

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 BAIRAGI (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 ?

[Shri Narayan Chaubey]

Otherwise, what is the use of giving them training? There is no use of giving them training. What is the use of keeping a cow that does not give milk and a calf?

*Kintavya Kriyete Dhinva.
Ya Nasuda na dugdha d adha.*

Why do you keep a cow? You keep a cow so that she gives milk and a calf. Why do you give this training? When the trained hands are unemployed; they do not get jobs? Is there any provision? At last insert a provision that an attempt will be made to see that trained boys get jobs in various factories.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI (Adilabad):
One word.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No; no, you cannot; that is not the way.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Chaubey, why are you sitting? Have you finished your speech?

SHRI NARAYAN CHAUBEY: No.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Then you continue. I have not allowed him. Mr. Reddi, you cannot do it. Nothing will go on record. You continue your speech.

*(Interruptions)***

SHRI NARAYAN CHAUBEY: The situation on the employment front is very dark. Can some improvement be made or not? ILO has stated that on an average, world average, in the western countries or any other countries, the overtime is 10 per cent. But here in India now when many factories are working with short of hands, the overtime bill is something inke 15 per cent, 20 per cent. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No, no, I have not allowed anything. His submission

is going on. Shri Narayan Chaubey is submitting certain things. You listen to him.

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): He had made some submission.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I do not know. Nothing. He has not made any submission.

SHRI NARAYAN CHAUBEY: He wanted to make some submission.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Chaubey, You speak. I have allowed you. If you have finished your speech, then I will ask somebody to start.

SHRI NARAYAN CHAUBEY: Will you ask the government to say what has happened to that?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Without my permission how can they speak?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I did not allow anyone.

SHRI ANIL BASU: Why did you object to it?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: When he was speaking, how can somebody interrupt him?

SHRI ANIL BASU: Because most of the members are not in the House. What submissions can they make?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Have you finished your speech? He is making his speech.

SHRI NARAYAN CHAUBEY: If the overtime bill can be brought down to the average of 10 per cent as is obtaining in other parts of the world, then there is scope for employment at least for some of these people whom you are going to give training.

I request you to think of it. I know the Labour Minister and the Labour Ministry sometime tried their best, but they failed to do anything good to us because they are powerless, they are toothless; some tiger has no teeth; they have no strength; they do nothing. He knows for 13 months Bridge and Groof workers are sitting on dharna at the Boat Club; for 10 months other workers are sitting on dhurna in front of the office of the Minister incharge of Urban Development. We are repeatedly told—all the Ministers including Labour Minister—that it is government of the people, by the people, for the people, for the workers. There is no time even to call a meeting. So with this power this great Bill is coming which I cannot object, because the desires, as I have stated, are laudable. But what will happen after the boys get training? That question should be answered. I hope, you will find a way by which attempts will be made by the Ministry to see that these boys can get employment at some place. Otherwise, what is the use of giving training to these boys?

With these words, I end my submission. I hope the Minister will give a reply as to what he is going to do with the apprentices after they get training.

[*Translation*]

DR. G. S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to refer to a few points only. I do not intend to repeat the points already discussed. In fact I want to raise some practical issue.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS (Bhilwara) : Did the rest of the colleagues raise impractical issues?

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : One should raise practical issues but should not misbehave.

DR. G. S. RAJHANS : I want to bring to your notice how apprentices are treated in the industries. You must have heard about bonded labourers. The condition of apprentices is worst than that of the bonded labourers. They have to work for 14 to

18 hours and that too without overtime payment and if they try to protest, they are told that they were apprentices, and could be thrown out of the job any time. I have seen in many industries and experienced this all. That is why I can tell all these things. Most of my colleagues might not be knowing it. When an apprentice goes to a factory to learn about the machines or highly technical work, he is pressurised to do work like bringing tea, carrying chairs etc. for a period of one to two years and not given practical training. He is a helpless person, not liked either by the industrialist, manager, foreman or the people of the Government Training Centre. Whatever training he gets, he gets it as a helpless person and it cannot be termed as a perfect training. He is burden for industrialists or manager and every now and then he has to hear taunts such as that he is only an apprentice. No way out is left for him.

Apprentice Act is 25 years old. I would request the hon. Minister to conduct a study as to how many apprentices have been employed in factories during this period. Everybody knows that on the one hand there is a great paucity of technical personnel in the country, and on the other, the persons who get technical training in these factories are not extended any employment. This is unfortunate. After getting the training of apprenticeship, they do not get any job.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, this Bill refers to the self-employment but this can be achieved only when one gets proper training. But the apprentices do not get proper training. They go for learning how to operate the turbine machines, lathies and other machines but instead they are pressurised to do the peon's work. He is asked to fetch tea, cigarettes and to do other Sunday work. This type of technical training is given to them. Can they achieve self employment and get a job elsewhere on getting such type of training?

My suggestion is that you may adopt a rigorous selection procedure but 50 per cent of the selected apprentices should be

[Dr. G. S. Rajhans]

given a job-guarantee because outsiders are taken for the same jobs. Why are the apprentices not taken for those jobs? What is their fault? Just think, a person has worked for 3 to 4 years and you are not ready to employ him and you employ somebody else from outside. Therefore, there should be a provision in the Act that one will have to employ 50 per cent from the apprentices. In this situation, the industrialist or foreman would think of behaving properly with the apprentices considering their future prospects. We should not make apprentices helpless and let them be exploited by the foremen and others. Rather we should make use of their ability. If we rightly impart training to the apprentices, then small units can come up at several places as has happened in Korea and Japan and purposeful work can be done. Otherwise after receiving training, they would become a burden to the society. I have come across such persons, who have gone to villages after receiving training in big factories. There they are bound to hear taunts that they might have done something wrong that is why they are thrown out from a factory like Tata's. They can not make them understand that they have not done anything wrong. An apprentice is just like a bonded labourer. What can one do these days with a meagre stipend of Rs. 400 only. This amount should be raised to Rs. 700 or 800, so that good persons may come forward. 12,000 apprentices will be accommodated in the whole Five Year Plan. The New Education Policy lays emphasis on vocational training. This was previously also being emphasised and at present also an emphasis is being laid on it. But the number of the persons who get vocational training would be so less that they would be of no use. You are going to invest on 12,000 persons. I would like to know as to how much will it cost and whether apprentices should also be given training in general trade. I know that at present also they get training in typing and secretarial work. The apprentices who get work in general trade, will have an easy access to services outside the country and will easily do typing work. You engage them in industrial units and service units also. If a good lawyer can have many typists, then why cannot he employ 7 to 8 apprentices.

This point should be considered. There are many service industries in metropolitan cities. You should also employ apprentices in the general trade of these service industries. I want to say that whosoever gets apprentice training should prove useful for the society. The weapon of apprenticeship in your hand can prove a productive weapon for this society. The need is to give this a good thought and make this weapon effective.

With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN (Tirunelveli): I rise to support this Bill. It is a ray of hope for the youngsters of India, that the Government is having attention on the crores of unemployed youths in our India. But the target number should not tarnish their hope. If the numbers are announced in some lakhs only, the ray of hope and confidence will prevail in the minds of youths. This hope will deviate the minds of youths turning them into extremists owing to the frustration caused by the disappointment in their job appointment in various industrial institutions. If this target is fixed in some lakhs, it will definitely reduce the rush to the university education. At this juncture I like to submit a suggestion—the admissions to the apprenticeship should be to the weaker sections, both communally and economically and also those students who are unable to enter university education owing to their deficiency in merit, they should be given preferences.

Those who have passed with distinctions should not be encouraged to take this apprenticeship, as they can be allotted for higher education.

As some hon Members have said, I agree with them that job should be guaranteed in apprenticeship. Unless and until jobs are not guaranteed after apprenticeship, there will be frustration. So, I request the Minister that the new recruitment in the Public Undertakings and the private sector should be from among the apprenticeship list. This apprenticeship list should show priority to students who put forth real interest in their apprenticeship. Practical

work by the trainees should be ascertained accurately and those with real know-how interested trainees should be given preference in their future appointment.

Though the Act is late, let it not be late in increasing the number of target immediately.

This investment of the youths' future will be the real turning point in the history of free India to build a new India by 2000 A.D

I further request the Minister through you, the public undertakings run by the Government should give priority to these apprenticeship trainees and I, on behalf of my party AIMDK support this Apprentices (Amendment) Bill.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA (Pali) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am happy over the introduction of this Bill I know the circumstances in which Shri Sangma has introduced it. You intend to remove the country's unemployment with Rs. 80 crores and work with a view to solving unemployment problem. But it is a matter of sorrow that on the one hand you want to enter the 21st century, want to use new sophisticated machines and tools and attain their know how but on the other you are thinking to give an apprentice a stipend of Rs. 200 only. Sir, first thing is that at present if somebody wants to live in a city, then he cannot get a house to live in on this paltry rent. Suppose, he gets a house on this rent, then how is he going to meet his other requirements. When you want to give him training, then at least he should be given that much amount with which he can meet his requirements. The total number of persons who are going for training; is 31,000. It means, upto 1990, you will impart training to 31,000 persons.

At present, crores of educated persons are unemployed in the country. Is it possible to absorb all of them? That is why our Planning Minister has said :

[*English*]

"Presiding over the seminar, the Minister of State for Planning, Mr. Ajit Kumar Panja, expressed dissatisfaction over the manner in which the Apprenticeship Act was being implemented by certain industries, which resulted in frustration among those coming out of technical and vocational schools.

"The Minister said that students, who undergo vocational courses should derive job satisfaction and enjoy prestige in society".

[*Translation*]

He has said this. Not only he but the Members of the Planning Commission also said this. I would like to draw your attention to what Shri P. L. Malhotra, Director of N. C. E. R. T. has said :

[*English*]

"Dr P. L. Malhotra said that the attainment of targets in the vocational stream at the plus two stage was dismal "We have only about 2.5 per cent of the total student population at the higher secondary stage pursuing vocational studies in 11 States and five Union Territories".

This is the state —2.5 per cent of the total.

[*Translation*]

About fifty lakh students are there at present in the higher secondary schools. Their number may be more than that and only 2.5 per cent of them are pursuing vocational studies. Now you tell us what type of vocational education you want to impart. On the one hand you talk of delinking qualification with the job and on the other can you expect them to lead a life of self-respect by imparting technical knowledge through this system of education. Do you guarantee them jobs in the industries in which they get training? At present I find that even the public undertakings are not employing them. Thousands of trained boys are unemployed

[Shri Mool Chand Daga]

presently Even your public undertakings do not recruit them. The present situation is such that in my view not only the diploma-holders but also the engineers and doctors at many places are unemployed. Who cares for the diploma-holders? Shri M. G. K. Menon, member of the Planning Commission has said :

[English]

“Dr. Menon regretted the lack of central allocation of funds for the vocationalisation of education at the plus to stage”.

Not only I myself or Dr. Rajhans but all regreted it. Shri Sangma, I would like to ask whether the members of the Planning Commission consider this amount of Rs. 400 adequate? Please consider for a while whether a person staying in a town, in an industrial area or a big city like Bombay, Calcutta and Kanpur can maintain himself with these Rs. 400 while receiving the training. This question is before us and if we do not take it seriously, then what would be their condition?

[English]

“Dr. Menon regretted that the lack of Central allocation of funds for the vocationalisation of education at the plus two stage. He also regretted that those performing white collared jobs were respected in society more than those who did manual work”.

He said, white-collared people are respected. He further said :

“Statistics also show that only 2.4 per cent of the nearly 50 lakhs of students at the plus two stage are getting job-oriented education.

[Translation]

I am not able to make out the sense. On the hand, the Education Minister has arranged for training in the schools and on the other, the Labour Minister is also making arrangements for it. How both of them would coordinate their efforts. The

children studying in schools are being imparted vocational training. In some States technical institutions have been set up on a different pattern. Punjab has its technical institutions and I consider it a right approach. It is better that technical institutions have been opened at some places and the boys are getting training there because this can be a better way of educating them. But for your new scheme, you do not have the infrastructure and resources. In my view, without resources you will not succeed in it. But after making some amendments and taking more funds from the Government you can succeed.

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Apprentices (Amendment) Bill, 1986 wholeheartedly. This is such a nice piece of legislation that we are going to have that there is none to oppose this Bill. As you find, no hon. Member from the Opposition also has any word to speak against the Bill, which has got support from all sides of the House. Only some improvements have been suggested by the hon. Members from both the sides— Treasury and also the opposition Benches. In fact, this provision or this arrangement we should have made much earlier. Are last in the 70s, when we were talking of vocationalisation in education and when we were talking of introducing 10+2 system, it would have been appropriate to go in for this measure right then. Anyway, better late than never.

