

Secondly, the workers do not work merely in the factories. In addition to the organised sector, there are crores of workers who work in the unorganised sector. What have you thought about those people? They do not get any pension, gratuity, medical facilities or educational facilities. It is a grave matter to which the Government should pay attention. Our practical experience is that crores of such workers are being subjected to the worst kind of exploitation. Big buildings are being constructed by the multinationals. If any labourer engaged by the contractor in the construction of the building dies during the course of Work, no compensation is paid to him. The contractors purchase their life for Rs. 15 or 18 and if they die, no one bothers about them, because they have no organised labour union. In this way, crores of labourers working in the unorganised sector have families to look after, they have the same feelings as we have, but there is no one to look after their interests. Every year thousands of labourers die before our eyes. They do not get any free legal aid. There is no one to support them. There is no provision of gratuity, pension etc. to them.

Similarly, there is one section of peasantry which is landless. They work in the fields and their number runs into crores. During the season, they are engaged and poor payment is made to them for that period. I, therefore, request that the Government should maintain a balance. Similarly, you must look to the difficulties being experienced by lakhs of labourers who come from Orissa, Bihar, etc., along with their families. You see the condition of their *jhuggis* and *jhonpris*. If they fall ill or even if they die, there is no one to look after them. New cities are coming up and these people are working there on wages. It is not the duty of the Government to look after their interests?

Some Hon. Members have criticised the labour leaders. I think there can be shortcomings in those leaders, but to question the necessity of the labour unions would be a great injustice. These poor people are illiterate and helpless. And if the labourers are not organised, who will solve their problems? There is no other way than forming labour unions to solve the problems of the labourers. I, therefore, feel that we should encourage

labour union movement; we should not weaken it. We should not do anything which may weaken the labour organisations.

In conclusion, I would submit that though I support the Bill which has been brought before the House, yet I think it is an incomplete Bill. You should bring a comprehensive Bill on the subject.

17.37 hrs.

STATEMENT RE : LEAKAGE OF GAS FROM DAMAGED OLEUM STORAGE TANK OF SHRIRAM FOODS AND FERTILISERS PLANT IN DELHI

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATES (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : I deeply regret to inform the House that today morning at about 10.30 A.M. a leakage of gas occurred from the precincts of the factory of Messrs Shriram Foods and Fertilizers Industries Plant located at Shivaji Marg, Delhi. The leakage of liquid oleum resulted from damage to the outlet pipeline of the oleum storage tank, arising out of the collapse of the supporting structure of the tank. The plant personnel made attempts to neutralise the leakage with the help of line and capious quantities of water. Some of the liquid reacted with the water and formed thick fumes containing steam and possibly gaseous sulphur trioxide which moved in an easternly direction. The plant personnel were assisted by the members of the fire brigade which reached there promptly. The Lt. Governor and other officials from the Delhi Administration and Government of India also reached the site promptly.

The fumes caused coughing and irritation to the throat and the eyes and breathlessness of the persons exposed thereto. As per available information, the details of persons who reported to hospitals is as follows :

[Shri P. A. Sangama]

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of Hospital</i>	
1.	Jai Prakash Narain Hospital	70 examined/12 admitted
2.	Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital	31 examined/23 admitted
3.	All India Institute of Medical Sciences	43 examined/ admitted 6 Serious
4.	Safdarjang Hospital	25 admitted
5.	Hindu Rao Hospital	31 admitted/3 serious
6.	Ashok Vihar Hospital	3 admitted
7.	Javodhya Hospital	3 admitted
8.	Balak Ram Hospital	2 examined/2 admitted

None of the persons working in the Sulphuric Acid oleum plant has been affected. The Sulphuric acid/oleum plant is closed. The work on neutralisation of oleum is continuing. One General Manager, Plant Manager and Plant Engineer of the Company have been arrested. The Lt. Governor, Delhi, has taken a decision to order an enquiry into the accident.

If the persons who are not related to this field oppose it, I can understand their point.

You are aware that for the last 20 years, the workers have been demanding that because of increase in wages, the ceiling for entitlement of bonus should be raised so that those workers whose salary is above Rs. 1600 may also get bonus. This has been a matter of discussion particularly for the last two years in the entire country. When this demand was conceded, many labour unions in the country demand that more people, that is the people getting higher pay, should be covered under the Bonus Act. They had demanded that at least those people who were getting Rs. 2500 should get bonus. Keeping in view this thing, second Ordinance was issued. Besides, the date of enforcement of the payment of bonus had also to be prescribed so that no dispute arose later on. The reason was that after the closure of the accounting year, the workers would not have benefited from it. Therefore, date of enforcement had been prescribed in the Ordinance.

STATUTORY RESOLUTIONS *RE* :
DISAPPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF
BONUS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE,
1985 AND PAYMENT OF BONUS
(SECOND AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE,
1985
AND
PAYMENT OF BONUS (SECOND
AMENDMENT) BILL—*Contd.*

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, 23 Members have taken part in the discussion on the Payment of Bonus (Second Amendment) Bill presented to the House for consideration. Their way of presenting their points of view might have been different but no one has said that the Bill, which raises the ceiling for entitlement of bonus to Rs. 2500 is wrong or not proper. The Ordinance, of course, has been opposed. I want to say that the people who work in the labour sector are fully aware as to why two Ordinances were issued.

Several Hon. Members, both from the treasury benches and the Opposition, have demanded that the ceiling should be raised from Rs. 2500 to 3000, Several Hon. Members have stated that there should be no ceiling at all and, excluding management side, all workers irrespective of their salary—whether they get Rs. 3000 or 4000—should be covered under this Bonus Act. At present although the ceiling is Rs. 2500, yet the bonus has been restricted to Rs. 1600. This increase in the limit will cost the Public Sector at least Rs. 100 crores more. Keeping