

15.52 hrs.

Motion Re: Consideration of Twenty-eighth and Twenty-ninth Reports of the Erstwhile commissioner for scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and Fifth, Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Reports of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes — Contd.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Satyanarayan Jatiya was on his legs. He may continue his speech now.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYANARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain) : Hon. Mr. Chairman, Sir, through this motion we are debating an important issue, which has been moved by Shri Thangka Balu. The reports presented by the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes are being discussed here. We raise several slogans and chalk-out several programmes and express our concern for the welfare of Scheduled Caste people but practically it does not seem to be so. It seems to be just a formality. We discuss this issue but its outcome is nil. While presenting the report for the year 1986-87 the Commissioner for SC/ST has said that he was presenting the report in regard to the compliance of constitutional provisions for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. He has said this thing in the Introduction of the report. The post of the Commissioner remained vacant from 24.11.1981 to 10.2.1986, thus the report could be prepared after about seven years. This shows our concern for the welfare of scheduled castes. We are discussing this report after 12 years. It means that what we discuss here and what we want to do has no effect at all. It is never put in practice. It has been mentioned in our Constitution that it envisages the establishment of an egalitarian society in which there will be no discrimination on the basis of religion, caste, sex, etc. where there will be justice for all classes, irrespective of colour and creed and everybody will have an equal status in the society. The main objective behind the framing of our constitution is equality of justice. The constitution further states that we, the people of India resolve to constitute India into a Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic, Republic and to secure justice to all its citizens. But what does our mentality show in its implementation? It seems that our precept does not match with our practice. It seems as if:

"Man Ki asha lekin jeewan Ka vishwas na badla
Kya badla jab manavta ki peeda ka itihaas na
badla gaya hai kuchh logon ka jeewan,
lekin aansoon peene walon ka pariwar wahi hai,
kewal bandhan badle, karagaar wahi hain.

If in view of all these things we want to do something we find it difficult to bring about a change in this social order. But there is many a slip between the cup and the lip. We are finding it difficult to understand this helplessness.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, today the population of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled tribes constitutes one-fourth of the total population of our country. Some provisions have

been made in our constitution for them and there are rules and regulation for implementing them. These programmes include removal of untouchability, checking excesses against them, programme regarding land, agricultural housing programme and educational programme etc. These can lead to their economic development. We are concerned about the progress of scheduled caste and scheduled tribes. We would like to take up the programme to remove their poverty, we want to give them even representation in all the services even in Parliament, Assemblies and from political point of view but it is not put in practice and when it is not put in practice we make hue and cry about it. But when he cries, nobody understands his unhappiness and consoles him. It need to be done with a strong resolution. If we had started it with a strong resolutions we could have benefited this class but the present situation is something like—

Kishtiyan Jiski hamne banin, manihj bankar Patwar chalai,
we hi ab hamari kishtiyan jalakar chilla rahe hain, bachao,
bachao.

Making hue and cry will not improve things, if we need to save them we will have to go along with them and share their grief. How a change can be effective in regard to rural agricultural labourers against whom injustice is being done, is a matter of great concern. That is why we have to make several provisions and take general measures. We have done a lot but a it still do be done. It is not known as to what did we do to our utmost capacity. The impossible will have to be made possible by a resolute will-power. The need of the hour is to bring about a change in all these unless all these points are viewed in the context of justice, equality in the modern field of economic system we can not have any pleasant change in the society. The economic system based on inequality and mandate not only continues to prevail in our society but is getting stronger also. It is ironical that today we have reached such a pass where we are forced to talk about injustice in society in economic system of our country. Though we are considering protection of their rights which were made to strengthen the concept of equality. We aimed for such an objective but are not being able to achieve this objective. That is why, several programmes, tribal sub-plans, schemes for ensuring a special share of scheduled castes can definitely prove to be important towards development in the financial provisions for their development can be increased substantially but it is not being implemented and even if it is being implemented at some places, it is not satisfactory. If their pace and functioning is not satisfactory, their outcome can also not be satisfactory.

