters to the needs of the disabled persons and last year in the month of March, the Secretary had come here regarding a certain scheme. I must pay my gratitude to him also, he took keen interest in the project and he immediately talked to the delegation, studied it and thought that they were doing very useful work and they asked their agency in Calcutta. Some kind of disabled persons are supplied with artificial limbs and all that. There is a concern in Calcutta which produces all those equipments. The Secretary ordered the Director of that Institute in Calcutta to send a team down to Lucknow to visit the institution on the spot and assess its working and submit its report to the Government of India within a fortnight. That 'fortnight' is not yet over, though another March is in the offing. That report is yet to reach the level of Secretary here in Delhi who is designated as Secretary (Welfare).

Before coming to this House, I had a telephonic talk with the 'Secretary' and he was shocked to know that in spite of his clear-cut orders that within a fortnight the report be submitted to him so that suitable assistance might be given by the Government of India to the agency concerned, they did not do. He again requested me to send the person concerned to meet him in the afternoon today and I hope he would have taken stock of the situation and would be doing something serious in this matter. That is just one single example how callous we are towards the needs and aspirations of our people.

Secondly, during the lunch recess, I had a visitor in my office in Parliament House. He is a youngman from my own native village. I have been writing for him, I have been arguing his case. He is a ex-army jawan handicapped during the period of his army career. He was recruited as Sepoy in the Army and he got only one or two promotions and he became Havaladar or something like that. But he did not enjoy the officer's rank. After he was disabled, he was discharged from the Army. Then, he appeared for PCS and IAS examinations conducted by U P Public Service Commission and UPSC. The House would

be happy to note that the ex-Army jawan who was recruited as an ordinary soldier and got only one two promotions in the Army, qualified as a PCS officer in the examination in Uttar Pradesh and also qualified in the IAS examination conducted by the UPSC. The Ministry of Home Affairs at the Centre says that in the All India Service, he can enjoy both the benefits in respect of age relaxation as an handicapped Army-man and also age relaxation because of the period he has spent in the Army and the years he has wasted for the medical treatment. They said, he deserves age relaxation. But in the Government of Uttar Pradesh, though three long years have passed and his batch of 87 PCS officers have already joined the service, the youngman is yet to get a clearance from the U. P. Secretariat. Only this afternoon, I have sent a d. o. letter to the Chief Secretary of Uttar Pradesh to take a serious view of the matter. That indicates the lack of coordination between the Central agency and the State Government agency.

I will not quote any more example and waste the time of the House. I simply want to underline the fact that it we are at all to call ourselves a welfare state, if we have to uphold the banner of welfare state, we cannot ignore the prime needs of millions of our handicapped children and young and old men and women, who suffer due to many causes.

Everybody is talking about reservation quota in employment. Being a teacher, I would also urge that special educational facilities should be provided to the blind and the disabled. There is much hullabaloo about reservation. But I make bold to say that the handicapped category deserves a special reservation both in employment and education.

You have had to bear with me. I had underlined many things which are praiseworthy. Many Clauses and Sub-Clauses need elucidation. But we know what has always been the fate of these hon-official Bills. I was very happy that even the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister had come on the front row. I do not know whether

any Minister is there in the House or not.

I take serous objection. I want to draw your attention. How can the House function when the Government is not represented? There is one Minister here. Anyway, that is the formality. (*interruptions*)

My friend sitting beside me just now pointed out that we had a backbencher Minister who had now moved to the forward bench.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is meant for the Cabinet Ministers. He is Minister of State.

SHRI MANDHATA SINGH: Before you assumed the Chair, we had pointed out to the Presiding Officer Mr. Jaswant Singh who was then in the Chair that the House took strong exception. The Minister for Social Welfare should have been present in the House. It is a very dangerous precedent and we take very serious objection. I urge on behalf of the friends present here to take serious note of this.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I may inform that the Minister for Social Welfare is in the other House.

SHRI MANDHATA SINGH: That is another excuse. It would have been better if the Minister, Shri Satya Prakash Malviya, who is a Member of the Upper House, remained in his House to look after the business. Shri Ramji Lal Suman who is the Minister for Social Welfare is a Member of this House and, therefore, we have a greater claim on him but if he has ceased to be a Member, we have nothing to say. If he ceased to be a Member, according to you, we have no objection, no grudge.

I hope the few points that I have been able to make during the short period, will be taken serous note.

I do not know who will take serious note when the concerned Minister is not here and probably in the galleries also, some officials might be there, and I hope that the Secretary,

[Sh. Mandhata Singh]

**Welfare**, will be there in the gallery because I have eulogised his keen interest in the matter and he will try to straighten things so that the maximum benefit flows out from the Government treasury and the intention of the mover of the Bill and of the House and of the founding fathers of the Constitution regarding the concept of a Welfare State is actually translated into action

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad) Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the Private Member's Bill brought by our honourable Member, Shri Uttam Rathod. Besides, I praise him very much for drawing the attention of the House towards the welfare of the handicappeds by bringing this Bill. Our country is ahead in many fields in the world but is also lagging behind in so many things. So far as the figures of disabled people are concerned, Our country is at the top. In this context it is said that these disabled people are mentally very sharp, and it is almost true. If some disabled person is born in an affluent family, it has been observed that his development is remarkable in case there are sufficient arrangements for his education etc. and the person becomes genius and a number of such disabled persons are working as a teacher or professor in schools and universities. Those people who belong to lower classes don't get proper education and as a result their life becomes very difficult. Government should make proper arrangements for their living. When the Government talks about the welfare, it should definitely pay some attention towards these people also. Some people are not born disabled. It has been observed that in our country there are some such groups actively working as kidnap young children and make them disabled and forcibly put them to beggary. This practice has also increased the number of disabled people. The Government

should wipe out such groups and the people associated with such groups should be given death sentence at least. This fact is in the notice of the Government but till now there is no success in it. There should be a residential school for such people in every small circle, where the disabled people of that area can be educated and there should be some arrangements for their lodging. This is the most essential thing.