As you know, in the field of education, we have made a lot of progress in physical terms. But we sometimes have to ponder over this. What is that progress that we have made in real sense of the term? The quality of education at the higher level has gone down; it has been very much diluted and the students coming out of the alma mater, the universities, the colleges, many of them, are only looking forward to Government jobs. Without Government jobs, they become frustrated and they become parasites. Many become parasites on parents. They become liability on the society. This is the real situation

that we are having in the country and rightly that has been realised by the present administration, by the present Government, particularly our Prime Minister and he has devoted his whole heartedly to bring drastic change in the field of education.

In the last session, we have made it cleared that the new education policy which has a very significant reference to this vocationalisation of education at the higher level and secondary level and to make education purposeful, and meaningful, It is this vocationalisation which has to be gone in for. For vocationalisation, the key word or the corner-stone is 'work experience', that is, on the job training, and for that adequate facilities have to be provided.

This Bill is a eight step in the right direction which has to be done. It has very limited scope that only 4,000 beneficiaries will be there. 4,000 students or children after 10+2 stage will get benefit out of it in the first year and that will progressively go up and that will be 12,000 at the end of this Seventh Five Year Plan. But is it enough? It is far from the requirement. The real requirement will be lakhs and lakhs and, as against that, we have a meagre provision of 4,000 which will go up to 12,000, at the end of this Plan period. This is a very good beginning and I would request the hon. Minister to take up this as a challenge that we have to take in the coming days and accordingly prepare the Plan so that this vocationalisation will be popular and all the children can get the benefit.

India is a very populous country and we have a lot of man-power. If this man-power is properly channelised, then you see the 21st century into which we will be entering within 15 years, will really make history. But if proper planning is not there, if proper manpower planning is not there and, all our universities and colleges will come up in larger numbers, we will be simply sending our children to the universities and colleges and after coming out, they will be a liability to society. What will happen to this country? We have to realise. That is why, there has to

be restriction on higher education. How can we have it unless we go for such diversification at the secondary stage. In this connection, I can give an instance of Japan. In Japan, there is a lot of vocationalisation. Higher Education is really restricted for bright students. That is why we have to have a very practical approach. We have to strengthen this. Schools and ITIs have to be properly equipped. We will be disappointed to look at the state of affairs that is prevailing in many ITIs. They have to be properly equipped. In the year 1963, this Act came with a beginning to train the trade apprentice and again in 1973 there was a modification to accommodate the graduate Engineers, Technicians and Diploma-holders to be given such apprenticeship training. Now, after the successful implementation of the pilot scheme for two years, it has been welcomed by different States and implementing agencies and also the apprentices themselves. We are now going in a larger scale we wish the Government all the best in their endeavour. At the same time what is required is that they have to be practical. They have to realise that only this number of 4000 and 12000 will be no where near the requirement looking at the real situation. We have to change it very drastically. We have to change it at once.

I would like to make two more points here. There is a feeling growing in the minds of the poor parents also the children of the poor parents that they are being sent to the ITIs even though they are very bright. But children of the educated and affluent families are going to Engineering Colleges and to the Universities. This feeling has to be checked and that can be done. Further, many of the ITI boys are very very bright. If an opportunity is given to them, they can do wonders and some of them have done wonders. But there is a limitation for that. There is no further scope for going for higher education. There is no further scope for their promotion also. No ITI candidate is able to reach the highest step in the promotion ladder. They cannot become Chief Engineers—even they cannot become Executive Engineers and what to talk of Chief Engineers. In the central places, industrial complexes, there can be some

[Shri Sriballav Panigrahi]

provision of night classes for higher courses for this type of technical the people so that it will be meaningful. That will give a new direction to our technical education. We can ask children of all classes—of affluent families and all the families—to avail of this opportunities. Further, we have to go for restricted higher education. Otherwise, the standard is diluted. There is no end to this problem. Frustration will be there. Unemployment will be going up. India being a populace country, we have to look at the fundamental problems. What can we do? We have to infuse a sense of confidence among our young men. Everybody cannot look at the Government for giving them a job. No Government, all over this world, is capable enough to give job to all the students. But what can be done? Definitely a condition can be created, a climate can be built up and a sense of confidence can be inculcated in mind of every child. They can stand on their own legs with the training given.

Sir, under the 20-Point Programme, money is available through different Banks by way of loan. Often the beneficiaries do not know how to make use of it and they are misusing the loan. If they are given some sort of guidance, training, naturally I think that scheme will also be a success. We can put an end to the misuse of such funds.

15 hrs.

I would like to conclude by making one final suggestion. In this connection I would like to quote Japan. What are they doing? They are prescribing maximum qualification while advertising for jobs in Government offices. But what are we doing? We are advertising for jobs prescribing the minimum qualification for the post of clerks, for example. When the minimum qualification required is Matriculation, Post-Graduates are also competing and in the process people with higher education get the job. In Japan, things are different. For higher qualification and higher posts are offered. For the post of

stenographer only matriculation or intermediate is fixed. For those students who have higher qualifications, higher than the fixed one, they are not able to apply; they are forbidden to apply. In that case what happens is that on the practical side there is no attraction for boys to go for higher education. They go in for technical education and they go in for vocationalisation. This can be examined how far we can follow it.

While welcoming the Bill and thanking the Government I would request them to realise that this is quite inadequate. This has come up late. The stipend amount has to be raised and the possible exploitation of apprentices by the industrial employer be checked. These loopholes should be looked into and in course of time steps should be taken to correct them. If not now, after sometime the Government should come forward with a comprehensive Bill.

[Translation]

*SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA (Jamluk) : Mr Deputy-Speaker, Sir, with a heavy heart I would like to say a few words about this Bill. I say so because my** friends tried to voice their feelings about the** but later...

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No, no. What is this?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI (Hawrah) : Is it concerned with Apprentice?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : How can you say anything about that?

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : What is the rule? Let me tell in what circumstances...

— THE MINISTER OF STATES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : This is a very important Bill. I think, we should be interested in the children's education and all that.

*The speech was originally delivered in Bengali.

**Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : Let me prepare the background.

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER : His reference to it will not form part of the record.

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : For a long time they tried to lodge their protest in this House and later they withdrew themselves from this House. I hope, the whole matter will be resolved soon.

[*Translation*]

*Coming to the Bill I feel that it has been introduced in a very light hearted manner and therefore there is hardly much to be said either in favour or in opposition of the Bill. Generally speaking a few on words, here and there, have been sought to be added to this Bill and as a result of this no big change will be introduced as a result of this effort.

The Bill was first introduced in 1961. It was amended in 1973 and again today we are considering an amendment of the Bill. In other words after 25 years we are discussing about the Bill. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to Clause 3 (a) and (b) at page 2 of Bill. I fail to understand whether it is a printing mistake or a mistake in drafting. You will find Sir in both these sections the same words are getting repeated. This shows how lightly the legislation has been introduced. No effort has been made to correct it. In Chapter II of the principal Act.

(a) after the words "technician apprentice", wherever, they occur, the words and brackets "technician (vocational) apprentice" shall be inserted.

In (b) also the same words appear. I would like to know why even after 25 years a total evaluation of the achievements of Bill was not done which would have highlighted the success and failure of the Bill. In 1961 this Bill was introduced to have some regulation over the functioning of the apprentices. It was therefore very

necessary that a detailed assessment should have been made to indicate as to the number of persons who got the training during the last 25 years, the industries to which they were attached and how many of them could get employment or make themselves self employed. But the Minister and his department does not appear to have had the opportunity, time or desire to undertake such an analysis. I would therefore urge upon the hon. Minister to go into these details. Merely by introducing an amendment his responsibilities do not end. Such an assessment should have been made because the issue is related not only to the industry, but also to the question of employment of lakhs of young men of our country. I feel sorry to say that this has not been done even after 25 years of the introduction of the Bill.

Some other connected issues emerge out of it. According to available statistics, the number of persons who could get the opportunity of getting educated in science and technology in our country is about 24 lakhs. Out of this we are able to absorb only 25% in our industry and the rest 74% remain unemployed. Therefore, it is not sufficient that we try to give some training to our young men alongwith this the question of providing them with employment has to be considered. Sir of the bright young boys who pass out of the IITs which are known as centres of excellence we are not able to give employment to about 50% of them. They seek employment in foreign countries and thus the highest technically qualified youth of our country are getting migrated to other countries. Therefore the issue in all its entirety needs to be analysed. Some speakers have already said that nearly one lakh and four thousand industrial units are lying closed in our country and this has rendered lakhs of employees jobless. This is in addition to crores of young men who are already unemployed. Naturally under these circumstances all the unemployed youth and their parents feel that through these training courses, they may get an opportunity to have a job. And when, even after the training, they do not get a job they feel frustrated. The frustration

*The speech was originally delivered in Bengali.

[Shri Satyagopal Misra]

among our youth on this count is on the increase because even their education in science and technology is not able to help them to get a job. The ever growing frustration amongst the youth naturally finds ventilation in many ways in our society. I however do not want to go into their details now. Sir, the Government is laying a heavy stress on "Vocationalisation of education" in our new education policy. Now, what does it mean? Does it confine and end in giving some vocational training only to our youth? Is it not related to the question of employment? If you do not have jobs to offer after the training is over then where will the vocationalisation of education will take us to? There is no doubt a need for setting up thousands of training institutions in our country but all over efforts will be completely frustrated if the training programme is not linked to employment. Surely the hon. Minister will examine this problem very minutely and try to find a solution thereto. There are many training institutions in our country. Some are owned by the Govt. while others are in the private sectors. The youth of our country go to these institutions for training, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the fact that in our country there are many fake organisations who through advertisement allure or mislead the unemployed youth and taking advantage of their being unemployed extract lots of money from them. They do not give any training nor any job. It is very necessary therefore that the Government should try to find out such organisations and save the youth from being exploited by taking suitable action against them. Sir, unless we are able to take a total view of all these aspects of the problem and a comprehensive bill is introduced, we would not be able to achieve the purpose and objective of the Bill and along with this the Government's stress on vocationalisation of education in our new education policy can never be a success unless we are able to link the programme for training to employment. If we feel content by allowing the apprenticeship training to remain confined as a component of management only without any relation to vocation, we will be committing a big mistake and invite to

ourselves many problems. Small amendments, as in the present Bill will not help us. Therefore, Sir, while extending a general support to the bill I would finally urge upon the hon. Minister that he should have detailed analysis made as to how many persons were given training and how many out of them could get jobs during the last 25 years and in future how those who will be getting the training will be assured of jobs on the basis of this analysis he should introduce a comprehensive bill in this House. I hope hon. Minister will accept my suggestion.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Apprentices (Amendment) Bill, 1986. At the outset, I would congratulate the Labour Minister for having brought this Bill, though he has been in charge of this portfolio only a few months ago. This Bill is not superfluous, but it is of a practical nature. Certainly I would not be one with them who find evil in everything. I do not want to be pessimist; I want to be an optimist. A new thrust has been given to the education policy of this country under the leadership of our Prime Minister and that is vocationalization of higher education with a view to give them job-oriented and meaningful education at all levels. After passing secondary education, this apprenticeship training will be very useful and will be of practical use and they will be greatly profited by it.

It was said that this Bill has been brought in haste and it has not been duly considered. But if the hon. Members will read the aims and objects and the financial implications, certainly they will come to the conclusion that due consideration has been given while bringing forward this Bill.

As has been mentioned in the Bill, the aim of this Bill is to create a separate category of apprentices called the 'technician (vocational) apprentices'. It has been said that there is no provision for giving employment to those people who undergo this apprenticeship, and it is asked as to what would happen when they come

out of the institutions. For that, it has been specifically mentioned in the Bill itself :

“In order to implement the scheme effectively throughout the country, the Regional Boards of Apprenticeship Training as also the Technical Education Bureau of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Education) will have to be sufficiently strengthened for creating additional posts to properly look after this additional responsibility.”