Sir, you are aware that provisions have been made in the 11th Session of 20 point-programme. Its objectives make a good reading but the provisions made in the constitution will have to be fulfilled. It has been said that tracts of Land would be distributed to them but these tracts of land are kept 'benami' e.g. in the name of a poor man or a down-trodden person. They take the benefit at the time of standing crops. Unless these poor people are given their share in the production they will remain exploited and that is why it is my submission that

it is essential to revive all those programmes made to improve their condition. Besides providing education facilities they need to be helped through implementing programmes.

16.00 hrs.

How this help is reaching them? We have got hostels constructed so that students from far-off places may come and get education. But the condition of these hostels is very deplorable. At least 50 people live in a single room of 20×10 dimension. How can you expect that students will be able to study in such an atmosphere? They have their boarding and lodging in those hostels. The condition becomes worse when there is monsoon. Are we making a hostel or a prison? We have to take measures to protect them from winters also as these students live here separated from their parents. We have to make arrangements to ensure that they get proper meals. These are all basic requirements and amenities. There is no proper light facilities for them to study. They have to make do with a single bulb. There is no electricity at night, the water and toilet facilities are not there. There is no arrangement for them to have their bath. We bring them to hostels from their villages assuring them of a better life but several students have to face difficulties due to bad arrangements in hostels. So, if you have bonafide intentions to something for them then proper help should be given otherwise a mere draft of programmes would not suffice. The programme and their policies and principles are good but implementing them effectively becomes a real challenge. That is why I would like to tell Mr. Pilot that the programmes should fetch results also. If these programmes do not yield results then all the programmes and policies become ineffective.

I am reading out from 20-point programme. A proper direction should be given to special component plans and adequate funds should be provided with a view to improve the standard of education. When we formulated special component plans we thought of making available sufficient funds. We said that their population constituted one fourth of the total population and developmental works need to be taken up for them. The education facilities are to be improved and their sources of income are also to be increased. An outlay of Rs. 30,684.87 lakh has been earmarked in the Annual Plan of the State for the year 1992-93. An amount to the tune of Rs. 3090.36 lakh i.e. 10 per cent is the share of the special component of the plan outlay. It should have been 25 per cent but they have earmarked 10 per cent only but in fact it is less than that. The special component plan has certain objectives also but these objectives are not achieved.

Now, we come to the launching of programmes which envisage the quality of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes with other classes. It is a good step but have any such programmes been launched? You as well as I visit throughout the country. Are there any programmes of having get togethers of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes with people belonging to high classes? There are several opportunities for having such functions in cities. Nobody is concerned to know who attends which function. But Pilotji is aware. You also have a rural background and

we feel that you have been relentlessly working for the welfare of farmers. But what is the condition of a rural person belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes? Whenever he passes by the house of a rich person he has to take off his shoes and hold in his hands. The places having drinking water facilities meant for public are not meant for him. They are not allowed to use toilets made for public. Even the cremation grounds are not open for them which otherwise are meant for public. On what basis you claim to have taken just steps for ensuring equality in the country?

The rehabilitation of the people belonging to Scheduled Castes was also referred to but it requires a bonafide intention to do that. When people living in far-flung villages need as simple a thing as salt they are required to barter it with the same quantity of their forest produce. On one side it is salt and on the other it is a forest produce. If on one side it is soil, will there be some other valuable thing on the other side? But what can we do to change this practice.

At the most, we can only express our anguish by speaking here. But the Government is sitting here. They should do something to remedy the situation.

The seventh point makes a provision for making arrangements to provide drinking water to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes but in fact their condition is so bad that they are forced to drink filthy water because the pure drinking water is yet to be arranged for them. We spend 10 to 12 rupees to buy a bottle of drinking water but the people in villages are forced to drink filthy water. Still they are alive even after drinking such filthy water and it is only because of their strong will-power to live.

We have not been able to provide them drinking water till date.