These people should be given technical training also. It has also been observed that these people have become engineers. It proves if these people are given proper technical training they can become good engineers also. Government of India has provided reservation for these people. This should be provided in every state and there should be reservation for these people in education also. There are some such instruments as can provide them livelihood if these instruments are made available to them and these instruments should be provided to them free of cost. Posts should be reserved for disabled people not only in Government services but in private services also. So keeping in view the present condition of disabled people in the country, we can save them from their agony by providing more and more help.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, the atmosphere is becoming ponderous due to the condition of beggars in our country. This has become a typical problem. We have to bring these people forward. These people have become burden on their families. Steps should be taken to make their life secure. My only request to the Government is that my suggestion should be accepted. Though this bill should have been brought by the Government yet the honourable Member has presented it, so the Government should accept that maximum relief should be provided to handicapped people to ensure their upliftment so that they may be able to cooperate in the development of the nation.

[English]

SHRI SHIVAJI PATNAIK (Bhubaneswar): Sir, I rise to support this Bill. Society has a responsibility towards the disabled persons. Their number in our country is something like 120 lakhs. They constitute nearly five per cent of our population. We have also seen that so many talented persons have come from this disabled group. But what has been done to them up till now? In spite of so many commissions, so many registrations, so many Government orders, things stand as it is. Even a survey was conducted which said that only five per cent of the disabled persons were within the reach of the services meant for them. There was Justice B. Islam Commission set up in 1987 which suggested for an amendment in the Constitution in order to bring some job reservation for these disabled persons and also in the vocational training along with special training for the mentally disabled persons. But the announcement by the Government regarding this aspect has not been implemented. As other hon. Members have pointed out, I would also like say that education for the disabled boys and girls, job training, special employment exchanges and houses for the disabled are very much needed. These are very urgent things. but simple expression of wishes will not do. So many commissions are there, so many times it has been debated, questions have been raised and so many assurances have been given. But the fact remains that they were not implemented. These people are even deprived of whatever little arrangements are there. While supporting this Bill, I hope the Government will accept these suggestions and also appoint a National Board for Handicapped, as is announced earlier. Such a Board will look into the question of these provisions for its implementation. The Government should think about it seriously.

[Translation]

SHRI JAG PAL SINGH (Hardwar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank my friend Shri Uttam Rathod for drawing the attention of this House towards the problems

of crores of people of this country. Sir, you are well aware of the fact that nearly 50 per cent of the handicapped people born in the world are from India. After 40-42 years of independence, no attention has been paid towards these handicapped people in a planned way. Our colleague has brought a private members' bill on "Rehabilitation and Welfare for the Disabled Persons". He has given some suggestions in this regard. I know that Government is not going to accept this Private Member's Bill. It is evident from the attitude of the Government as to how it is serious about this problem... (*Interruptions*) The problems of crores of people are being discussed here and the Welfare Minister is not even present in this House. Honourable Minister is sitting in this House but he is also not taking it seriously. I would like to know through you when he will reply to this entire debate, as to how he will reply to the suggestions put forth by the honourable members. So the Minister concerned should in variably be present. (*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI MANDHATA SINGH (Lucknow): I wish to draw your attention; that is how they treat the House.

16.37 hrs

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let the quorum bell be rung.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now there is quorum, Shri Jag Pal Singh to continue his speech.

16.40 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI JAG PAL SINGH: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. As we already knew that most of the M.Ps have not been able to come. We already know that they are not present, but I thank the Prime Minister for his presence. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in this country crores of people are born disabled and they die also in the same state. Gov-

[Sh. Jagpal Singh]

ernment of India or any other State Government has not formulated any scheme for the welfare of these handicapped people. You know that there is no provision for their education, employment, allowance, livelihood in this country till now. Though this topic have been definitely discussed in this House yet the Government of India has not yet formulated any scheme for the welfare of these people. Not only this, the social institutions constituted for the assistance of these people and which are doing welfare work for them are also proved a curse for them. We often find such complaints in the newspapers that these institutions utilise these people for begging. These institutions get assistance from the Government of India and the State Governments but they do not spend the amount properly for the welfare of these people. No arrangement for their clothing, education, artificial limbs is made. They do not bother for such things. Our colleague, Shri Uttam Rathod has suggested a number of provisions for these people in this Bill. If the Government wishes to try to do something of their own for these people and bring such a comprehensive bill providing some punishment against such institutions, and empowering the Government of India and the State Governments with some special powers, only then any action can be taken against these corrupt social institutions. Sir, you are aware of the fact that lakhs of disabled people are begging in big cities. Somebody is without legs, and somebody is without hands or any other part is missing. You can come across lakhs of such disabled people who are begging. I want to submit to the Prime Minister that those people are not to be blamed who are born disabled in this country. If there is any fault, it lies in our economic system due to which we have not been able to provide good medicines good food, good clothing or education to crores of such people in India. The disabled people have no fault of their own in this matter. We have not been able to provide all these things to their parents because of our economic system and in the absence of which these people were born disabled. It is not

their fault. Today these people are a curse for us and we feel sorry to see their pitiable condition. They can be provided with employment, education, travel facilities and other facilities mentioned by Shri Rathod in his bill. Sir, we have made provision in the constitution of India for the reservations in favour of poor, backwards, harijans, advasis. I would like to urge that there should also be a similar provision of reservation for disabled people in the Constitution. There should be a provision for their employment and there should be reservation for them in the educational institution also. Then alone we can be in a position to eradicate this curse. I would like to submit that the provisions suggested by Shri Uttam Rathod in this Bill are much appropriate. My submission is that in addition to the provisions suggested by Shri Rathod, there should be a provision that the 50% of the financial expenditure for this purpose should be borne by the Central Government and 50 per cent by the State Government. Only then we can help these people in the true sense. Besides this, there is a financial provision of Rs. 10 crores in the Bill. I believe that Rs. 10 crores will not suffice. The Government should not be reluctant to spend even Rs. 50 crores or Rs. 100 crores for the welfare of these people with these words I express my support for this Bill brought by hon. Shri Uttam Rathod. I request the Government also to introduce a comprehensive Bill which would later become an Act. Under this Act adequate facilities should be provided for the welfare of these people.