So, due consideration has been given by the Government as to how best they can implement the scheme after the period of two years. And not only that. The main aim is to provide self-employment opportunities in organised industries, agriculture and other service sectors of economic activity including agro and rural based industries. Government are also giving loans beginning from Rs. 6000 to Rs. 20,000 with subsidy to matriculates and graduates for self-employment. So, those candidates who will come out after this apprenticeship will certainly be tempted to work in the villages, in rural industries even to provide better ploughs to the agriculturists. So, the importance of self-employment is specifically mentioned in the Bill itself. It is not at all vague or light-hearted. It is specifically mentioned in the Bill :

“Under the present Special Vocational Educational Training Scheme, about 25 subject fields have been identified and 3000 stipendiaries per annum are being offered training facilities.”

About 4000 trainees will be benefited by the scheme in the first year and the number of beneficiaries will go to 12,000 by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan. And it may so happen that the Government may increase the number after due consideration. Stipend at the rate of Rs. 400/- is to be paid to the trainees, out of which 50 per cent will be reimbursed by the Government of India, i.e. the Central Government. I feel that it would be better if it can be enhanced to Rs 600/. I request the Government to kindly consider

this suggestion. As far as the Bill is concerned, let us not oppose the Bill just for the sake of opposition. I request my friends not to see evil in every thing. Suggestions are certainly necessary and more and opportunities should be given to a greater number of people. The scheme now involves only an additional expenditure of Rs. 10 lakhs per annum which is not a huge amount. And it will go upto Rs. 15 lakhs per annum by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan.

So, this is a very laudable idea and this Bill is only an indication of our Government's determination. What this Government says, it means. When the New Educational Policy was announced, it is stated that steps would be taken see that self-employment opportunities are given to those people who may have completed their plus two secondary education. This is a step in that direction to give employment to those people not only in Government sector and other sectors, but also to provide self-employment opportunities in rural industries. Therefore, I congratulate the Minister once again and I support this Bill.

DR. A. KALANIDHI (Madras Central):
Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, at the outset I express my thanks to you for having permitted me to speak on behalf of my party—DMK. I welcome this Apprenticeship (Amendment) Bill, 1986. My previous speaker from the AIDMK has said that he is welcoming the Bill with a ray of hope. I too welcome this Bill in the same sence. But I have my own doubts because there are a lot of questions unanswered. A lot of lacunae are existing in this Bill.

Sir, out of our Gross National Product, only about 3 per cent is allocated for Education.

The countries which are far behind, which are under developed, are able to allot 6 per cent of national product where we are able to allot only 3 per cent of the gross national product for education purpose, and particularly when we are bringing special courses for education training. You are only allotting Rs. 3 crores. I feel it is a very very meagre amount; and this Rs 3 crores is not for one State; it is for the

[Dr. A. Kalanidhi]

entire nation. I personally feel that Rs. 3 crores way not be sufficient at all; I can say it is very meagre amount. The Government of India should re-consider it.

Then you are going to take only 12,000 students for the whole period; the total period is about five years. They are going to take only 12,000 students not from a particular State, but for the entire nation. How many students are you going to take from each State? What priority are you going to give? Is there any criterion in which you are going to select candidates, because after completion of the plus one and plus two, that is students who get very less marks, say, 40 to 45 per cent are only selected for a group—which is called vocational course. So, after the completion of plus one and plus two, you are going to give training. What are the norms you have fixed up for selecting candidates? Are you going to select all the boys who have completed vocational training courses or you are going to consider them only on merit or you are going to have a reservation policy? You have not spelt out anything in that, as far as the criterion of selection of candidates is concerned.

How many centres are you going to open for each State? You have not spelt out that. Who are the teachers? Are they really well trained? What are their qualifications? Who is going to impart training to these students who are going to go for a job? Is there any trained staff or any training to train these boys? If the staff is trained, then they can train very well these students; if the staff is not well trained, I don't think there is going to be any meaning in imparting such knowledge to the boys. They have only under value in hand. After this vocational training, what are you going to do? Have you got enough job opportunities? Are you going to give job guarantee? One of the members said that government cannot give jobs. I do agree. If there are 12,000 students, boys, then government can give a very meagre amount. But if you are going to admit 12 lakh people, I can understand that you cannot provide jobs to them. But, at least, 12,000 people government can easily absorb

in the private sector, in the public sector or any government enterprises or quasi government undertaking. So, what is government going to give? Are they going to absorb all the 12,000 candidates who have passed out or who are going to pass out or who are going to get certificates for the purpose?

Where are you going to start these centres? Are you going to start these centres in urban areas or rural areas? In rural areas, boys may not be able to afford to come for higher training. In U.K. there is a grade A and grade O. Boys who get grade A are allowed to go for graduation; the boys who get zero grade are sent for the industrial training. That is what exists in U.K. In the same way, I think you are going to adopt it. If that is so, I want to know whether the Minister has got any idea of starting these centres in the rural areas? If such courses are started in the rural areas, you are going to prevent migrational students from the rural areas to the urban areas. So, the problem of urban congestion is going to be solved to a certain extent. So, I request the hon. Minister to start them; when he is going to start these courses, it is worthwhile to start these courses in the rural areas also.

As far as industries are concerned, when you send these boys for training, most of the industries explain man power; they try to use them as boys and give them training for 6-7 months without paying any stipend or any emoluments. These boys without any stipend work in industries or under employers who want to explained the man power. So, you know what is happening to people who are working as apprentices in Chartered Accountant Companies? They try to exploit workers and they make use of them for training and they get work without paying anything to them. So, you should be very careful to see that they are not exploited.

You have mentioned about 25 subjects that you have added. What are those 25 subjects? You have not mentioned anything about them. Are they really going to be useful or not? What is useful is only to be selected, because our Prime Minister

very often says that we are going to take the country to 21st century. You should know what is the field that is going to help these boys. If you give training in an ordinary course, I do not think that is going to help the boys. You should select a course which can really be of some benefit to these boys who can get a better knowledge to cope up with the increasing demand and advancement of the latest technology. I only say that in spite of the lacunae, shortcomings and lot of things that are unanswered still, I welcome the Bill with the hope that our boys, who are in rural areas, can get an opportunity to train themselves under the present Special Vocational Education Training Scheme so that they can get a better job.

I request the hon. Minister that after the completion of work, when they want to have self-employment or when they start an industry or small concern of their own, the financial institutions attached to the Government should come forward to help these boys. And also the employment exchanges existing in various States should come forward to give top priority to the boys who have undergone training under the Special Vocational Education Training Scheme, for selection of jobs in Government, public sector enterprises and private sector enterprises. Even if they are not able to get a job either with the Government or public enterprises or private enterprises, and they start a job of their own or a concern, they should get financial assistance, help and encouragement from the Government.

With these words I support the Bill and I request the hon. Minister to consider my suggestions.

[*Translation*]

SHRI YOGESHWAR PRASAD YOGESH (Chatra) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I welcome the Labour Minister's efforts in respect of lakhs of unemployed youths and expansion of vocational training for apprentices. The aim of this ordinance is to mitigate the danger of single-patterned education.

15.27 hrs.

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the Chair*].

Mr. Chairman Sir, it is a good thing that our education is being made job-oriented and On-the-job-training programme is being given a practical form. I praise this Amending Bill. The Labour Minister has, after the provision for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, wanted to add as an amendment.

[*English*]

“where there is more than one designated trade in an establishment, such training places shall be reserved also on the basis of the total number of apprentices in all the designated trades in such establishments”.

[*Translation*]

There is only one difficulty in this amendment that it will deepen the feelings of separatism and parochialism. The Labour Minister has widened the scope of reservation. Besides the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, minorities, handicapped persons and women have also been included in it. I appreciate this step. I want that the Labour Minister should include in it the people from backward classes also. The definition of minority has been changed in some States. It has been presented in a new form and it should be clarified. I want to say also that the apprentices are not covered by the definition of workman. It will be injustice if they are covered by rules of discipline and conduct as they are not considered as workmen. They should be brought into the category of workmen. Many of our friends have drawn the attention of the hon. Minister towards educated unemployed persons. I want to draw the attention of the Labour Minister in relation to uneducated unemployed persons. The big educated and qualified people help the educated unemployed. Lakhs of people can be trained in the artisan industry. The training would not take years but only a week can be sufficient. There are some trades which can take two to four months. So arrangements for training in the artisan industry should be made. The eighty crore rupees plan is commendable. I want to draw the attention of the Labour Minister to the uneducated unemployed persons. The

[Shri Yogeshwar Prasad Yogesh]

infrastructure as well as market is ready for them. There are many type of mines such as coal, iron, copper, mica, graphite, bauxite lime-stone etc. and they require cane-baskets worth crores of rupees. Besides, they are used in large number in wagon loading. Bamboo matting costing crores of rupees is used in coal mines. Tool handles, shovels and spades costing crores of rupees are used in the Public Undertakings. If the arrangements for training in this trade are made, then in my view, thousands of uneducated unemployed youths can be provided jobs.

Our Government is keen to provide employment to educated unemployed youths but we keep ourselves confined to employing them under N R E P. or some industry but not in other areas. I want to attract the attention of the hon Minister through you, Sir, to the practical aspect that we have not been able to make efficient our all conventional industries. Lakhs of youngmen can be trained with the help of funds less than those provided for apprentices training. They should be trained in big industries so as to utilise their power. For example, uniforms for army personnel and for peons in Government offices are stitched and carpets and mats are used in Government institutions and crores of rupees are spent on it. If the training in all these trades is started in the public undertakings, then we can provide employment to lakhs of young persons and thus the problem of unemployment can be solved. Some workshops may be started for this purpose in every State. Coir-based industries can be established in Kerala and the goods made of coir can be exported in big quantity. Mats are made of coir. In the same way, we have potters, blacksmiths, bamboo-matting makers, carpenters and tailors, and for these trades, workshops can be established at different places so as to absorb lakhs of youths in these trades. Our Labour Minister has not thought over this till date. I suggest that besides training facilities for educated unemployed youths, the training programme for uneducated unemployed youths should also be started so as to reduce their unemployment also. Here, I would like to make one more request to you

In our country large-scale enterprises such as C I L , Bhilai, Rourkela, Bokaro Hatia and all iron ore mines have welfare schemes. Funds are available for the development and welfare of the neighbouring areas. Through these schemes, they can invest large amounts of money to establish workshops and later their products can also be bought by these industries. I want that the Government should seriously consider all these arrangements. Some of our honourable members have raised the issue of problems of the youths getting training. Besides, there are some places where the young trained persons have succeeded in reaching higher posts. Some of them are managers and general managers in the coal mines and they have toiled hard to achieve this position. I, therefore, request the hon. Minister to consider all these points and work in the direction of providing employment to the uneducated unemployed persons. The programme in this regard should be translated into reality.

[English]

SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH (Inner Manipur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support this welcome piece of legislation. I was only puzzled why the Government has waited till the silver jubilee year of this Act to bring this kind of a welcome amendment. I join the stream of all hon. Members who said that this is a welcome measure. But it is too small a measure considering the vastness of the country and its vast problems. While going into certain details of the provisions of the Bill, I would like to say.

“The vocationalisation of higher secondary education has been attempted in this country as part of efforts to provide meaningful education leading to suitable employment opportunities at the appropriate levels.”

The question is whether our education as a whole has failed so far to provide meaningful education? I represent a region where there is no atmosphere for industry, no railways. So, the Government Departments are the only employing agency. It is a co-incidence, the hon. Minister himself who has brought this

Apprenticeship (Amendment) Bill to this House belongs to this region. Naturally, that region which has been politically and otherwise so sensitive and has been so much in the news -insurgency, angry educated people, all these things are there. This area has not been able to get any benefit of the national upsurge for industrialisation.

When we think of job oriented education, vocationalisation of education, to give meaningful education to the people, this area, inspite of these measures, has been left out, is being left out and will be left out for a few more decades, unless we go deeper into this problem and bring up sufficient remedial measures.

The amendment to Section 3 (a) provides protection the reservation for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. This is very good. When we come to the vast region comprising of the small States or the so-called seven sisters, we feel that special measures have to be taken for this region. We do not know how far this measure will benefit that area. My humble suggestion in this connection is that the Government while making general provision for all these backward classes should give special attention to these areas where we have so far produced only educated angry people who cannot be provided with employment. In the development of a number of colleges, number of universities, that region is not lagging behind. This region comprising Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, and Tripura they have not been left behind in producing a number of universities, number of colleges, number of schools and for that matter increasing the percentage of literacy year by year, decade by decade. Now what is the ultimate result? The ultimate result is that we have produced only educated people who cannot be employed and who cannot provided the benefit of education. The general nation is, I have to educate my sons. Even those who are not for higher education, they have also to send their children for higher education. What else can parents do? The result is that they come up as graduates. They come up as M. As & M. Sc They become angry men indulging in

insurgency indulging in extremism. I do not mean however that it is only such people who are indulging in extremism and insurgency. But this is one of the basic reasons, one of the basic causes of restlessness, insurgency, particularly in my region.