Sir, the plight of people belonging to scheduled castes in Jhabua is very pitiable. They collect pieces of wood after scanning the whole forest, putting in hard labour but when they are transporting those pieces of wood by trains or other means of transport they are stopped by forest Guard who takes away the whole lot. The hard labour of those people goes waste and the forest guard makes money through selling that wood and those workers are helpless. Such excesses should be checked. Is the freedom meant only for us and not for them? Does the word freedom mean such a life to him?

"Karane
anusoochit jati janjati ka Uthan
Bharat Ka Sanvidhan
Antragat Vidhi Vidhan
Kiye gaye hain pravdhan
Kintu koi hamein
yah samjhay in sabke hote hue
kyon asmat izzat lutati hai
daliton ki?
Anyay atyachar se kab mukti hogi
anusoe chit logon ki?"

Kya roti, kapada aur makaan
 aur samman mil payega
 In longon ko?
 Bebas, lachari kab mit payegi
 In longon ki?
 Ya phir
 Anusoochit jati janjati ke log
 Kewal voton ki ginati hai?
 Sabanubhooti aur Samvedna
 Kewal dikhawa aur chhalawa hai
 Insaanayat manavata jisko kahate hain
 yeh shabdjal ka
 Bhool-bhulayya aur bhulawa hai."

If it is so, then what kind of India we want to build? What kind of laws we want to enact? I feel that in view of this report and other several points, a definite change needs to be brought about.

Is parivesh main parivartan ki chah liye-
 utho ki ab nai aandhiyan chhalao
 Armaanon ke machalte toophan uthao
 Kranti Parivartan ki chingari angaar banege
 Jo rokenge raston ko we nahin bachenge.

Sir, we must absorb the good points and work for their upliftment and for their welfare. We must definitely strive towards the progress and development of the people of our country and make them good citizens.

With these words, I express my gratitude to you for allowing me to speak.

[English]

SHRI K. PRADHANI (Nowrangpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to take part in the discussion that this House do consider the Twenty-eight and Twenty-ninth Reports of the erstwhile Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the years 1986-87 and 1987-89, laid on the Table of the House on 9th May, 1989 and 29th August, 1990, respectively and the Fifth, Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Reports of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the years 1982-83, 1983-84, 1984-85 and 1985-86, laid on the Table of the House on 5th March, 1986, 26th August, 1987, 4th May, 1988 and 21st November, 1988 respectively.

Sir, the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people live in our country but they face different problems. The Scheduled Caste people are scattered throughout the country in almost equal proportion whereas the Scheduled Tribe people are concentrated in certain forests and inaccessible areas. The stigma of untouchability is the main problem facing the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes are faced with the problem of exploitation. The Government of India and also the State Governments have enacted a number of laws for the protection of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. For example, the PCR Act, 1955 was enacted to protect the Scheduled Castes from the stigma of untouchability. The Prevention of Atrocity Act, 1989 was enacted for the protection of both the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Regarding the provisions contained in the Prevention of Atrocities Act, I would like to submit that since its

inception a number of cases have been taken to the court but the result is not up to the mark. Mostly, people do not like to give evidence against the culprits of the PCR Act. The investigation officers are also partly responsible for this. As a result of this more than 80-90 per cent cases and in acquittal and only a very few cases end in conviction. Most of the cases that are pending are with the court and with the police. So, I would suggest that on the line of the Prevention of Atrocities Act, where there is a provision to implicate the investigating officers who is guilty of covering the accused or supporting the accused, the officer concerned should be made liable for the offence committed by the accused. If we can amend this PCR Act in line with the provision of the Prevention of Atrocities Act, I think the investigation can be improved and more number of persons can be convicted.

I now come to the question of reservation. When Late Rajivji came to power in 1985, he put an end to the dereservation policy. Hitherto, most of the posts were dereserved on the ground that the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes people were not available to fill up the reserved vacancies. When this policy to fill up the vacancies within the scheduled time was taken up as a time bound programme, most of the vacancies were filled up in the Central Government. From 1984 onwards I find that in all the Central Government services, IAS, IFS, and IPS, cent per cent vacancies were filled up except in one or two cases but, in Class III, Class IV and Class II categories this was not the case.

