

11.13 1/2 hrs.

**PLANTATIONS LABOUR (AMENDMENT)
Bill****[English]*

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Plantations Labour Act, 1951.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Plantations Labour Act, 1951."

The motion was adopted

SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY: I introduce the Bill.

PROF. MADHU DANAVATE: (Rajapur): Sir, today we have rationalised the Zero Hour.

MR. SPEAKER: Sure. At least once for a while change is there. It looks like a welcome change, without any fuss.

11.14 hrs.

MATTER UNDER RULE 377*[Translation]*

- (i) **Need to allot separate funds for development of roads in hilly regions**

SHRI M.L. JHIKRAM (Mandla): Mr. Speaker, Sir, even after 40 years of independence transportation problem is still there in the hilly regions of the country. These areas lack all weather roads and the position with regard to shortage of bridges continues to be the same even now. Due to

lack of transport facilities, there is great difficulty in undertaking development works in these hilly regions. If communication facilities are continuously neglected in these region, the people of the region will only be dreaming of the 21st century. It is, therefore, necessary that the Central Government should provide additional funds separately according to the needs of the people in the region and direct the State Government to construct roads, bridges on priority basis in these regions. The State should inform the Central Government about the upto-date position of the works undertaken so far.

[English]

- (ii) **Need to enquire into the Recovery of less amount from drug companies in respect of Baralgone Ketone**

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SINGH (Azamgarh): It was indicated in the Affidavit filed before the High Court and the Supreme Court that the price of Baralgone Ketone charged in the formulations is Rs. 24, 735.38 per Kg but while making recovery in respect of this drug a lower price has been taken into consideration and as a result an amount of Rs. 3.40 crores upto 1983 has not been recovered. Set off percentage/commission has been given without any justification. Special team which made this assessment did not have any experts but consisted of persons having inadequate experience or background. A full-fledged enquiry should be held to uphold the published cause and the guilty punished.

- (iii) **Need to ensure that the Report of the Wage Board for Journalists and non-journalists is submitted by the due date**

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Aimora): Thousands of newspaper employees—both journallets and non-journalists—have been keenly awaiting the outcome of the Wage Boards headed by Justice Bachawat. For one reason or the other, the Wage Board has

*Published in gazette of India extraordinary Part II, Section 2 dated 16.12.88.

not been able to finalise its recommendations. It was announced by the Prime Minister and the Labour Minister that the Board would submit its report by December 31, 1988. I wish to state on behalf of all journalist and non-journalist employees in the newspaper industry that this deadline should be adhered to. Otherwise it will amount to denying justice and fairplay to these employees who are generally underpaid and overworked. The tentative proposals announced by Justice Bachawat's panel in September were found to be inadequate and they disheartened employees. It should be ensured now that the emoluments of the those employees who have devoted the better part of their lives to the industry would get higher emoluments than the new entrants in the interests of natural justice. This does not mean that new entrants should not be paid adequately. It means that seniority should be respected.

[*Translation*]

- (iv) **Need to provide early adequate assistance to the people of Bihar affected by recent earthquake**

SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN (Rosera): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to give the following notice under Rule 377.

In the worst earthquake that hit the Darbhanga, Madhubani, Samastipur and Monghyer districts of Bihar numerous houses collapsed in which thousands of people were killed and many were injured. The quake hit people are very grateful to the Hon. Prime Minister who visited the area and provided succour to the people. He has ordered the Central as well as State Governments to provide assistance liberally to these people. So far as relief is concerned, most of the people have not yet received it. No arrangement has yet been made to provide treatment to a number of injured persons. Though the Prime Minister has issued strict directions to provide all possible pro-

tection to quake hit people, grant in aid has not yet been given to thousands of people whose houses collapsed for constructing new houses. Due to bungling in relief work in Darbhanga district proper arrangement have not been made to provide relief to thousands of the victims.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to provide adequate relief and medicines to quake hit people and provide adequate funds to these people for constructing houses without delay.

[*English*]

- (v) **Need to Commission oil Terminal at Paradeep Port and set up L.P.G. bottling Plant at Balasore early**

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK (Cut-tack): It is a matter of great concern that there has been an inordinate delay in the preparation of the feasibility report on an Oil terminal at Paradeep Port. The establishment of an Oil Refinery is very necessary in view of the erratic supply of petroleum products to Orissa from Haldia and Visakhapatnam. Though the supply and distribution of petroleum products from these refineries sometimes appear satisfactory, but Orissa had hard time last year in getting kerosene and cooking gas. As the Government of Orissa has banned the collection of fuel wood and felling of trees the rural people, particularly the Adivasis and Harijans are facing serious problem for want of kerosene. The State has no oil refinery and has therefore to depend on supplies from Haldia and Visakhapatnam. The proposed L.P.G. Bottling Plant at Balasore has not yet been commissioned though the State Government have allotted land to the Indian Oil Corporation. As such, I request the Minister to examine the reasons for the delay in setting up of the Bottling Plant at Balasore and to take early remedial measures. At the same time, I demand that an oil terminal be commissioned at Paradeep by the end of the Seventh Plan.