In punjab the terrorism, extremism is for a different cause. They have industries. It is a leading State in many respects. As far as I know in my region the basic reason is this - our failure to provide employment to the educated people. When we see the New Education Policy, we find that a promise has been made that Education will be made job-oriented, this stream of vocationalisation in Education will be given a big thrust. This promise is welcome. But as we see the Financial Memorandum attached to this Bill, we find that it provides too meagre an amount to cover the spending for 5 years. Members on this side and the other side have emphasised this point. The benefits of this Bill will go only to 12,000 people at the end of 5 years. We have crores of unemployed educated youth and physically fit young men and women. 5 years may be considered a short period in the life of a nation, but it is a very long period in the life of a person or a generation. It means that a particular generation will not be benefiting by this legislation. It will be a long wait for them.

In this context, Sir, while welcoming this Bill, I suggest that there should be more substantial allocation of funds. The New Education Policy should get speedy implementation. I think that they should come forward with a more comprehensive amendment of this Bill or a comprehensive fresh Bill so that the pressure on higher education may be removed and more employment facilities created in respect of the backward and handicapped regions. As I said earlier, you have provided amendment to Clause 3-A of the original Act to give benefits to the Scheduled castes and the Scheduled tribes. Some other hon Members have also suggested the inclusion of backward classes in this amendment. I would like to state that areas like the North East should be included. There are States like Tripura where Railways have

[Shri N. Tombi Singh]

not come. There are States like Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) :
And U P. hill areas.

SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH : I agree with Mr. Rawat. All these areas will have to be given a special status. If this particular Bill cannot help them, my suggestion is that a comprehensive Bill may be brought forward so that these backward areas may be developed. Sir, I do not want to use the word 'classes' in the context of the North East, but I say, these backward and handicapped areas form a very peculiar area and these areas should be protected. In this unique region Education should be, as far as possible, job oriented and vocationalised. There is the North Eastern University in Shillong. There is the Manipur University in Imphal. There is the Gauhati University in Assam. All these universities may be given special assistance from the UGC and other agencies so that they could emphasise on vocational education, job-oriented education, etc. to meet the requirements of the area. I think the entire nation will agree to this proposal.

With these words, I welcome the Bill. I hope that whatever observations I have made about the development of the backward regions, particularly in respect of job-oriented education and vocationalisation of education will be given due weight by the Government. With these words I conclude.

DR. DATTA SAMANT (Bombay South Central) : Sir, every year more than 25 lakh boys are passing the Higher Secondary Examination, and more than one lakh students are passing the final Engineering degree/Diploma Examinations. The present official figure of unemployed registered in the Employment Exchanges is 2.63 crores. But as far as our knowledge goes, five crore people are unemployed. With the process of modernisation and computerisation, the figure will go on

increasing by one crore every year apart from the fact that one lakh industries are closed and one crore workers are thrown out of employment. Considering all these menacing problems, all the industrial workers, students and unemployed, our Minister is proposing to give training to 4000 people in the first year, 6000 people in the second year and like that the total comes to 30,000 workers in five years. I do not know what to call it and how to describe it. I remember a story that once thousands of people were dying because of drought, and the kind sanctioned 5 kg of grains to all these people and then asked his subordinates whether they would support it or oppose it. Like that, you say, 'Pass it or reject it, you have to say 'yes' or 'no'. And that is the only reply I have to give. I cannot reject it, at the same time, I cannot say, 'yes'. If that is the only thing by discussing for so much of time in this House, we are not doing any justice considering the magnitude of the problem, we are forgetting that it is inadequate. It is totally neglected and it is not going to anything.

While saying all these things, I remember the hon. Minister said on two or three occasions in this House and outside that all the labour laws should be changed. In this connection I would like to mention that this Apprentices Act was passed in 1961. Now it is 1986. Let us have the Silver Jubilee of this Act. Within these 25 years the requirements of the working class have gone up more than 10 times. The time has now come for celebrating the Silver Jubilee.

There is no provision to make the worker permanent under the Contract Labour Act. If the workers are removed, there is no provision to make them reinstated and make them permanent. So, let us have the Silver jubilee of that Act also where 50 per cent of the workers of this country are either trainees or casual and are exploited by the employers, and I am sorry to say in this august House that we are really not doing justice. It looks as though we have nothing to do with the basic problem of lakhs of workers.

The Industrial Disputes Act was passed in 1947 and nearly 40 years have passed. Let us have the Golden Jubilee of that Act also. Since 1947, what are the

amendment we made? We made very few amendments, they are not adequate. In the National Herald office workers are sitting. Every day we are hearing in the House about textile workers. What is the Government doing and what is happening, only God along knows.

In the Industrial Disputes Act there is no provision as to what is the share of the workmen. All such things need a basic change. Only the Minister is giving the assurance in this House that all these laws would be changed. When? Meenwhile all the 50 per cent workers die? I do not know, but if this is the attitude of the Government, are you going to solve the problems of the workers?

Coming to some of the provisions of this Act, I am putting a categorical question to the Government: Are your Apprentices Advisers having any control in Maharashtra or Bombay, which is the oldest city? There is no control as to how many apprentices should be appointed in industry. They may not appoint anybody or they may appoint more than what is specified. I tell you, 50 per cent of the employers are not employing any apprentices. If they want any people, they take as much number as they want. As far as this Apprentices Act is concerned, this is a contract. It depends on the sweet will of the employers. Then, are you leaving it to the sweet will of the employers? As to how many years a person should be trained, it is left to the sweet will of the employer. What is the minimum salary you are prescribing? You were paying a minimum of Rs. 200 in 1971, now you are making it Rs. 400. On how many hours they have to work there is no provision in the Act. You say that the Industrial Disputes Act or any other Act is not applicable to these apprentices. So, You leave all these people to the God's will and the employers to exploit them. There is such type of provision in this Act and the Government is totally sleeping. Nobody is bothered regarding that. I am now categorically telling that I have got all the names of big factories who are doing this. If you want, I can say, Crompton, Premier, and also Mazagon Dock, a Government undertaking. Regarding the control of

apprenticeship number, the Government has nothing to do. They can take as many numbers as they like. As many hours as the employers like, they have to work and the employers take work from them. Salary is not given. They are not getting organised because all these people are given the temptation, as they are unemployed, that they are likely to be employed. They will never from union or organisation and they are young people. From the first day, they are used for production purposes. Why are you giving them only Rs. 400 when they are doing more work than an average worker is going. They are not trained.

In this Act, there is a provision that a factory which is having more than 500 workers should provide such facilities for the apprentices. I am making a statement in this House that not a single industry has made any provision for their training or provided small machines to give training to the trainees. They are used as sweepers and they are used for serving tea to the Directors and training as such is not there. And the young mass, educated mass who are having engineering aptitude and to learn something are so much exploited. There are lakhs and crores of apprentices in this country and the Apprentice Act is totally silent in this respect and all these mass of people are being exploited. In this Act, there is no guarantee for them. I have seen some of the employers I do not like to take the names of the employers taking even 25% workers as apprentices and they exploit these workers for three years and they are then thrown out. Again after three years, again they take the people and after some years, they are again thrown out. Industry can run without any of the permanent workers. A similar provision is there in the Contract Labour Act. The industry can run with such things because there are 5 crores unemployed every where in the country and in the law, there is no provision to prevent such things. In the law, there is no such provision. An employer can take any more number. If he does not like, he can take any less number. All these Acts the Industrial Dispute Act, the Workmen's Compensation Act--are not protecting them. According to clause 18, every apprentice undergoing apprenticeship

[Dr. Datta Samant]

training in the designated trade in the establishment shall be a "trainee" and not a "worker" The provisions of any law with respect to labour matters shall not apply in relation to such apprentices. What is this and where are we ?

When there is such enormous unemployment and people are exploited, we are still continuing with such type of Acts. I am another categorical question to the hon. Minister. You tell me a single example in the country, where a single industrial unit is find for not implementing these provisions of this Act. There is absolute provision of imposing fine, if they do not obey the provisions. But you cannot tell us a single case in the last 25 years where an employer has been fined or ovided with punishment Therefore, it is high-time, when all young persons are unemployed, you should make it more effective. You should not leave it to the mercy of the employers. Just, take Bombay. I have seen a big automobile company You forget about the Act which we are discussing now. They have formed new contract engineers and trainee graduates. They are more than your apprentices and the people who pass B. E. or qualified diplomas are taken in some good firms. I would like to say about the Premier Automobile where I have got my engineers. They are about 500. They are paid Rs. 700 in the first year, Rs 800 in the second year and after three years, they are removed. They are about 500 And then, these people come to me and said : "A peon who is standing at the gate who is in your union is getting Rs. 2,000. But I am a first class B. E. engineer and I am getting Rs. 700 only." That type of exploitation is going on in the country and it is even worse. I appeal to all members of the House that it is high-time that we should do something because we are totally neglecting everything for the workers and such type of things are happening. There are about 50% workers in this country who are being exploited either as contract labour, or as Badli or as trainees or as apprentices. Such crores of people are exploited in this way and the laws are totally silent. You

tell me a single example where the worker got the justice after Apprenticeship training or contract labour and where the workers are made legally permanent and they got justice. I think' the Minister will not be able to tell us.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL (Kapergaon) : There is no obligation on the part of the employer to give him employment.

DR. DATTA SAMANT : Yes, that is the problem. Such things are going on in the country. I appeal to the House to look into these things. What for ? Now we are developing the industries all over the country. How many loans are granted ? All the industrialists are giving the loans. With 90% money of the Government, nationalised banks or IDBI, the industry is started. Is there any provision as to how many workers will be given the benefit ? Is the Minimum Wages Act applied to them ? There is no provision even to give minimum wage to the trainee. The minimum wage of the sweeper in Maharashtra is Rs 25/- per day. Even there is no compulsion. They do not fall under the minimum Wages Act. Such type of things are going on. The employers are exploiting the labour class. In Bombay, forget the mills, all the Maharashtra-based industries are being closed down by the employers and the workers are coming out. Let the hon. Minister come to my State and see how an employer can call it his industry when he is closing down his industry. The hon. Minister said "We will give the labour all the facilities. You will get Rs. 10/-." I told the Minister If you go to Meghalaya and UP, you will get the labour at Rs. 2/-." And that is the bargain. If crores are suffering, where is development ? We always talk in this House The industry developed 3% or 4%, we say. Have you even talked in this House, what is the employment potential and what is the wage earned by these masses ? We never discuss. in this House. We are far from that and never bother about that.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : When Bengal industrialists go to Maharashtra, you allow them.

DR. DATTA SAMANT : All the provisions made in this Bill are not compulsory. They are obligatory. There is no provision how to implement any of the provisions of this Act. This is left to the sweet will of the industrialists, how to exploit the masses.

Does any graduate or any first-class man start the industry? In this country, industries will be started only by big capitalists who are controlling more money than the Government. The educated people will never be given any advantage and, therefore, all the discussions and provisions on training made are totally obsolete.

I Make an appeal to the Government. As your previous Minister Sri Anjaiah said, "It should come from the top. Otherwise, you do anything. You may only blame me." The time has come that all industrial laws need change. There should be come respect for the workers. In Delhi, I am seeing hundreds of people are coming every day and they say "I am removed. You do this thing. You do that thing." I say "This is not our job." This is left to the Government. How are you going to deal with such people?

My support will be limited. This is not going to help and, therefore, I oppose the Bill.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS (Bhilwara) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Apprentices (Amendment) Bill, 1986. This apprenticeship scheme has been introduced by the Government in consonance with their policy and their announcement with regard to employment under the 23-Point Programme. Earlier in 1983-84, this scheme was started for graduates only, but now it takes effect after 10 plus 2 as vocational education. This, no doubt, is a welcome step, but the step in itself is not enough; you have to widen its scope. As pointed out by all the hon. Members, the number of apprentices proposed to be imparted training under the Act is every year is very small, Their number runs into crores whereas the

number that the Government is expected to cover by the end of the Seventh Plan is only 12,000. This number cannot be regarded as sufficient by any standards. The money allocated for employment under the 20-Point Programme will have to be diverted to this scheme. What I want to say is that this matter should be taken up with the Planning Commission for more allocation and this Apprenticeship Scheme should be introduced throughout the country and the youth given employment under this scheme. After the apprenticeship is completed, they should be provided jobs, so that they could earn a livelihood. This problem needs to be solved.