PROF. PREM KUMAR DHUMAL (Hamirpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, to be handicapped is a curse. It is often believed that a handicapped person is cursed by Nature for sins committed in the previous birth. Generally, handicapped people are left to their fate. Although society is responsible for the welfare of these people there have been several unfortunate instances of maltreatment with handicapped people.

Sir, during the last monsoon session, blind and handicapped people had staged a 'dharna' at the Boat Club. I had an opportunity

to go there along with some other hon. Members. After meeting them I came to know that they had been waiting there, even in rainy conditions, to submit a memorandum to the former Prime Minister. They complained that an official present on the spot had told them that he would not let them meet the Prime Minister as long as he was present there. This is an example of the kind of treatment meted out to handicapped people.

Sir, blind people were lathi-charged in Delhi. Some of them had qualified a test but were not allowed to appear for the interview. They were thrown out of the place. I hope the Bill introduced by Shri Rathod does not remain only on papers. We declare an year of the Handicapped or an Year of the Child or a Women's Year but all this remains on paper. When a Bill of this nature has been introduced in Parliament the Government should either accept it with amendments or accept it as it is. Otherwise the Government in its part should introduce a Comprehensive Bill so that positive action can be taken in favour of the handicapped. These days it has become a fashion to present proposals and pay lip service to such causes.

Sir, you will be surprised to know that a person employed in the Department of Telephones who has lost 75% of his eyesight according to doctors in Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital has not been allotted Government accommodation despite my having written three letters to the concerned authorities. Three times I requested for allotment of accommodation to him near his workplace but in vain. Yesterday morning that person met me again. He was telling me that persons who had approached the hon. Minister much later had been allotted Government accommodation. But this person who has lost 75% of his eyesight could not be allotted accommodation near his work place despite his tremendous handicap. Even a certificate from the doctors of Ram Manohar Lohia hospital could not move this Government or the previous Government to allot a quarter to him so that he may be able to do his job. What will we achieve by passing this Bill, if

the Government of this country does not have enough compassion to allot accommodation to handicapped persons on a priority basis?

Sir, I request the hon. Prime Minister, who is fortunately present here, to allot accommodation to handicapped people on a priority basis.

As regards the case that I mentioned just now, I shall write a letter to the hon. Prime Minister also so that the person is allotted accommodation.

Sir, I would also suggest that such people should be trained in such a way as they may be economically independent and not be at the mercy of their more fortunate countrymen. They should be able to lead independent lives. They should be able to contribute something to society rather than feeling that they are a burden on the country. So it is very important for Government and society to take steps to lessen the sufferings of the handicapped. For this purpose the Government should introduce whatever legislation is needed to help these people for leading a peaceful life.

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV (Saharsa): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Prime Minister is present in the House and our hon. Member Shri Rathod has brought a Bill in regard to the physically and mentally handicapped persons; nothing can be more unfortunate than these disabilities in the whole of the world. Many schemes have been chalked out by the Government for the handicapped persons under which some got rickshaws to earn their livelihood whereas others were directly employed, however the Government paid no attention to the fundamental issues relating to them. Our Prime Minister has been a socialist leader, I would urge him to give attention to this Private Member's Bill and assure the House to solve the problems of the handicapped persons. It is not very difficult to solve this problem in the country like ours, it is not very difficult to make provisions for people who are just a lakh or two in number. However it has been

[Sh. Surya Narayan Yadav]

very unfortunate that the percentage of the handicapped person has been growing gradually. In spite of the fact that two to three percent seats are reserved for them in State Government's or Central Government's office, educated handicapped persons are deprived of getting the opportunity whenever vacancies arise.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, sometimes children are handicapped even in their mother's womb. Government of India as well as the Government of the State Governments have implemented certain schemes in this connection. Arrangements should be made to provide nutritional food to the pregnant mothers whose children acquire disabilities in the womb itself. I would like to submit to the hon. Prime Minister that he may kindly look to himself and observe what he was one and a half month ago and what he is at present when he has achieved his political motive, what a drastic change has occurred in him. In the same way the Government should take the responsibility to look after those children who are handicapped by birth. Government should own the responsibility to educate them and also to provide employment immediately after they complete their education. Sir, I hail from Saharsa in Bihar. Handicapped persons at that place have formed a society at Commissioner level, but neither the Government of Bihar nor the Government of India is ready to provide funds to them in this connection. I had assured the Government of Bihar to sanction Rs. 4 lakhs from my M.P. quota to the Members to spend on small projects. (Interruptions) I gave one lakh rupees for the purpose but can this nominal amount ease the difficulties. I practically did what I could. But I would like to submit that the hon. Prime Minister may be aware that in rural areas it is believed that the pregnant women should not see solar eclipse or lunar eclipse because that makes the child the womb handicapped. Even today this disbelieve is very much prevalent to misguide the women. They are persuaded to believe that it is just God's wish that the children are born handicapped. In the first place the Govern-

ment should take measure to eliminate this misconception. In the world of today when most scientific experiments are being conducted in regard to moon, sun and the space, it is totally ridiculous to believe in such things. Measures should be taken to uplift that section of the society which constitutes the major part of the population. Hon. Prime Minister, your attention is centred on me, I will not take much time. My only submission is that 10 per cent seats in education particularly in technical education should be reserved for handicapped only then they would be able to get jobs.

Secondly, reservation provision should be implemented strictly. I know that 2-3 per cent reservation is already there but it has been observed that they fail to get job and thus they have to move from pillar to post for employment. Besides, educational institutions and hostels specifically for the handicapped should be opened in every district of the country. No stone should be left unturned to educate them. Special facilities should be provided to all whether they were handicapped in the war or by accident. I agree that the Government is already very much concerned about them. We also wish that they should come forward but merely wishing the things won't do. As you know, in our society bureaucracy dominates and it is not in favour of uplifting the poor handicapped. Hon. Prime Minister who is a socialist, may kindly pay his attention to it.

