

Government need immediate amendment in respect of certain provisions like, housing accommodation, drinking water, medical facilities, maternity benefits, creches, sanitation etc. The Government have totally failed to implement the Plantation Labour Act and the Rules made thereunder in the country, more particularly in about 800 tea estates in Assam, as a result of which, the tea garden labourers who have been employed in the tea estates in Assam have been deprived of the benefits provided under the said law. The said law is so lenient that the Government cannot compel the managements to implement the same. The labourers have lost all confidence in the said law as it is not being properly implemented. The labourers have been frustrated and there may be agitation by the labourers at any time. It is requested that the said law should be amended drastically by providing compulsory fine of rupees fifty thousand and imprisonment for minimum two years for violation of the said Act by the Managements of the tea industry.

(viii) Need to improve service conditions of
Coffee Board Employees

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Coffee Board Employees are agitating since long for their genuine demands for rationalisation of Pay Scales and reservation of posts for SC/ST community. But unfortunately these problems have not been settled so far. The Board is only adopting dilatory tactics by appointing Committees, sub-Committees, staff grievances Committees, vigilance enquiry etc. The reports and recommendations of these Committees are gathering dust in the archives of the Board but no action has been taken on these reports and recommendations. These documents are merely being forwarded to the Central Government.

The Coffee Board employees are neither treated as Industrial employees nor like Government employees thereby depriving them of benefits available to Industrial workers and also the benefits of Fourth Pay Commission available to the Central Government employees. Coffee Board employees have no scientific basis of work evaluation. They are even deprived of the benefits available to their counterparts

in the Tea Board and in the ICAR. Although they were paid bonus as per Bonus Act still they are not being treated as Industrial Workers for all purposes. Similarly their wages remain stagnant despite continued rise in prices of essential commodities. The mechanism available to Central Government employees to partially counter the price rise problem is not available to Coffee Board employees. As such nearly 4500 coffee board employees are suffering and agitating for a fair deal. I urge upon the Government to intervene and end their exploitation by the Coffee Board.

12.37 hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA—

Contd.

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha :

- (i) In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (Railways) Bill, 1988, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sittings held on the 21st March, 1988, and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill.
- (ii) In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (Railways) No. 2 Bill, 1988, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 21st March, 1988, and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill,

(iii) In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (Railways) No. 3 Bill, 1988, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 21st March, 1988, and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill.

12.38 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS, 1988-89—
Contd.

[English]

Ministry of Human Resource Development—
Contd.

MR. CHAIRMAN (SHRI SHARAD DIGHE) : Next Item. Further discussion and voting on the Demands for grants under the control of Ministry of Human Resource Development. Dr. Sudhir Roy.

DR. SUDHIR ROY (Burdwan) : I rise to oppose the Demands for Grants made by the Minister of Human Resource Development. This is a large umbrella and many small Departments have been kept under this umbrella but allocation is so poor. It has been found that during the Seventh Plan period only 1.8 per cent of the total outlay has been allocated for education. This shows the concern of the Government for education. It is a proof. There is a programme called Operation Blackboard. There are programmes like National Literacy Mission, Eradication of illiteracy etc. But with this paltry sum how can the Government reach the goal of universal education? Therefore, I demand that the Constitution should be amended and right to education should be made a fundamental right because unless there is a justiciable right, there will be only pious platitudes on the part of the Government. There is little prospect that we shall reach this goal of universal education. If there is no universal education, how we can expect that democracy would have sturdy growth, how we can expect

that people would have developed scientific attitude, how we can expect that children would be strong and healthy. Therefore for an all round development of the country, universal education is a must and for achieving this, Constitution should be amended and it should be made a fundamental right.

As regards secondary education, I beg to submit that instead of concentrating on Navodaya Vidyalayas, we should lay emphasis on Neighbourhood Schools where the sons of the rich and the poor living in the same locality can get themselves admitted. If this neighbourhood school concept is developed, then even the rich and the influential persons living in a locality would pay attention to the development of the schools, because this Navodaya Vidyalaya continues the same elitist bias of our education system. Specially I find that never before had we laid so much emphasis on the public school system. Unfortunately, since our Prime Minister came to office, the Doon School is being depicted as the most ideal school of the country, and all are singing in praise of the public schools. Therefore, these Navodaya Schools are being set up. It will simply strengthen the elitist tendency of our present education system.

In this connection, I would also say that sports and games should be compulsory in schools and colleges. When the Soviet Festival was inaugurated, we found that ten crores of people, out of 26 crores daily take part in physical exercises, sports and games in that country. In China also, crores of young men and women regularly take part in physical exercises, sports and games. But in India, there is little facility; and there is too much of politicking in the sports boards and the cricket boards. So, for a sound education system, sports and games should be made compulsory in schools and colleges.

It would also point out that teachers should enjoy the same pay scales in all schools, irrespective of their type or category. But unfortunately, the recommendations of the Chattopadhyaya Commission have been shelved, and they are gathering dust.