The second point that I want to raise is that in the prevailing circumstances, as stated by the hon. Members, the Government does not have means for the implementation of this scheme. Our Labour Department is like an orphan. It has no master. This Department is not headed by a Cabinet Minister; a Minister of State is made incharge of it and, as such, this Department too is not a full-fledged department. Nobody bothers about it. The officers of this department care less for the workers and are more concerned about the employers. This system needs to be reversed. This Department should have more concern for the employees than for the employers.

16.00 hrs.

I would like to give an example. We have a textile mill in Bhilwara which has a number of apprentices. They are paid Rs. 5 or 7 and are made to work for two to three years. I want to know whether there is any provision under which the apprentices working for such a long period should be paid at par with other regular employees, and those violating such a provision would be given stringent punishment? As long as there is no such provision in your law the apprentices cannot benefit from this scheme and the employers will continue to exploit the apprentices for two to three years and thereafter shunt them out. Bhilwara Spinning Mill is, thus, keeping hundreds of people and getting its entire work done through them. They are given their full workload but no pay.

[Shri Girdhari Lal Vyas]

ments are made in lieu thereof. You should ensure that those who make the apprentices work like this, pay full remuneration for the work done.

Similarly, there is an industry named Modern Thread on Rayala Road in my constituency. They also indulge in this kind of thing. They employ apprentices for three to four years but do not pay them for their output. If there is any strike in the factory, these apprentices are not allowed to go out of the factory. They are forced to work as bonded labourers. You have a provision for disciplinary action against those apprentices who do not work and, therefore, these apprentices are always afraid of that provision. I want that no disciplinary action should be taken against the apprentices. It is very much necessary to make a provision in this regard.

As is well known, the capitalists take 90 per cent of the investment from the people and invest only 10 per cent from their own pocket. The baniya is a very clever person. He invests minimum capital from his own pocket and becomes millionaire by using others' money. He runs his industry with your money and then exploits the workers and indulges in all kinds of corruption. You should not have such a provision. He does not deposit provident fund money of the workers; he does not deposit E.S.I. contribution and does not pay them bonus. Government does not take any action against the persons who indulge in all these things. I agree that the Labour Department of the Central Government is not much to blame for this, the main fault lies with Labour Departments of the States. But Labour Department of the Union Government can at least do the monitoring. It is absolutely necessary to oversee the working of these Labour Departments of the States. They are totally inactive and are working for the capitalists. Therefore, you must pay specific attention to it.

I would also like to draw your attention to the fact that under the Compensation Act, the apprentice is not be treated as workman. Should be meet any accident

while working, he will be left out of the amlist of the Compensation Acts being an apprentice. He will neither get any compensation nor any aid for medical assistance. How can then it be treated as fair? All the benefits available under the Industrial Disputes Act, Compensation Act, E.S.I. Act which are available to others should be made available to them also. If this is done, this system can work smoothly. It is utmost necessary to evolve a system under which they can earn their livelihood after getting training.

My third point is that there is a provision to pay them Rs. 400 of which 50 per cent is paid by you and 50 per cent is to be paid by the industrialist. But some of the industrialists pay only Rs. 150 @ Rs 5/- per day and thus save money even out of this; no industrialist pays more than this. Thus the funds which you give for the apprentices do not reach them fully. There is no provision in this Bill for taking action against the employers who do not pay their share of 50 per cent and as a result of that the capitalists can exploit them. Therefore, there is scope for improvement in it and attention must be paid to it.

In the end, I would like to read out the definition which you have given for a technician after he gets training in the I.T.I.—

[*English*]

“(pp) ‘technician (vocational) apprentice’ means an apprentice who holds or is undergoing training in order that he may hold a certificate in vocational course involving two years of study after the completion of the secondary stage of school education recognised by the All-India Council and undergoes apprenticeship training in any such subject in any vocational course as may be prescribed.”

[*Translations*]

You talk of imparting two years training after passing Higher Secondary and the people who pass I.T.I. will also have to put in two years as apprentice although they are already I.T.I. trained.

Therefore you must differentiate between the two. I would like to know what provision you have kept in the Bill in this regard? I would like to say that attention should be paid to it. Besides, I am of the view that the training institutes and Boards which are functioning at present should be set up State-wise. I would specifically say about Rajasthan that in a big State like ours, more and more vocational training and technical training should be given, so that the people could find more and more avenues of employment. The Government should make efforts to make such an arrangement. With these words; I support this Bill.

SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL (Kota) :
Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Apprentices (Amendments) Bill 1986 and welcome the spirit with which this Bill has been brought forward.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, our main objective is to help the unemployed to find employment after giving him training, but we shall have to give guarantee for a job to the trained personnel and the Government will have to take steps in this direction. Unemployment has posed biggest problem before us today and we must find a definite solution to it. A special Vocational Education Training Scheme as a pilot scheme was started in 1983-84 to impart training to the apprentices while they work. Under this scheme, there was a provision to impart training especially to the people belonging to the weaker sections, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, physically handicapped and women. Now with this amendment that lacuna is being removed and that is way this amendment is more welcome. Based on many years experience, the provision for creating a separate category of vocational apprentices as per the provision of Apprentices Act, 1961 and the provision for imparting training to the apprentices through the Boards is also a welcome step. My suggestion is that so far as technical education is covered, a part of it should be taken out of the charge of the Education Department or the Ministry of Human Resource Development and put under the Ministry of Labour, as most of the work pertaining to this is done by the Labour Ministry and all the Acts

are enforced by this Ministry. Thus, sufficient capability and skill can be generated for making arrangement to provide training in different vocations sought to be achieved through this amending Bill. Through this amendment, the difficulty regarding training centres being faced by the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is also sought to be removed. A number of my colleagues have mentioned about the facilities being given to the apprentices in foreign countries. They have also referred to the exploitation of the apprentices in this country by the industrialists. Some of them are removed after a year and some after two years and if the industrialist retains the apprentice for three years. The industrialist has earned a lot by that time. The Government should have so amended the Bill that somehow the trained personnel are brought under the definition of workmen. In that case, the facilities available to the workmen under the Industrial Disputes Act could also be made available to the apprentices. Our Government is delaying it unnecessarily. Thousand of apprentices are roaming in the streets, and Government will have to bring forward this amendment one day to protect their interests unless it is construed that this Act is for only 12,000 apprentices. An Act will have to be brought forward guaranteeing job after the training. Those who have received training should also be given loan of Rs. 25,000 through banks which is available to the educated unemployed under the Self Employment Scheme. You have brought forward this amendment in the interest of the apprentices but it is not going to be enough. Government will have to start various schemes for their benefit and will have to give them financial assistance as well. Their exploitation at the hands of the industrialists will have to be made a cognizable offence. As long as the Government does not come forward with such an amendment, I think, it will not be able to fulfil its duty and obligation. I request that the Government, in near future, should come forward with an amendment which should provide a job guarantee to the apprentices, ensure full payment for their work and framing of rules regarding their work. Just now, one of our colleagues has said that they are also being asked to do their personal work

[Shri Shanti Dhariwal]

such as bringing cigarette and betel. Whatever we are doing will be incomplete as long as the rules governing their nature and hours of work and the type of training they should be given are not framed.

[English]

SHRI D. B. PATIL (Kolaba) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is not always true that whatever is well said is well done. This applies to original Act passed in 1961. I am very much disappointed about the implementation of the original Act. I am saying this because as the original Act is being amended care has not been taken to amend it fully. Most of the Members have stated that the apprentices are being treated like bonded labour and I am also of that opinion. This has happened only because the original Act of 1961 was framed in such a way that there was no other way for the apprentices except being bonded labour. Under this Act, his rights and his interests were not protected properly. Even though he works for more than the prescribed hours, for eight, nine or ten hours, he is not entitled to any overtime. He is exploited by the employer and he does not mind this exploitation in the hope that after the apprenticeship period, he will be absorbed in that industry or organisation. But it has been our general experience that the apprentices who work very well and to the satisfaction of the employer are not being absorbed in the industry in spite of the fact that they have some vacancies to be filled in. Government ought to have taken advantage of this amending Bill and introduced an obligation on the part of the employer to employ apprentices if there are some vacancies to be filled in their industry or organisation, but that is not being done. As I said, in the original Act, there is a provision that the apprentices will not be entitled to any over time, but the Government should have taken this opportunity to provide for overtime to them.

The policy of the Government is that vocationalization should be encouraged. I am in full agreement with this policy, but what has been done for the last so many

years? If you examine this carefully, you will start entertaining doubts about the intention or the seriousness of the Government on this matter. Out of nearly fifty lakh students at the 12 plus 2 stage, only 2.4 per cent of them are enrolled for vocational training. It is good to say that the students should be diverted to vocational training instead of their going to colleges and getting degrees which do not help them in their day-to-day life. But there is not sufficient provision for that. The provision made for vocational training is very meagre and very inadequate. Proper attention is also not being given to the trade education in the ITIs.

I am very sorry to state that in spite of my attempts to get information about the implementation of this Apprentice Act, I could not get that information. I would urge upon the Government to take follow up action about the implementation of this Act. They should see whether it has helped the persons who are given this training and concessions, and whether they get employment after this apprenticeship training. If they are not employed thereafter, what is the use of giving them training in the IITs and other places. Even if they are not employed thereafter, you can imagine the frustration in their mind. This position needs to be ascertained throughout the country. Government must look to this aspect also.

The Statement of Objects and Reasons states :

“The scheme also provides for training of weaker sections, specially the scheduled castes and the scheduled tribes, minorities, physically handicapped and women.”

It also says :

“A pilot scheme called Special Vocational Education Training Scheme to provide ‘on the job training’ to the product of the vocational stream was launched in 1983-84...”

What has been the experience of it? The Government always claims that they have tried to help the underprivileged,

the scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, minorities and the women. There is also certain reservations for these categories in the Constitution. In spite of that reservation, the training which has been provided to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes is very much inadequate. What was the position on 31st October, 1984 so far as the special vocational training was concerned? Nearly 12699 persons were given training. Out of those trainees, only 400 belonged to the scheduled castes, which is hardly three per cent, where as they were entitled to 14 per cent. Why? Should not the Government have taken care to see that this training was given to the boys and girls belonging to the scheduled castes? They were very much entitled to it under the provisions made for them. The position in respect of scheduled tribes is very much disappointing. Only 65 persons belonging to the scheduled tribes were given this training. It comes to only half per cent. Only 65 of them got training in the total number of nearly thirteen thousand trainees. This only shows that the Government is not serious.

The Bill also says :

“The opportunity is also being availed of to amend Section 3A of the Act so as to remove difficulties in the working of the scheme of reservations of training places for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.”

This was sufficient to take adequate care of certain provisions. If the provisions are not being implemented, then what is the use of having those provisions? So, it is very clear from this fact that the thing which ought to have been done is not being done and the provisions are not being implemented properly.

Sir, I would like to bring one more aspect to the attention of the Government. Now many new industries are coming up in our country for which new type of skills and workmanship is required. Nowhere in the public institutions like ITI, have I seen training being imported in these new trades or skills. Training to acquire these new skills is not introduced in any

of the Government-run training centres and employment opportunity which can be created in these new industries is not being made available to the students who are studying in the ITIs or in other technical institutions run by the Government because these courses are not there. So, I would urge upon the Government to introduce all these new courses in the Government-run institutions so that sufficient employment potential can be created in these new fields of industry and trade.

It is said in the Financial Memorandum that training facilities will be provided to 4000 trainees in 1986-87 and Rs. 96 lakhs will be reimbursed by the Central Government. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether this training will be imparted this year, i.e. in the calendar year 1986-87 and whether 4,000 students will be given training and Rs. 96 lakhs will be reimbursed.

I have to say a lot but due to lack of time, I am unable to do so. So far as the apprentices are concerned, I would urge upon the Government that proper protection should be extended to them. They are being exploited as bonded labour. They cannot fight for their rights in the hope that after the apprenticeship period is over, they may be absorbed in the industry. But they are not absorbed and I urge upon the Government to take care of this aspect and see that their interests are protected.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MURLIDHAR MANE (Nasik) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Apprentices (Amendment) Bill brought forward in this House. I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister for it. As the hon. Members have told, this amending Bill has been brought forward after 25 years. For this also it is a welcome step.