The handicappeds in this country are poor and neglected. They beg for their livelihood. Government discourage to give alms to the beggars, because giving alms is a bad practice. Shri Rathod has brought this Bill with a motive to uplift these people and for the purpose he has suggested for an expenditure of Rs. 10 crores. The Government must make provision for them. We would have no objection in this regard.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You should speak on what is in the provision of the Bill, this is no resolution. It would be really difficult if you speak out of the context. Many more members have yet to speak on this issue.

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: Sir, I am concluding my speech. I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to express my views on the problems of the poor and handicapped.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the Private Member's Bill introduced by Shri Uttam Rathod. Actually ours is a welfare state, and in this type of administration the first and foremost duty of the Government is to work for the rehabilitation of the handicapped persons so that the country is benefitted. Swami Vivekananda had once said

[*English*]

To serve the suffering humanity is the real worship of God.

[*Translation*]

In our religious scriptures also it has been stated "Na twaham kamaye rajyam, na swargam, na chayunrbhavam, kamayardukh taptanaam praninadartinasham," which means Oh God! I do not want kingdom heaven or rebirth. I only wish to end the sufferings of the weak and grief-stricken. It has been the long tradition of our country to make continued efforts to uplift and rehabilitate the disable persons. The Government and the voluntary organisations both have always been active in this regard. We will have to look into those factors which create these diseases.

In the Bill presented by the hon. Member, he has suggested a provision to encourage the voluntary organisations. It is absolutely right. Whether it is social welfare department, children welfare department, women welfare department or any other agency the Government should employ these departments as means for the welfare of these sections.

17.00 hrs.

However, the most essential thing is to remove the basic cause of this disease. Why they are handicapped? Polluted environ-

ment, lack of nutritional diet, adulteration or polluted drinking water may be the reasons behind it. In Rajasthan and many other parts of the country due to the shortage of drinking water people drink polluted water and thus acquire humpness forever. Thus it is necessary to make drinking water and nutritional diet available to the people at such places.

Hence, my submission is that this Private Member's Bill should be passed at every cost and the Government itself should take the initiative and bring a comprehensive Bill. Reservation should be there for the handicapped persons in Government jobs and the Government should also ensure 2-3 per cent quota already provided for them is filled. These handicapped people will have to be brought into the mainstream from social point of view. They are looked upon with disgust and disregard in Government as well as non-Government fields. Therefore, the social outlook will also have to be changed. They are disabled merely because God created them so. People should adopt kind and humanistic attitude towards them. About two years ago blinds were lathi charged in Delhi by the then Government. These types of atrocities were made on those who were already blind. In this manner handicapped in this country have been maltreated which is totally unjustified.

Surdas despite his blindness became a good poet, and Swami Virjanandji acquired saintly qualities. Many more examples are there. The Government should see as to how their capability, and capacity are utilized for the country. In this connection, the Government should ensure that the Bill is enacted and also passed. It is also the duty of the society and the administration to get this bill passed so that the handicapped persons are protected from such exploitation. Strict punishment should be given to those elements which deliberately make the small children physically handicapped for begging purposes. The Government should check these types of evil practices. If these people also avail the facilities they can also become as great as Surdas or Virjanandji.

With these words, I conclude.

[*English*]

SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI (Berhampur) Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, indeed a particular category of human beings with physical and mental disabilities deserve full attention on priority basis. They have been handicapped by an act of God and hence this unfortunate situation is totally beyond their control. The impairing of the sensory organs like the retarding deafness, dumbness, blindness and the condition of insanity is the serious handicap in today's competitive world. The nation owes a great responsibility to make these people useful citizens in life. Hence the need for suitable rehabilitation and also the welfare of the disabled assumes significant importance.

At present there are certain Government institutions and voluntary organisations which do cater and rehabilitate the disabled. However, our extent of sympathy towards them is very much disproportionate to the massive numbers belonging to this category. Even the existing homes and social institutions have inadequate facility for this needy cause. In this regard, I strongly recommend the following measures:

- (1) National and State Councils be constituted for the disabled,
- (2) Evolve a comprehensive national policy for rehabilitation of the disabled,
- (3) Start new Homes, Model, pilot projects and vocational training centres for the benefit of the disabled,
- (4) Provide the disabled with free medical treatment, aids, appliances and equipment, the use of which may reduce the adverse effects of disability, particularly in the under-developed rural areas,
- (5) Reserve a small percentage of jobs, housing units, land, travel

concessions facilities, education etc for this category of people

In conclusion, while whole heartedly lending my support for this Welfare Bill moved by Shri Uttam Rathod, I urge both the Central and State Governments to ensure that the proposed measures are implemented expeditiously, for this noble and humanitarian cause. Thank you, Sir.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER Now Shri Mahendra Pal Singh. Before he starts, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Members that there is a difference between the discussions on a Resolution and on a Private Members' Bill. In Resolutions, you have a wider scope, but on a Bill, you have to stick to the provisions or the amendments.

Now Shri Mahendra Pal Singh

[*Translation*]

SHRI M S PAL (Nainital) Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the Bill moved by Shri Uttam Rathod. As the previous Government brought the Bills to confer statutory powers to the National Commission on women and SC/ST Board, in the same way, if this Government constitutes any council or Board for the disabled persons, it is worth welcome. This Board should look after the welfare of the disabled persons.

Sir, reservations should be made for the disabled persons in the Central Government jobs. These reservations should not be only of 2-3 per cent, but should be made on the basis of their number. Similarly a quota should be fixed for them in private jobs also, so that they can get employment there also. So far as jobs are concerned, there should be co-ordination between the Central Government and State Governments, so that proper steps can be taken for the welfare of the disabled persons. Both the Central and State Governments should follow the guidelines laid down by the Board.

Sir, besides this, I would like to submit

that a quota should be fixed for the disabled persons in all modes of transport and it should be fixed on the basis of their percentage, so that they may get all the facilities of transport. In the same way, priority should be given to the disabled persons while granting quota, permit and license and a quota should be fixed for them.

I would like to emphasize that arrangements should be made for providing free medical aid and free education to the disabled persons in the country.

