

[Dr. Datta Samant]

buildings are more than fifty years old and need repairs very badly. During the last ten years, more than hundred buildings collapsed and two hundred and thirty five persons died and seven hundred and thirty persons injured. And at present, one hundred and fifty buildings are in a dangerous condition and may collapse any time. Maharashtra Government has appointed a House Repair Board and they are carrying out some work but funds are inadequate and so no progress could be made. Central Government is getting about twenty five hundred crores of rupees per year by means of taxes from Bombay. I, therefore, request the Central Government to make provision of fifty crores of rupees per year for repair and reconstruction of old buildings in Bombay.

- (vi) Demand for rehabilitation of workers rendered jobless owing to closure of several textile mills in Coimbatore and taking over these mills.

SHRI C. K. KUPPUSWAMY (Coimbatore) : In my constituency of Coimbatore, several small textile mills, namely, Janardhana Textile Mills, Vasantha Textile Mills, Srihari Textile Mills, etc. have been closed down for the last three years or so. Due to closure of these small textile mills, about 10,000 workers belonging to weaker section have been thrown out of job and they have not been able to find any alternate means of livelihood. These workers have been facing untold sufferings and most of them are on the verge of starvation. Already about 60 workers have died recently and the situation is getting worse day by day.

I would, therefore, request the Union Labour Minister kindly to intervene and instruct the State Government to rehabilitate the poor workers. I would also humbly submit to the Union Minister of Textiles kindly to consider to take over these small mills and make them viable so that the textile workers can get employment in their respective mills. Sir, it is a very serious problem and the Central Government should take immediate steps to save these poor workers.

[*Translation*]

- (viii) Demand for changing the site of the proposed birdsanctuary under Kabar Lake Scheme.

PROF. CHANDRA BHANU DEVI (Balija) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the arable land of a number of poor farmers falls in Kabar lake area of Begusarai district. Recently, the Central Government has taken a decision to convert this lake into a birdsanctuary. Hundreds of farmers will be affected from this decision. It has created a problem for them in earning their livelihood. It is not justified to convert the arable land of these poor farmers into Birds Sanctuary. In Cheria and Wariapur which fall in my constituency and in Assembly segment of Barbari, about 4,000 acres of land of the farmers remain water-logged. The part of the lake which remains submerged upto the depth of 5 to 6 feet can be developed into a Birds Sanctuary. The rest of the land where there is less water, can be made available to the farmers for cultivation by draining out the water. Thus the farmers can be saved from starvation. The farmers are much agitated here over this problem. This agitation may turn into a farmer's movement any time.

Therefore, I request the hon Minister that where there is less water in Kabar lake, it should be drained out to make the land available to the farmers to prevent them from starvation, and the deep water area should be converted into birdsanctuary.

[*English*]

- (ix) Demand for steps to settle the long pending border dispute between Maharashtra and Karnataka states.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE (Bombay North Central) : The Border dispute between Maharashtra and Karnataka States has been pending for almost three decades. The one-man Commission namely Mahajan Commission which was appointed to make recommendations with a view to solving the dispute submitted its report to the Union Government in August, 1967. It was neither accepted by Maharashtra nor by the Union Government. The people

of the disputed border areas have again and again recorded their wish in every subsequent election to merge in Maharashtra. Maharashtra Legislature also passed resolutions several times. The Chief Ministers of both the States met on several occasions but could not agree to a solution. The feelings of the Marathi speaking people in the border area are running high and a sense of frustration has crept in. I, therefore, urge the Union Government to initiate steps to settle the matter within a specified time on the basis of just and rational principles.

14.16 hrs.

APPRENTICES (AMENDMENT)
BILL—*CONTD.*

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now we will take up the further consideration of the motion moved by Shri P A. Sangma on the 30th July 1986.

Shri Narayan Chaubey.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE
(Rajapur) : Are you admitting the privilege notice ?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No, Sir.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI
(Guwahati) : There seems to be a ceasefire on that.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIKAVI
(Mandsaur) : It seems to be the result of the lunch recess.

SHRI NARAYAN CHAUBEY
(Midnapore) : The statement of objects supplied to us by the Minister expresses certain laudable desires. The desires are laudable. The Government claims that they are introducing vocational training in Higher Secondary courses. Hence it is needed that more of such students who pass these vocational courses in Higher Secondary should be absorbed as apprentices and the nomenclature will be

changed. That is the only great revolution that is coming. They will be called Technical (Vocational) Apprentices.

I have nothing to object to this Bill. It is quite in order. But if the only object is to bring some amendment to the Apprentices Act and if you call them Technical (Vocational) Apprentices and make certain provisions for the students who pass the Higher Secondary through the vocational courses and then if you think everything ends, you are wrong. Actually what is the real problem ? The real problem is to get jobs. The real problem is to have job security and nothing is said about that. The Bill is not for that. There is nothing in the Bill that gives the labour job security or expands the scope for jobs. Nothing of that is there in the Bill. Where is the employment in this land ? Only the other day our hon. State Minister for Finance has stated the number of factories closed in this country today stands at 100,400. Only 100,400 and this is his statement. We have been hearing 80,000 factories. Previously it was increasing in arithmetical proportion; now it is increasing in geometrical proportion. Then supposing every factory employs 100 workers, then it comes to 100,400,00 and the more you are nearing the 21st century the more are the factories that are getting closed and there is no ray of hope that the closed factories will ever re-open.

This is not the only thing. The number of unemployed to-day in India is the largest in the world. As per the government figure it is 2.75 crores. 2.75 crore people are unemployed. It does not include those people who are working and are being rendered unemployed. These factories are closed and the workers are rendered unemployed. That is not included.

The people who are working are rendered unemployed. As per government's figure, it is 1.40 crore. So, this is our conditions. I would like to enjoin upon the Minister to explain to us what is the guarantee of employment for these apprentices ? How will they be absorbed as apprentices in various factories after completion of the apprenticeship—one year, two years, three years ? Have you any scheme to see that they get employment ?