As all know, unemployment is increasing in the country on a very large scale. In comparison to the large number of unemployed person in the country, we will be able to absorb only very few persons under Apprentices Act. All the hon. Members of this House have submitted the fact that the educated youth of the country have not

[Shri Murlidhar Mane]

been able to get employment even after undergoing full training. Besides this, the treatment meted out to the educated youth during training is very unseemly. The factory owners forget the fact that the persons, who come to the factory for work and for undergoing training are also good citizens of the country. But such type of work is taken from those workers which should not have been taken from them. They are not given proper training. The hon. Minister should look into it. I would also like to give suggestion that trainees should be attached with the trained workers. In this way they will be able to get good training and they will also take interest in the work.

We have come across a number of instance where in case of strike, controversy etc. in some factory, the apprentices have been forced to work there during the strike. Besides undergoing training they are also asked to step up production. They have no union. Therefore, they are forced to do all type of work themselves.

In Maharashtra, Employment Promotion Programme has been in force. The State Government sponsors persons to the factory for training under this programme with a view to removing unemployment. Under this programme, the Government gives stipend of Rs. 200 to the trainee and the factory-owner has also to give stipend of Rs. 200 to them. But there has been a number of cases where only the Government gave stipend to the trainees. The factory-owners did not give anything to them. There are not only one but a number of such factories which did not make any contribution towards this. Under such circumstances when the trainee wants to leave the work, he is asked to stay further on the plea that the factory owner had not received the cheque of Rs. 200 from the Government and that payment would be made to him after the cheque has been received. In this way he is made to prolong his stay and made to work more.

I shall urge the hon. Minister that a number of persons work under Apprentices

Act but is there any machinery to check whether the apprentices are employed there after the completion of three months' training or they are simply asked to go. There should be some machinery to check it. We come across a number of where in many factories apprentices are taken for three years' training and after three years they are not absorbed there. Ultimately they have to go elsewhere. The industrialists are in league with one another to see that the scheme of the Government does not succeed. Here we talk of providing training and employment to educated youths but the capitalists take money from us and do not allow the scheme to succeed. Therefore, the Government should evolve some machinery to check these industrialists. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK (Sonepat) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Apprentices (Amendment) Bill. I would like to say a few things in this connection. Many hon. Members have expressed their views on it in their own style. But nobody dwelt on the meaning of the Act and other important questions like why was the Apprentices Act enacted in 1961 and whether any amendments can be brought to this Act. Many hon. Members spoke about things which were not related to this Act. Many of them said that this amendment has been brought after a long time, i.e., after 25 years. I would like to point out here, that amendments are not brought keeping in view the number of years or that more amendments should be made in the Act if it is being done after many years. The need of the hour is that this amendment should be made in this Act and that is why it is being done. The Government has brought this amendment to remove certain technical difficulties in the Act and to provide benefit of vocational training to weaker sections of society. I thank the Government for making provision to give special assistance to the weaker sections.

The House may be aware that the present education system was introduced in 1881 by Lord Macaulay and the sole purpose was to produce clerks as they were required in large number at that time. Englishmen used to be engineers, doctor and bureaucrats. But today as we went on making

progress, we felt the need to do away with this education system. The Hon. Prime Minister gave a new direction to the country by introducing the new education policy. This new policy provides more opportunities of employment. I dare say that it is not possible to ensure employment to all through this Act which is the aim of the Government. Probably, there is not even a single hon. Member of this august House who might have been an apprentice himself, but I have been an apprentice in 1965-66. The Advocates Act of 1965 envisaged that the LL.B. Course—which is a training for the lawyers—would be of two years' duration while the student will have to become an apprentice of a senior lawyer in the third year. I was an apprentice of a senior lawyer in 1966. I want to submit here that this was carried on an experimental basis for two years. Later, when it was found that the output of the apprentice was nil, this provision in the Advocates' Act 1961, was deleted. We did not learn anything there. We had to merely carry his bag and do other small errands for him. This was done during apprenticeship and it is a good thing that it has been checked.

Sir, I believe that there is not even a single Act in this country which intenes to harm the people or is not in public interest and this Bill is one of that kind. The flaw creeps in when it comes to implementation. The financial memorandum attached to this Bill reveals that Rs. 28 lakhs will be spent on this during the year and after this amendment it will increase by another Rs. 10 to 15 lakhs. Besides ensuring whether we are getting the desired output by spending so much, we have to see whether it is of any use. We should not merely pass this Bill and appoint some people as apprentices in the factories. It has been often observed that those who are appointed as apprentices merely mark their attendance at the factories and the Government funds are thus wasted. Majority of hon. Members expressed the view that unemployment is a bane for this country. I would like to submit that is the unemployment problem which is behind the Assam, Punjab and Mizoram problems that the country is facing today. There is saying that an idle man's brain is the devil's workshop. I am referring to it in the context of Haryana. If the people get employment

there I feel that nobody will go to attend meetings which are organised by Congress or any opposition party. The people attend these meetings because they are sitting idle. They are in search of jobs and whoever makes false promises to them, they go and listen to him. I mean to say that the country is today facing many problems which may apparently seem to be law and order problems or of other nature but in fact there are economic reasons behind them. Therefore, I feel that unless the economic problems are resolved the Government will not be able to deal with other problems.

It has been mentioned in the Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Bill that this provision will reduce pressure on higher education and it is true but the question remains how much? About 4,000 people will become apprentices during this year and in the next four years, their number will go upto 21,000. It has been stated in the Financial Memorandum that in the next four years 21,000 people will get training under apprenticeship but that will not help resolve the unemployment problem. Therefore, I think that this has to be seriously considered. Today we emphasize again and again that everybody should be given basic education and the higher education should be limited to a few. Others should be provided job-oriented education. There is provision for those who have been provided job oriented education or technical education to work as apprentices for two or three years. If there is a provision to provide Rs. 400 to an apprentice, I would suggest that the Centre and State should equally pay Rs. 200 each to him whereas the industrialist, where the apprentice is working, should pay him Rs. 400. Thus he should get Rs. 800. When the industrialist will have to pay from his own funds, then he will check it and will also see his work, but as has been said by the hon. Members who spoke prior to me, the money given by the Government is paid to them and industrialist does not pay anything from his own resources. This thing can be checked if the payment is made through a cheque so that industrialist might not get his signatures on a blank register. When the payment will be made through cheque, there will be a proof in support of the payment having been received by him.

[Shri Dharam Pal Singh Malik]

At the same time, some hon. Members have also spoken about minimum wages. I for one consider the Employment Exchange Act more important than the Minimum Wages Act because it has a provision that the industry employing 20 or more persons will have to make recruitment through the Employment Exchange. I can say before this House that 90 per cent of industrialists do not make recruitment through the Employment Exchange; instead they make recruitment according to their own sweet will. This leads to exploitation of the workers and consequent dampening of their morale and they do not get jobs in the real sense of the term. In this context, I would like to suggest that if you want to solve the problem of unemployment, stringent punishment should be awarded to the one who makes recruitment without utilising the services of the Employment Exchange. Although the Employment Exchange Act provides for punishment, yet there is hardly any person in the country who has been convicted or fined for violation of any clause of this Act, and we daily see that they make appointments on higher posts on daily wages basis at their own sweet will and regularise them later on. This thing should be checked.

While thanking you for giving me an opportunity to speak, I support this amending Bill.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY (Hanamkonda) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support this Bill and welcome the setting up of Centres for imparting training to the apprentices. I congratulate the hon. Minister for Regional Training Centres that are being set up for giving training in Agriculture. He also deserves congratulations for making a provision for imparting training to the personnel in the agro-based industries. Training should also be imparted to the carpenters, weavers, blacksmiths and the like in the rural areas.

At the same time, I would like to draw your attention to the Wheel and Axle Plant of the Railways at Bangalore. I.T.I. trained personnel have been recruited there. They are asked to do the work of a Khalasi, of a

sweeper and of a labourer. My submission is that they are recruited for the training of a moulder and a fitter and as such they should be given the work of these trades. If they refuse to work as Khalasis, they are marked absent and are shunted out. When they represent, they are told that since they are under training, they will have to do whatever work is assigned to them. Now, with whom should they register their grievances? They cannot represent against the injustice done to them. Therefore, I would like to submit that whether it is a private firm or a Government Undertaking, it should be made compulsory that the apprentice is given the training in the particular trade for which he has been recruited and no other work is assigned to him.

All your Public Undertakings and private industries give them employment in their own concerns after giving them training. As a result of it, apprentices trained in Government Centres do not get any job. Therefore, I want that Government should ensure that I.T.I trained personnel or other certificate-holders get admission as apprentices in the industries. The Public Undertakings and private industries should recruit apprentices through Employment Exchanges. For this purpose, the names of the apprentices should be registered with your training bureaus.

The apprentice should be assigned the work in the particular trade for which he has been selected. He should do the work that has been prescribed for him at the time of admission. He should not be removed from training if he refuses to do the work other than assigned to him.

What is happening in the factories? If three workers are required to be put on a machine, one worker is engaged and two apprentices are put on that machine. Thus, the people run their factories by overburdening the apprentices and earn profit. The hours of work for apprentices should be fixed. Since, they remain unemployed, they are prepared to work for Rs. 150 instead of Rs. 300 or Rs. 200. Thus, the factory owners make much profit through these apprentices. Therefore, provision should be made to ensure full payment for the work put in by them.

I would request that a provision should be incorporated under which it should be made compulsory that all apprentices should be recruited through the Employment Exchanges so that you may have a control over them. Secondly, they should be given the same work that has been assigned to them at the time of admission. They should not be turned out if they refuse to do other type of work.

Just now, I gave you an example of a Public Undertaking. At the same time, I also want that training Centres should be set up where there are industries. These Centres should also be opened in backward areas, otherwise what we see is that the people become restive. I would like to remind you that all our engineering students are becoming Naxalites. You might have heard and read in the newspapers that in the event of not getting any job, the students after passing Engineering from colleges become Naxalites and are held by the police. Whatever the State, whether it is Uttar Pradesh, or it is Bihar...(*Interruptions*).... Where is the question of B.J.P. here? The people become Naxalites in Warrangal in Andhra Pradesh which has been ruled by the Congress for 40 years. Why do they become Naxalites? Because they do not get jobs even after passing Matriculation or Engineering examination. They have to pick up a gun, being unemployed. Therefore, I want that employment to 90 per cent of I.T.I. trained people should be ensured. There is no unemployment problem in Punjab. Disturbances in Punjab are not due to unemployment. But in Warrangal in Andhra Pradesh, the doctor, engineers remain unemployed and form their own parties, go to jungles and wage a fight against the injustice being done to the people. Today, people roam about the streets unemployed even after getting education and training. The Naxalites entice them to join their ranks. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister that more and more training centres should be set up as soon as possible and Government's programmes such as TRYSEM and Self Employment should be accelerated. Under these programmes, training should be given at district and tehsil level. I would say that it is necessary to give this training upto village level.

You have made provision for 12,000 people in the Seventh Five Year Plan. There are 10,000 seats in Andhra Pradesh alone and in Karnataka and Maharashtra, there are colleges in every district. There are lakhs of seats there Rs. 10,000 to 50,000 are demanded as donation for admission in engineering. Therefore, I want that more and more of such training centres should be set up so that such unscrupulous people are not able to harm the interests of the country by instigating the people.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) :
Mr. Chairman, Sir, my turn has come late and this Bill also has been brought late, but it is better late than never. I have deep regard for the hon. Labour Minister and the Labour Ministry always brings forward good Bills, but they do not become effective. In the present Bill, it seems a very poor beginning has been made. In the beginning there is a provision for the training of 4000 persons and the total target is of 12000 persons I request the hon. Minister to keep in mind while giving reply that this number should at least be equal to half the students passing out of the I. T. Is and provision in the budget should be made accordingly. In the present state of our economy and with the advancement being made in the field of technology, we require people trained in vocational institutions rather than white collar workers. The vocational education, the 10 plus 2 system, has been stressed keeping in view the above fact but I am sorry to say that every State Government has not laid stress on this system in a uniform way. I want to urge the hon. Labour Minister, and I am sorry to disturb him while he is talking to the hon. Lady Minister, but he is the only person to whom I want to address point.