With these words, I thank you and while supporting this Bill, I hope the Government will bring a Bill in this regard.

SHRI RAM LAL RAHI (Misrikh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I welcome the Private Members' Bill moved by Shri Uttam Rathod regarding formation of a Council for disabled persons and I thank him also for moving this Bill. Sir, Shri Rathod has given a very good suggestion. It is true that efforts had been made for since Independence to provide help to the disabled persons, whether by opening a school for the blind or by opening limb centre to provide artificial limbs to the disabled. There is no two opinion about it. But, I would like to submit to the Hon. Prime Minister that it does not mean nothing has been done for them and even after doing so many things the result is not favourable, which is the cause of resentment among the masses. The relatives of the disabled persons and those, who witness their misery, feel grieved. Disabled persons have not gained anything. This is a matter of grave concern for the House. I request that the Government should work in a planned way for the betterment of the disabled persons. I would like to give an example of Uttar Pradesh. A school for the blind was opened in Lucknow. But the school for the blind.....

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please come to the point.

SHRI RAM LAL RAHI: I am speaking to the point. I am speaking about the disabled persons. Blind, deaf and physically handi-

capped, all are disabled persons. I would like to submit that if any institutions is set up at State level as well as national level, but whether it will be useful for the disabled persons, living in far-off villages at a distance of 40 to 50 kilometers from the cities? Whether they will be able to live and get training from there? It is not possible that all will be benefitted. I request that this bill may kindly not be passed. I request the Government to bring a Comprehensive Bill having provisions for setting up institutions for the disabled persons at national, state and district levels, so that these people could live and acquire some training there. The job, for which a disable person is fit for, may be given to him. Such arrangements should be made that after receiving the training they can contribute in the production and the products of the institutions can be marketed, so that the institution be run. It is true that some private institutions were started and they were aided by the Government. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Department of Social Welfare the Central as well as the State Governments have given aid of lakhs of rupees to these institutions. But I would like to submit to the Hon. Prime Minister that inspite of these efforts, this could not be solved. If they were given an aid of one lakh rupees only ten thousand rupees was utilised for this purpose and the rest of 90 thousand rupees were used in personal work. So, the money was wasted. Though the Government gave aid, it was of no use. If we want to help the disabled persons, programmes should be chalked out in a planned way. A Bill should be move for this purpose. They must be helped.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the condition of disabled persons living in the big cities, has & railway stations is pitiable they are compelled to beg, leaving no alternative to live, because they are incapable to any work and run away from their homes as they are insulted because of it. They have no other way to go. The number of beggars is constantly increasing and they constitute a large part of the disabled persons. I would like to say to the Hon. Prime Minister that since 1977 two or three Governments have

[Sh Ram Lal Rah]

changed both, former Prime Ministers Shri Morarji Desai & late Shrimati Indira Gandhi had said that the number of beggars is constantly increasing and even such people had made it their source of living, who were capable fully of doing any job to earn their livelihood I cannot say anything about Shri Rajiv Gandhi because I was not a Member of Parliament during his regime. A ban on such people as well as begging should be imposed. Both the Governments assured to bring a comprehensive Bill in this regard. But nothing was done later on. That bill should also be moved. It will help in removing this curse of beggary. Those who are insulted in such practice, can also be made capable to earn their livelihood. Their services can be utilised for the betterment of the country. I again support this Bill. I would like to submit to the hon. Minister let this Private Member's Bill be passed on an experimental basis. An Act should be formed under the Constitution on its basis, so that facilities can be provided to the disabled persons.

SHRI R L P VERMA (Kodarma) Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir first of all, I would like to thank Shri Rathod for highlighting the problems of disabled persons. Even during these 44 years of independence the Government of India never moved such a Bill for improving the condition of the disabled persons. Two per cent of the total population of our country are disabled persons. Their number is equal to the population of a nation. Ours is a democratic country and such a Bill should have been brought much earlier, which has now been moved by Shri Rathod. The provisions in this Bill are appropriate except some lapses. Several things has been said under section-3. If a National Disabled Persons Council is to be formed, there should a provision of psychiatrist and orthopedists in the council so that they could defend their interests and give them justice. This point should have been included in this section. It has been said in the Clause (2) of section 10 that private institutions should be banned. But the arrangements made by the Government in this regard are adequate. So,

it is not feasible to impose such a ban on private institutions. If there should be an amendment in it that until the Government makes adequate arrangements for the welfare of the disabled persons at division level in all the districts in the country, a ban should not be imposed on such institution and they should be registered for certain period. If any individual or any such private institution, working for the welfare of disabled persons applies for registration, the State Government should register it within 6 weeks. Sometimes, these institutions have to wait for 2 years to get themselves registered and sometimes, they have to adopt corrupt practices to get themselves registered. There are several institutions in Jaipur. Some of them have achieved good success under the limb implantation programme. Near about 2-3 months ago, 400 persons in Dhanbad were given relief through implantation of limbs. These institutions of Jaipur are manufacturing artificial limbs. Strong steps should be taken against those institutions, which indulge in corruption practices instead of this work. No provision has been made in these Bill regarding punishments to the corrupt people. This lapse should be carried out. There are some gangs which kidnap the children and make them to beg by making them maimed for life. The Government should take stringent measures to catch such people and such gangs. Such gangs operate a large number of physically handicapped people, who beg at the railway stations and in the streets. Stern punishments should be meted out to such people, who are indulged in such activities. All these lapses should be overcome in this Bill.

In the international sphere the United Nations Organisation has also allotted a huge amount for the welfare of the disabled persons. Our Government has also allocated funds through the welfare Department. But it has not been actually utilised yet. It is only on the papers. It is being misutilised by some vested interests. Therefore, from time to time the working of these institutions should be reviewed, otherwise no relief can be given to the disabled persons.

Although the Government announces many welfare schemes for the handicapped, they are rarely implemented and mostly remain in papers. Right now, there is three per cent reservation in Government jobs for the handicapped, but will the Government inform us as to how many seats reserved for the handicapped have been filled so far? These reservations merely remain in paper itself. Similarly, there is no provision for punishing those officials, who are responsible for not filling the vacancies reserved for the disabled. This is one of the drawbacks, contributing the gravity of unemployment problem among the disabled persons. Therefore, we should bring about such a legislation, as addressed itself to all the aspects of the problems faced by the disabled. Our hon. Prime Minister is giving a patient hearing to this discussion and therefore the Government should accept this Bill, respecting the sentiments of the hon. Members. If you are not prepared to accept it in this session the hon. Welfare Minister should give an assurance in the House to the effect that the Government would introduce a comprehensive Bill in the next session and will get it passed for the welfare of the disabled.

With these words, I whole-heartedly welcome this Bill.

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota): Hon. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I applaud the Disabled Persons (Rehabilitation and Welfare Bill, 1990) introduced by Shri Uttam Rathod, but I would like to state that this Bill pertains only to their education etc. Moreover, the term 'Mentally retarded' too is not there in this Bill and it should be inserted. As this Bill is concerned with the disabled as a whole, I request you to bring even those people who are suffering from mental disability under its purview. Before coming to Delhi, I attended a competition organised exclusively for Mentally retarded persons. Although only 5 to 7 schools participated in the meet; the way it was organised gave me an immense satisfaction and I was gratified to find that at least there are some institutions which care for these unfortunate people. It may be mentioned here that the credit for organising

such a competitive meet goes to the wife of the Chairman of J.K. Synthetics and the way in which it was organised provided me an immense mental satisfaction. Hon. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to congratulate both the former Prime Minister Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh and the present Prime Minister Shri Chandra Shekhar for allocating the welfare portfolio to very competent and deserving individuals and Shrimati Usha Sinha undoubtedly falls in that category. It would have been better, had she been present in the House right now, but unfortunately, she is not there and has gone to the other House (Rajya Sabha) in connection with some other work. I would like to submit only this much that it is such a matter as demands the serious attention of the Government. Irrespective of the aid it is providing or such welfare programmes, the Union Government should seriously think about the expenditure it has incurred under this head. If a committee is constituted for this purpose, it can conduct a survey on the expenditure the Government has incurred under this head. It can look into the results of all these endeavours and also the reasons for the failure to achieve the desired results.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in this age of selfishness, such important decisions are alleged to be taken to serve political ends, but it is most desirable that it should not be so. I Therefore, I humbly request that the monetary assistance should only be provided after a proper survey. In our State of Rajasthan, there is a fifty per cent fare concession for the handicapped in Government buses. I would like to request to the Railway Minister to provide similar concession to the handicapped in the Railways also. Similarly, those suffering from an attack of Paralysis should also be brought under this category. A criteria should be fixed for inclusion in this category and the facilities to be provided to such people should also be determined. Through this Bill, reservation should be provided to these unfortunate brethren in the Railways also. After witnessing the meet at Kota, I feel that in order to ensure the proper utilisation of the crores of rupees allocated for the welfare of the disabled, it is necessary

[Sh. Dau Dayal Joshi]

to insert a clause in this Bill, under which the leading industrialists of the country should be encouraged to open institutions exclusively for the disabled persons.

Sir, the well-known orthopaedics specialist from Rajasthan, Dr. Sethi was associated with the prestigious Padamashree by the previous Government. The Government should take steps to encourage such people, who selflessly serve lakhs of people. I would also suggest that such people should be honoured on the occasion of national festivals like the Independence Day and the Republic Day. Along with this, I would also like to suggest the name of Dr. Dholakia for "Padamashree". My humble request is that we should not hesitate to give recognition to such selfless persons of the society as are serving the disabled persons.

SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH (Buxar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I whole-heartedly support this Bill and along with, I would also like to mention here that God is not responsible for blindness or any other kind of disability. It is the circumstances which make them so. Now, it is the responsibility of the Government to take care of such helpless people, but unfortunately, it has been observed that these people do not get benefit from the provisions made by the Government. If you look at the rural areas, the situation is much worse, and the disabled people, including youngsters and children are left without any protection or facilities whatsoever.

A few days back, I met a young disabled lady in Bhojpur, who has qualified for the I.A.S., but the Government has not provided any special facility or assistance to her. The Government on its part should prepare a district-wise list of the disabled people including the blind, the lame and those suffering from leprosy and facilities should be provided to these people on the basis of this list. One more point on which I would like to stress is that the existing reservation for the handicapped is quite inadequate. I have also

come to know that the number of applicants for the reserved seats is much more than the number of reserved vacancies and only a few people out of them are selected. Therefore, I want to say that the Government should do away with these rules and provide employment to all the disabled applicants. I would say that it is virtually impossible for disabled people to lead a normal life, in the absence of any Government assistance. A normal person can lead a normal life somehow, but a person whose both legs have been rendered useless cannot lead a normal life, howsoever intelligent he may be. Therefore, I would like to say that whatever steps the Government has taken so far in this regard are quite inadequate.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please limit yourself to the Bill.

SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH: Therefore, I support this Bill and sincerely hope that if the Government adopts this bill, it would prove as a boon to the lakhs of disabled people in the country.

[English]

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum): Sir, I congratulate my friend, Mr. Uttam Rathod, M.P., for having brought forward such a Bill which I feel must be the concern of every citizen of this country. Sir, even after 43 years of Independence it is a pity that the disabled and the handicapped still remain a liability on the society. Society's responsibility is great so far as the handicapped are concerned. Some are handicapped by birth and some have become handicapped in course of time. There are several types of handicaps—the blind, the lame, the deaf, the dumb and the mentally retarded.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you speak on the Bill, I will give you time. On this point nobody disputes, but you have to speak on the provisions of the Bill.