[*English*]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A.
SANGMA) :** I am listening to you.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how many States are spending even 20 per cent of their educational budget on

[Shri Harish Rawat]

the vocational education? There would be a few such States. In a State like Uttar Pradesh, only nominal commercial training is given in typewriting. Tamilnadu has of course made a beginning, but this also is negligible keeping in view the entire country where 50 lakh youths are passing out every year under this programme of training. Only 2 to 5 per cent of the students have been able to receive this training. This, I think, is a matter of serious concern and the hon. Minister should pay attention to it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I welcome this Amendment Bill and praise the hon. Labour Minister for it, but, at the same time, I would like to say that in the main principal there are so many loopholes and defects, with the help of which the employers always exploit the apprentices. Many things have been said about it and I would like to repeat them I urge the hon. Labour Minister that unless the employers are forced by the Act itself to provide employment to the apprentices after training, this exploitation will continue. At present the situation is that youths are recruited in the name of apprentice training and they are made to do all kinds of jobs. Even the lot of the labourers is better than them because they are associated with one or the other trade union and so they cannot be exploited. The apprentice is not allowed to participate in the trade union activities. He can not participate in such things because an uncertain future haunts him. They work more due to the fear of uncertain future and due also to the assurance given by the employer that they would be absorbed in service. This should be ensured that the employers do not exploit the apprentices. There should be some guarantee for his future that his work and training will be useful at one place or the other. There are 50 per cent such trainees who do not get employment afterwards. Today, there are a number of youths who have received education under the 10 plus 2 pattern, but they are jobless. Even the youths passing out of I.T.Is are unemployed. We should find some solution to this

problem. There should be some compulsion for the industries to recruit a certain number of trainees. There is no such compulsion for them at present. The need-based vocational courses should be started in the whole country. Government should guarantee employment to the trained persons. In the present set up, many ministries are looking after this work. The Labour Ministry enacts laws. The States also are working in this field. But there is no apex body to coordinate the work of all the agencies. I say that there should be some way to bring about coordination among the people working in different fields. There should be some monitoring authority.

I would like to mention something about I. T. Is also. You can judge the quality of training provided there by having a look at the tools and appliances used in the I.T.Is. It can also be judged as to how much qualified is the person who imparts training. You can see the best of the I. T. Is in Uttar Pradesh and you will find quite obsolete machines there. I would like to suggest that there should be a model I. T. I. in every district and it should be granted aid by the Centre. And all the other I. T. Is should function on that pattern. The Labour Ministry and the Ministry of Human Resource Development should formulate a scheme to bring about improvements in the I. T. Is. With these would, I conclude.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL (Kopargaon): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I think I am the last Member to speak on this Bill. I welcome this Bill. Previously the provision of vocationalisation was not there. It has been my experience that in the rural colleges where 10 plus 2 system has been adopted, where there is vocationalisation, and the restructuring of courses, the employment rate is 100 per cent. Where there has been no vocationalisation, the courses should be restructured because without it nobody is going to be benefited. While supporting this Bill, I want to give some suggestions. There is a provision for 'on job-training' in this Bill with a view to give practical training and to import more and more training about the machines.

[English]

“To increase the productivity of man and machine in the quality and quantity.”

[Translation]

I agree with this, but you have further said :

17 hrs.

[English]

“The object, therefore, is to provide on-job-training to the products of the vocational stream so that adequate competence and skill required ..”

[Translation]

All this is correct, but keeping in view the rural needs, these trades, whether of apprenticeship or of vocationalisation, should be restructured. You want that there should be 25 trades at the maximum, but if we want to enter into the 21st century then we will have to reconsider the number of trades and improve them. It is proper to increase the number of trades from many points of view. I think, we would not be able to achieve our targets unless we increase the number of trades.

So far as the provision of funds is concerned, I want to give some suggestions. The reason is that a number of hon. members have mentioned about TRYSEM programme :

[English]

“Rural Youth training scheme a big flop.”

[Translation]

We have noticed in regard to the new item for 1985-86 that even 10 per cent of the target has not been achieved in the matter of imparting training. Only a few have got self-employment after the training. You take the example of Bihar where 25800 persons were estimated to be trained but only 4800 were given training and out of them only a little more than 1700 per-

sons have been able to get self employment. The same is the case of Madhya Pradesh where 6000 persons out of the estimated 18000 could get training and only 2300 persons got self-employment. The same is the case in Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Assam, Kerala, etc. The situation in Punjab is still worse. There is only one reason behind all this and I want that there should be improvements in the facilities of training for self-employment. To achieve all this, the improvement in the system of education is a must. Government should provide adequate funds for this purpose. Besides, we have to encourage some voluntary organisations also. The people belonging to the economically weaker sections or the scheduled castes or scheduled tribes can go to the Government training centres but the voluntary organisations are need to be encouraged for the people who want to get training by paying for it. These is noting wrong in it.

If you read its Annexure, you will be surprised to read its scheme :

[English]

“In every designated trade, training places shall be reserved by the employer for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes ”

[Translation]

But there is no such provision in our industrial laws and the private industrialists do not want to recruit the scheduled caste and scheduled tribe people to the extent of 34 per cent. You will have to make comprehensive amendments for this purpose and this is how we can provide employment to many people.

I want to point out one more thing. There is a provision in it :

[English]

“(a) for failure on the part of the employer to carry out the terms and conditions of the contract, the employer shall pay to the apprentice such compensation...”

[Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil]

[*Translation*]

This can lead to victimisation. Several hon. Members have expressed their doubts to the effect that at many places people are being victimised and exploited. I think a serious thought is required to be given to this aspect.

Now I want to point out one thing about the infrastructure. You provide loans also for that. The labourers should also be given some facilities because so many people are doing labour :

[*English*]

"An apprentice shall not be paid by his employer on the basis of piece work nor shall he be required to take part in any output bonus or other incentive scheme."

17.04 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the chair*)

[*Translation*]

An ordinary worker gets bonus as well as some incentives but a trained worker under this law is deprived of all these benefits. This is not justified. I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that the trained workers should also get incentive and bonus based on production. We have seen that some of our rural industries give incentives as well as bonus to their labourers but the workers in the big industries do not get any such benefit because the big industrialists do not want to part with anything. You will have to make some provision in the law to rectify this. Though it is not obligatory but keeping in view the unemployment situation, the Government should make some arrangements where by every employer may recruit some persons. In spite of increase in the productivity due to victimisation, its benefits are not given to the workers.

I would like to give one or two suggestions. The change made in the new law of MRTP gives them the facility of earning Rs. 100 crores but they have some social

accountability also. Why do you not compel them to train a certain number of trainees? Let them use this profit for this purpose. When we are giving them the facility, allowing them to earn profit and making funds of the term lending institutions available to them, we want them to be socially accountable also. But at the moment they have no responsibility. What are you going to do for that?

Imparting training to 12000 persons is nothing. If we want, it can be 1,20,000 also, but for that the Government should have the will to get this done. They should further amend the law and make it stringent. The companies coming under MRTP Act should make some funds available for 'on—job training'. Why should it not be made obligatory for the textile mills sugar mills and other industries to earmark some amount of their profits for training purpose?

Certain percentage should be reserved for the rural children and the children of the weaker sections. They should get more facilities. This small amendment is not going to bring results. Many hon. Members have expressed concerned and we too are concerned over the fact that you have not given any figures regarding the requirements. You have given figures only about the programmes that you are going to take in hand. We have to achieve 100 times more than what was been shown in the figures.

Lastly, I would suggest that in our villages there are sugar mills, spinning mills, weaving and oil mills which are run on cooperative basis. They should be asked to provide 'on—job training'. When this is done, only then there will be improvement, otherwise we will enact the law but the industrialists, who run the industries with our money, will maintain the status quo. The people who are earning profit, who come under the MRTP Act and who are getting soft loans and loans from the term lending institutions, they should shell out some profit for the training purpose. This I consider to be imperative. It should be made obligatory. Only then the work of apprenticeship sans exploitation will be possible.

In conclusion, I thank you for the opportunity given to me to speak.

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Members for having given full support to this Bill though some of my friends on the others side have some reservations. My friend Dr. Datta Samant gave limited support.

SHRI NARAYAN CHAUBEY : Like that of limited stop bus.

SHRI P.A SANGMA : I am also grateful to the hon. Members for having given very valuable suggestions. In fact the House was unanimous that this amendment is not enough and that Government may have to think about more and comprehensive amendment to this Act. I agree to the suggestions of the House and we shall be coming with a comprehensive amendment to the Act. In fact, the Central Apprenticeship Council has already appointed a Working Group in October last year to go into the functioning of the scheme itself as to how these are being implemented. It has also been entrusted to go into the implementation of this Act after having gone through all these, they will suggest whether amendments were required to be done. So, this Working Group is already going into all these aspects. Hopefully, when the Central Apprenticeship Council will meet in October this year, they will be able to submit a final report. I am given to understand that this Working Group has already had four regional seminars all over the country and we hope to get the report by October. After we get the report, we will examine those things and the suggestions which have been given today and yesterday by the hon. Members. We will certainly keep them in mind while we come with a comprehensive amendment to this Act.

Sir, we have come here with a limited issue of introducing a new course and also to remove some loopholes in the reservation policy for scheduled caste and scheduled tribes. Perhaps we could have come, let us say, after October. But the idea of coming with this was also to know the mood of the House, to be frank; so that

when we come with comprehensive amendments, then we can give due consideration to the advices and suggestions given by the Hon. Members.

The new education policy emphasizes on the vocationalisation of the education, or we may call it job-oriented education. This amendment is in line with the new education policy. At present under the Apprentices Act we have three categories of apprentices contemplated. One is, trade apprentice course including ITI students which is meant for standard 5th to 10th those who have completed standard 5th to standard 10th. Second is, Technician Apprentice for the diploma holders and third is, graduate apprentices for graduates in engineering technology. Now we want to add the fourth category for the Plus-2 students.

This is how we have come with this amendment to add a new category of apprentices for 10+2 students. We are calling it Technician Vocational Apprenticeship. We hope that this amendment will result in at least three things. That is, in pursuance of the new education policy it will be an attempt to vocationalise the education. Secondly we hope that it may give an opportunity for those who have finished this training for self-employment. Thirdly it will certainly relieve pressure on the general higher education system.

The points that have been raised and emphasized by the Hon. Members are that the number of trainees that we have projected and the amount of money that we have provided are too little. Well, it may be too little. I am not certainly satisfied with what has been provided with, I wish something more could have been given. But when we talk about the new category of apprentices that we are trying to introduce, it has to be seen from the context of the whole vocational training that we are giving and the apprenticeship training that is going on in the country.

As I have said, there are three categories which are already existing and this is the fourth one. I think we have to look in totality. If we look at different courses that are already going on, now we

[Shri P. A. Sangma]

may find that under the first category of apprenticeship training we have the capacity of 1,81,935 seats all over the country. Then, for the graduate and diploma courses the total seats available are 26,240. Over and above, we have the ITIs all over the country with a capacity of 2,60,000. That makes in fact the existing seats available in all the three courses, 4,88,175. After the introduction of the fourth course we will have 12,000 additional seats and the total seats available in the country for apprenticeship training in all the four categories and ITIs will be a little over five lakhs. So, it is not that bad. I am saying that it is not that bad because the next question comes whether the existing seats which are available are being properly utilised. That is another question.

I tried to look at those figures and I am sorry to say that the existing seats which are available in these courses are not being utilised fully. For example, in apprenticeship training out of 1,91,935 seats available the total utilised seats are 1,36,345. These figures are for the year 1985-86. Therefore, we still have unutilised seats to the tune of 55,590. If you look at the graduate and the diploma courses the total seats available in the country are 26,240 and out of these seats only 13,746 are utilised. So we have 12,494 seats unutilised. Fortunately, in the ITIs all over the country all the seats are being fully utilised. I hope that whatever seats we are making available now under the fourth category will be fully utilised.

I can conceagain make a statement here that we shall see how it takes off. The projected figures can be flexible. I think the amount which is projected here can also be flexible. But, of course, this is going to be administered by the Ministry of Human Resources but I believe if the programme takes off well, I think, the Government can certainly be flexible and, if necessary, we may even come up with higher seats or higher allocations at a later stage depending on how it works.

Sir, some hon. Members pointed out about the 25 trades that we are going to introduce under this new category and also the list having not been given. I will read out the list of these 25 trades. Shri Tombi Singh wanted to know whether the new course will have relevance to the North-Eastern region. I am happy to say that the new trades which we are going to introduce have a lot of relevance for the North-Eastern region. I will read it out—Accountancy and auditing; Banking; Marketing and salesmanship; office Secretaryship/Stenography; Food preservation; Bakery and confectionery; Poultry farming; Fisheries/fish processing; Dairying; Medical laboratory technology/assistants; Health worker/nursing; Child care and nutrition; Health care and beauty culture; Ophthalmic technique; Crop cultivation/production; Sericulture; Horticulture/Floriculture; Plant protection; Dress design and making; Textile and designing; Civil construction/maintenance; Mechanical servicing; Electrical servicing; Electronics servicing and Automobile servicing. These are the 25 trades

AN HON. MEMBER : What about carpentry ?