SHRI A. CHARLES: I am happy that there is provision for the constitution of a National Council under clause 3 of the Bill

because that helps a lot. There are voluntary agencies, but there is not agency to coordinate the work of all these agencies. From my own experience I may say that even though for the last 25 years I am connected with many heritable trusts, not a single case of assistance of an type either from the State Government or from the Central Government has been received. I am not speaking of only financial assistance here. A lot can be done to give training and rehabilitation to the handicapped because there are many areas where they can be trained and they can be used for gainful employment. I will cite one example here. Along with a parliamentary delegation when I visited Ooty, I had the occasion to visit the Hindustan Photo Films. In the course of our visit there, we were taken to the dark room where where the photos are developed. I asked the Chairman whether any blind persons are employed there, and I was happy to note that more than 30 blind persons are being engaged in the dark room there and I was told that these blind person are doing better work there because they are much better under the normal conditions there. There are also other areas where these handicapped can be trained and utilised better. So, I welcome the constitution of the National Council. It should be given wide powers.

Sir, clause 7 of the Bill states as follows:—

"Every disabled person shall have the right and be eligible to receive free of cost medical, surgical and other kinds of treatment, aids, appliances and equipments, the use of which may reduce the adverse effects of disablement and restore the functional abilities of the disabled."

I welcome this. But who is to ensure all this? I feel that sufficient powers should be given to the Council to implement the provisions of clause 7.

In the budget sufficient amounts should also be provided for the welfare of the handicapped. Then only the training, reha-

bilitation and care of the handicapped can be ensured. If that is there, I think it will be a blessing to the handicapped. If my information is correct, 60 per cent of the total disabled persons all over the world is in India and it is shocking that out of those 60 per cent of the disabled persons, 80 per cent of them are affected by polio. From 1978 onwards, we are having a massive immunisation programme and even then we are unable to control it. I plead that the recommendations of this Bill may be accepted. If there is any difficulty in passing this Bill, the spirit of the Bill may be accepted. I do not think there are any precedents of passing the Private Members' Bill. In the Budget session of Parliament, the Government should come forward with a Bill giving wide powers to the Board to be constituted and they should also give representation to all the people engaged in these areas, especially to the voluntary agencies. So, I congratulate the hon. Member for bringing this Bill and I extend my full support to this Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will take only one minute in expressing my views on this Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No. I have allowed the maximum number of people from your party to express their views on this bill. As such I cannot give you any more time.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: But it is a Private Member's Bill and there should be no stipulated time limit for this kind of a Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Well, in that case I give you one minute. But whatever you say should be strictly confined to the provisions of this Bill.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at the outset I would like to thank Shri Uttam Rathod since he has brought in this important Bill in this House regarding the welfare of the disabled and I

[Sh. Rajendra Agnihotri]

support this bill whole heartedly. This Bill is worth welcoming and I understand that the common man of this country will also welcome this Bill. In this Bill he has proposed the formation of a National Council which I consider it to be very important. I expect the hon. Minister to accept this Bill in toto because this Bill is not only the concern of one member or the hon. members who are present in this august House right now, but it concerns each and every person of this country. One of the reasons is that till date all the welfare projects run by our Government have shown no fruitful result and have become just a mockery. The funds sanctioned by the Central Government or the state Governments for these welfare schemes are misused and they do not reach the people who are deserving. Once the proposed National Council as mentioned in this Bill is set up then it would be in a position to watch the interests of the handicapped in the field of education and in other areas of their welfare.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER Agnihotri ji, you are not speaking on the provisions of this Bill.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI With these words I would request the hon. Minister to accept this Bill moved by Shri Rathod in toto and implement all the provisions of this Bill immediately. I take the opportunity to request all the hon. members to pass this Bill unanimously.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN) Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at the very outset I would like to express my gratitude to the mover of this Bill, the hon. member of this House Shri Uttam Singh Rathod who has brought forward this important Bill and has drawn the attention of this House and the entire country towards this important subject. The issue concerning the disabled is indeed an important issue. Justice should be done toward the disabled and the weaker sections in this country.

They are not represented by anyone as such. Government should do justice to them and I share your sentiments in this regard. Nobody can either have any grudge against your way of thinking or have any ill feelings against it. In this respect your thinking and the thinking of the Government is on the same lines. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I want to inform this august House that in this session itself the Government is bringing a Bill regarding the rights and welfare of the disabled. Such a Bill is being brought for the first time in free India. All the hon. Members have expressed their sentiments in favour of this Bill.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi) Sir, what is the difficulty in accepting this Bill when such a Bill is being brought in by the Government itself? You either accept this Bill or discuss the possible amendments; those can be carried out in this Bill.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN For the first time in the history of free India a Government Bill pertaining to the disabled is being brought forward in this House and in this Bill, an extensive effort will be made to solve their problems. The hon. Minister has just now said the same thing that has been said in the Private Member's Bill brought forward by Shri Uttam Rathod that there is the necessity for setting up of a National Council for the welfare of the disabled. I would like to inform Rathod ji that the Government have already taken a decision in this direction and the National Council has already been set up.

I would like to tell all my hon. Colleagues that the Government should make every possible effort to make all the disabled persons born in this country self-reliant so that they can lead an honourable life and should not inculcate the feeling that they are second-grade citizens.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, all of us are aware of this fact that the Government has limited resources, but the Government will have to fix its priorities. Ever since a long time the disabled have been the victims of various injustices and it should not continue.

further. I would like to submit that 3% posts have been reserved for physically handicapped and it is seen that from time to time special recruitment drives are launched for their recruitment in case the reserved vacancies are not filled. Concessions are given in rail, bus and Air fares. I would also like to inform you that grants are given to the organisations which are working for the welfare of the handicapped persons. Relief on custom Duty is also given on the goods which are imported from various countries for the disabled. For the benefit and upliftment of the disabled, the Health Ministry makes arrangements for inoculations etc. from time to time with a view to overcome disability programmes at National level are organised to remove the disability. The Government is running twenty three employment centres for them. The Government have made arrangements for 42 special type of training courses at these centres. With a view to promote employment opportunities for them, thirteen professional training centres are also functioning in the country. I would also like to inform through you that the voluntary organisations which are engaged in the service of physically handicapped are given 90% grant which comes to Rs. 3 crore 75 lakhs. We provide free equipments to the handicapped whose income is upto Rs. 1250/- per month, for the handicapped persons whose income is between Rs. 1250 to 2500/- p.m. 50% amount is provided as grant for the purchase of equipments and Rs. 6 crores are spent every year on this account. The Central Government have also established four institutions at National level. These institutions are engaged in the field of research and training activities in various areas of disabilities. The Institutions are—National Handicapped Institution, Calcutta, Ali Vavarjang National Handicapped Institute, Bombay, National Brail Institute, Dehradun and National Institute for the mentally Retarded, Hyderabad. These four institutes have been functioning for the welfare of the physically disabled. Twelve rehabilitation centres have also been set up in the entire country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today on this

occasion, I would also like to say that there is the paucity of funds and Government alone cannot serve the humanity. The hon. Member was also saying the same thing. This purpose can not be served upto when there is change in the Indian society's attitude towards the poor and the disabled. This change can not come until there is a strong leader and spokesman in the country to fight for their cause.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is my humble request to Shri Uttam Rathod to withdraw this Bill. We shall take an immediate action to implement this. (*Interruptions*)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): I am aware of the problems of disabled and handicapped persons living in the rural areas (*Interruptions*) Something must be done for them also.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: You please give some suggestions, we will consider them.

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: No one knows about such distribution of rupees 12 thousand or 25 thousands. How it is distributed and who is distributing this amount (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: If you have any definite information about such misuse of funds, please give it to us. We shall held an enquiry to find out the facts.

SHRI GULAB CHAND KATARIA: The final report of the inquiry made against such misuse of fund in a school for blind in my area has been submitted nobody is ready to take action against the persons responsible for it. (*Interruptions*) They embezzled Rs. 80 thousands allotted for the welfare of children of that school.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: I would request the hon. Member that if he has any definite information, please submit it. I assure him that Government will take action. I would request Shri Uttam Rathodji to withdraw this Bill.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would like to bring to the notice of all the Members of the House that the time allotted was only up to 5.45 PM for this Bill. We will extend it further till the time which would be required for disposing of this item on the Agenda.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: It was due to the speeches and the attention that was drawn by the hon. Members that the hon. Minister is already compelled and impelled to accept this Bill in spirit. The hon. Minister has gone to the extent of telling us that a Bill for the welfare of the physically handicapped will be brought in this Session. I think it is a great achievement for all of us.

Two points were raised by hon. Members. One was about punishment. I have suggested some punishment. The punishment is meant for those associations which do not abide by the instruction that have been given by the Government. Under this Act, we want all these institutions to be opened and run with the permission of the Government and also they should accept the conditions that have been put by the Government.

Another point was raised about the mentally retarded people. I will draw the attention for the hon. Members to clause 2. I have made it very clear here that disabled also means mentally retarded and physically handicapped. I accept my inability to frame a proper Bill. I am a layman. I am not expected to know all the things but since the Government is taking care of it, I am sure the Government will do justice. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANDHATA SINGH: I want a clarification.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You will be allowed afterwards.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: I will give two suggestions. I remember as long as Mr. Lal Advani was there in the Department, all the proposals that were routed through him got

top priority and the money was disbursed. But, day by day, the cooperation that we need is lacking. I would like that some physically handicapped be nominated on such posts so that they will be able to take care of their kith and kin.

Secondly, the hon. Minister has said about the facilities that are given to the physically handicapped as far as transport is concerned. It was brought to my notice in Bombay that though the fare is less, the fuel surcharge is so much and it almost becomes impossible for them to undertake the journey. I would, therefore, request the hon. Minister to take care of this particular suggestion. The National Association for the Blind has already sent a representation to you which can be applied to all the physically handicapped. I would, therefore, request the hon. Minister to take care of this aspect. That is all I want to say.

Lastly, I once again thank all the hon. Members and the hon. Minister for having extended this cooperation to me.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister that why the job quota recently fixed by the Central Government for physically handicapped persons have not been filled by the Railway Department for the last ten years.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: I have already said that we will take action in this regard. Give us the definite information.

SHRI MANDHATA SINGH: I would like to inform the hon. Minister that this department has wrongly apprised him that the three per cent job quota has been reserved for the physically handicapped persons. In this regard, I have been writing letters to the previous Minister for 11 months and I have the replies received from the Ministry.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You cannot raise these matters in the Private Member Bill.

SHRI MANDHATA SINGH: I am simply stating the difference between the facts given by the former Minister and now by the present Minister. I am only requesting the hon. Minister to check-up the details, whether these are correct or incorrect. If it is not correct, he should issue order to fulfil his promise of providing three per cent job reservations to the physically handicapped persons.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have come to know from my Department that there is a provision of three per cent job reservation for them in the class III and IV posts.

SHRI MANDHATA SINGH: You did not mention earlier about the class III and IV posts. *(Interruptions)* What about the class I and II posts? *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It becomes unending. This is a little bit off-the-track.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: It was Milton who said: "They also serve who stand and wait." I think the Government has done justice today at the request of all the hon. Members. I would request the hon. Minister to do it quickly. I avail myself of this opportunity to withdraw Bill on the specific assurance that has been given to us on the floor of the House. The Minister is bringing forward a comprehensive Bill on this subject. I seek leave of the house to withdraw the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave granted to withdraw the Bill to provide for the rehabilitation and welfare of the disabled."

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

*The motion was adopted*

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: Sir, I withdraw the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Bill has been withdrawn with the permission of the House.

17.54 hrs.

# CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL

## (Amendment of Articles 341 and 342)

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAM LAL RAHI (Misrikh): I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the constitution of India be taken into consideration."

*[Translation]*

Sir, on the basis of article 341 and 342 of the Constitution a common list of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes has been prepared, in which about fifteen hundred castes have been included. I have observed that only five per cent of these castes are common in the State list. This list has been prepared state-wise and union territories are also included in it.

Sir, I have been visiting the State capitals like big cities of Madras, Calcutta, Bombay and Delhi for a long time. People from every state have migrated to these cities for seeking job opportunities and people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Tribes as well as to the other castes have also settled here. They have been rushing to these big cities in search of work.

Reservation for Scheduled Castes and Tribes has been provided in the Constitution for State Services and other jobs but when a person belonging to Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes migrates to other State and if the name of his caste is not included in the