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : That comes under trade apprentices. We have already got 135 trades for trade apprentices. The 25 trades which I have just now mentioned are the new trades which we propose to introduce. We do not want to conflict with the III and trade apprentices, courses which are already there. These are the new trades which we propose to introduce keeping in view the requirements in various areas including North-Eastern region as has been mentioned by Shri Tombi Singh.

Some hon. Members have voiced their concern about the functioning of the ITIs and that the equipment that they are using are outdated and modernization is required etc. I quite agree with them, the facilities available are not up to date the standards of the ITIs in the country need to be upgraded and modernised. For the first time in the 7th Plan, for the modernisation of the ITIs in the country, we have made a Plan allocation of Rs. 17 crores and to start with we are going to choose those

ITIs which are fifteen years or more old, because we thought that those who have done quite a bit of work should be modernised first. As I said, we will start modernizing of those ITIs which are 15 years or more old and we have a plan allocation of Rs. 17 crores for this. It is a very small amount but let us start. It is for the first time that we are doing it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : You should set up one model I.T.I in every District Headquarter.

[*English*]

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : Perhaps we will have to look at the entire policy of how to run and how to maintain the ITIs. I propose to take a meeting to review the whole thing. The ITIs are not only run by the States Governments, but these are run by the private people also and they have to be affiliated to NCVT; they have to get affiliation and recognition. We have a large number of ITIs; there is a mushroom growth of them in the country and they are coming for affiliation. Mr. Thomas is here. In States like Kerala a number of ITIs are coming up and they are asking for affiliation. Mr. Anthony has also written a number of letters. We have to look at the whole thing, whether we should modernise or update the present ITIs or allow the people to go on starting more ITIs. All these aspects are to be seen. I hope we will take a decision on that also very soon.

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV (Alwar) : You should prescribe some standards for training the teachers also, so that they have the latest knowledge about the up-to-date technology.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : We already have. We have a training institute for them with a capacity of about one thousand two hundred. It does not come within the purview of this Act.

Then, of course, one very important and pertinent question that has been raised in the House is that out of those people who have already been trained in ITI and

those who have obtained their diploma of degree, how many of them have been employed and whether it is easy for them to get employment. Sir, I have no figure at all in this regard. But I have instructed that we should make a sample survey because it is very difficult to have an entire survey on that aspect. Through this sample survey, we will try to find out as to how these trainees who have completed their training are living, whether they have got a job, if so whether it is in the Government or whether it is self-employment or it is in the public sector or private sector. We propose to do a sample survey on that and as soon as I get the report...

AN HON. MEMBER : Employment Exchanges can be utilised for this purpose.

SHRI ANIL BASU : Do you think that the survey will provide them the jobs ?

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It is a sample survey to know the conditions of the people who received the training.

SHRI ANIL BASU : He does not know the conditions of those who are getting trained.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : I know the conditions of the people of this country when I know my own condition. I can tell you my condition. I have, myself, been a very poor man. I know people's condition. So please don't ever say that.

(*Interruptions*)

This sample survey will certainly help us in knowing the position and condition of these people who have already been trained. And unless we know the position, we cannot formulate any policy and we cannot find any solution for that. When the survey report comes, I will certainly be glad to place that report on the Table of the House.

Then Sir, a point has been raised about the reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes that has been a very poor intake of these Scheduled Castes and

[Shri P. A. Sangma]

Scheduled Tribe candidates. The Act provided for trade-wise reservation of seats based on the percentage of population. Therefore, they did not qualify. Now we are going to take the availability of the seats in totality rather than having it trade-wise. So, after this amendment, I hope the intake of tribal and Scheduled Caste students will certainly go up.

These are the few points that I wanted to mention. As I said in the beginning, the valuable suggestions that the hon. members have made, will certainly be noted and they will certainly be taken into consideration when we come to Parliament again for a comprehensive amendment as desired by the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

“That the Bill further to amend the Apprentices Act, 1961, be taken into consideration.”

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

*Clause-2 (Amendment of
Section-2)*

SHRI D.B. PATIL : I beg to move :

“Page 1 line 9, -

omit “in section 2,” (1)

Sir, tautology is a good form of literature. Tautology Means saying the same thing two times of the same Time, but in different words. It has no place so far as legal terminology is concerned. But through somebody's mistake in Clause 2, the words ‘in section 2’ occurred twice. So these words ‘in Section 2’ should be omitted. I am happy to know that the hon. Minister is prepared to accept my amendment and I thank him.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Do you accept the amendment ?

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : Sir, I accept the amendment.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

“Page 1, line 9, —

omit “in section 2, ” (1)

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

“That Clause 2, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

*Clause 2, as amended, was
added to the Bill.*

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

*Clause 4 (Amendment of
Section 3 A)*

SHRI D.B. PATIL : I beg to move :

Page 2, line 24,—

after “and” insert—

“in the states and Union Territories where there is reservation in educational institutions for backward classes and other backward classes, then in such States and Union Territories for backward classes and for other backward classes and” (2)

Sir, the Central Government have provided reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes only because these communities are socially and educationally backward in our country. The Mandal Commission was appointed to examine as to which are those particular classes and communities that are socially and educationally backward. The Mandal Commission identified that nearly 52 per cent of the total population, even nowadays is socially and educationally backward belonging to certain classes and Communities. Even though the Central Government have not taken any steps to provide any reservation for them, certain States like Tamil

Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, etc. have provided some facilities in admission to educational institutions, and reservations in service for these backward classes. So, I have suggested that wherever reservations are provided to backward classes, in those States at least this advantage should be provided to them.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : There is no uniform policy on reservation to backward classes.

It differs from State to State. Even the definition differs which type of community is a backward class community and which is not. Therefore, in the Central Act, we cannot have the reservation. This is number one. In the third Amendment, the Member has said about the inclusion of the word "Union Territory." The definition in Section 2 of the main Act Clause 'n' says that "all States" also include Union Territories. So it is not required.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I now put Amendment moved by Shri D.B. Patil to the vote of the House.

*Amendment No. 2 was put and
negatived*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 4 was allow to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Clause 4A (New). Shri D.B. Patil.

SHRI D.B. PATIL (Kolaba) : I beg to move :

Page 2,—

after line 27, insert—

'4A. In section 3A of the principal Act,—

(a) in sub-section (2),—

(i) after the words "Scheduled Tribes", the words "and for backward classes and other backward classes in the States and Union Territories where there is reservation for backward classes other backward classes" shall be inserted.

(ii) after the words "of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes", the words "and the backward classes and other backward classes" shall be inserted.

(iii) after the words "the State" the words "or Union Territory" shall be inserted.

(b) In the Explanation to sub-section (2), after the word "Constitution", the words "and the expressions backward classes and other backward classes shall have the meaning as have been defined by the State and Union Territory concerned" shall be inserted.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj) : I beg to move :

Page 2,—

after line 27, insert—

4A In Section 3A of the principal Act, after sub-section (2), the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely :—

(3) The employer shall select the trainees against places other than those reserved for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in any trade, in such a manner so as to ensure that the selection generally reflects the population composition of the district in which the place of training is located". (6)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first I would like to welcome the assurance given by the

[Shri Syed Shahabuddin]

the hon. Minister about the comprehensive Bill that he proposes to bring before the House which I presume shall end exploitation of the apprentices and the misuse of the present Apprentices Act and purge the Act of inadequacies, omissions and contradictions. I only wish to inform him and I am sure he is aware of it that apart from our own valuable experience in the field of apprentice training, the ILO has set certain international standards and I presume that the Government will keep those standards in mind while bringing the comprehensive Act.

Sir, as far the Amendment that I have suggested, it arises from Paragraph 3 of the Statement of Objects and Reasons. It mentions "that the scheme introduced in 1983-84 provides for training of weaker sections, specially the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, minorities, physically handicapped and women." However, in formulating the Bill itself, he has of course said something about protecting the rights of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes which is most welcome. But he seems to have forgotten the minorities, the physically handicapped and women. So, the suggestion that has been made in this Amendment is this that in selecting the apprentices by any industrial unit, the catchment area population composition should be kept in view. As we have discussed in this House on many occasions that in distributing Government patronage, in distributing certain facilities, it should be as broad based as possible. Therefore, I am suggesting here that in order to make the youth belonging to all sections of the national community, to all communities making them more employable, it is absolutely essential that the process of selection must be broad based and it must reflect the population composition of the catchment area. This is why I am suggesting this Amendment, Mr. Deputy Speaker and I request the hon. Minister that in view of the Paragraph 3 of his own Statement of Objects and Reasons, he may kindly accept it.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : Sir, it is difficult to accept the suggestion though it seems to me very good and I can only

assure the hon. Member that when we come next time, I will certainly keep it in mind. But as is, I can assure the hon. Member that I looked at it after getting his Amendment and tried to look for the figures of all these type of people, whether they are really getting it or not and I find their representation in all the institutions is very substantial. For example in the Apprenticeship Training, out of 1,36,345, the minorities have got 16,445, physically handicapped 496, women have got 3465. So like that, it is not bad. The figure is not bad. So, our intention is always to give them preference, but to bring it in the Bill, I am afraid at this stage, it will not be possible for us.

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I put Amendments moved by Shri D.B. Patil and Shri Syed Shahabuddin to the vote of the House.

*Amendments No. 3 and 6 were
put and negatived,*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Clause 5. Shri Chinta Mohan...absent. The question is :

"That Clause 5 stand part of the Bill"

The Motion was adopted.

Clause 5 was added to the Bill

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now clause 6. Shri Mool Chand Daga-not present.

Dr. Chinta Mohan-not present. The question is :

"That Clause 6 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 6 was added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That Clause 1, Enacting Formula and the long Title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : I beg to move :

“That the Bill, as amended, be passed.”

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

“That the Bill, as amended, be passed.”

The motion was adopted.

INDIAN ELECTRICITY
(AMENDMENT) BILL

17.36 hrs.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : I beg to move :

“That the Bill further to amend the Indian Electricity Act, 1910, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration.”

Hon. Members will agree with me that the power sector has been showing significant improvement, especially over the last 3-4 years. The target of generating 170 billion units of power last year was exceeded and showed improvement of 8.5 per cent over the previous year. The target for this year is 190 billion units, which will be an improvement of 12 per cent over last year. Of course, the demand for power is also rising continuously, resulting in shortage of power in certain States. We are trying to improve commissioning of projects, and optimum utilisation of the available capacity. We have also been trying to bring down the transmission and distribution losses which deprive the country of about 21 per cent of power generated. A substantial part of these losses is due to

pilferage of energy. With the expansion in the supply of power, the instances of theft of energy and tampering with electricity meters have also increased. The pilferage of energy has deprived the State Electricity Boards of their legitimate revenues. This has also contributed to the difficulties in the assessment of the demand, supply and consumption of power. It has, therefore, become necessary to effectively check the theft of power by providing a deterrent punishment for this economic offence.

Our Minister referred to it in the last session, and he had said that he would try to bring a Bill. The Bill was introduced in the last session, and has since been passed by the Rajya Sabha on 22nd July 1986.

Apart from the theft factor, we have been trying to improve the plant load factor. A centrally-sponsored Renovation and Modernisation Scheme was sanctioned for 36 thermal power stations in the country, which is expected to give additional capacity to meet the growing demand for power. In pilferage, some technical aspects are being controlled by the use of capacitors, better-equipment, more efficient transformers. But there is a substantial amount of energy lost due to theft and pilferage. Various steps have been taken initially. Vigilance squads have been instituted. They have made certain checks. They have conducted certain raids. We are also having information on the number of raids that have been conducted, the number of thefts that have been detected and we have taken action on that. At the same time, a set of guidelines have also been issued to the State Electricity Boards on reduction of transmission and distribution losses and how they could improve the theft factor. We went into all the details and with this objective these amendments have been brought. We think by this we will be able to control and curb the theft factor. We find that the present proviso lays down that according to section 39 theft or dishonest Extraction of electricity is an offence under the Indian Penal Code, but the Supreme Court set it aside saying that this was not an offence under the IPC. Hence a self-contained para has been inserted and by this insertion it will be made a cognizable offence, punishable with imprisonment or/and with fine as the situation demands.