The reason for this is, some of the posts were reserved for technical graduates and some posts like clerks, peons etc., were not filled due to faulty policy. The National Commission also reported about this. We should have different policies for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. As these people are living in remote and forest areas in distant places in a concentrated way they, should be given more representation there. In this 50 per cent formula, I think, the Supreme Court also have to be approached that in remote areas there should be relaxation to some extent for these Scheduled Tribes people. If this district reservation formula is not formulated, I do not think, Sir, that these Class III and Class IV posts can be filled properly, specially in the State Governments which are the biggest employers in our country. We find that these Class III and Class IV posts which are District cadre posts are appointed in the District and they serve throughout their life in the District and retire in the District. Why should they be appointed at the State Headquarters at the dictates of some bureaucrats, some Ministers or some political leaders? They should be recruited at the District level and more reservation should be provided at the District level in Class III and Class IV categories.

Then, Sir, I was saying that exploitation was the main problem of the tribals. The money-lenders and the excise contractors are the main exploiters of the tribal people. For money-lending, money-lenders Act is there but, I have never seen any person punished for any offence against the tribals. It is on paper only. Regarding liquor vendors, there are guidelines given by the Government of India, as reported by Dhebar Commission in 1961, that country liquor should totally be banned in tribal and scheduled

areas and their home-brew which is manufactured out of their foodgrains should be allowed to be used by them only during festival occasions and not for commercial purposes. But, it is a surprise that some States like my own State have given freedom to tribals to manufacture and have 1.5 litres to 5 litres of country liquor in their possession. Instead of banning the manufacture of this liquor, they have given freedom to every family to manufacture it and use it. When I asked the representatives of the State Government they said that that was the decision of the Tribal Advisory Committee and thereby they go by that and they do not fully implement the policy given by the Government. I think, Sir, it is high time that the Government of India through the Welfare Ministry issued a directive under para 3 of the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution to stop this. In default, you are aware of the fact, the State Government is liable for dismissal under Article 365. But, after 45 years of our independence we find that not even a single directive has been issued so far for the Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled areas. I have been drawing attention of the Welfare Minister and also of the Prime Minister; I do not know how far they have gone but no directive has been issued so far.

Then, Sir, regarding the economic development of these tribals. I have already mentioned that due to the exploitation of these people even though we have spent thousands of crores of rupees for the development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes they have not been able to strike any balance.

As per the Government Report, poverty is increasing day by day instead of going down. Debt is also increasing. That is why, unless the Government of India takes a very strict attitude for the tribals, I do not think the position of these tribals can improve to our expectation.

Then, Sir, I would like to say something about their education. Education is the most important item for the development of these people. We find the tribal people are the least educated in our country. That is the reason why everybody exploits them. Therefore, it is most important that they should be properly educated and utmost importance should be attached for the education of these scheduled tribes.

According to Government's policy, Sir, the residential schools should be introduced everywhere in the tribal areas. If they could give them boarding, lodging and education and bring them to the level of the general people in this country, it would be very useful. A lot of money is being released by the Welfare Ministry but unfortunately the State Governments are not properly utilising that money.

Therefore, I would request the Welfare Ministry again to see that the money allotted by the Central Government should be properly utilised for the education of these people in this country.

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE (Behrampore): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have heard many valuable speeches in this House on this subject. I do not want to offer any more lengthy speech on the same subject. But I beg to rise to support the Motion for the reservation of seats for the children of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes both

in Government and in non-Government centres of education and employment. Sir, it is my feeling that we could not fulfil our constitutional commitment to the children belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes during the last forty-seven years. It is very painful to remind all these failures.

Sir, today, it is my feeling that we should be more careful to keep in view that social and national integration depends largely upon the emotional integration of the backward children. So, adequate steps should immediately be taken to bring the backward children to the mainstream of the society. So, provision for education and employment should be immediately made for them.

Sir, I beg to mention another point. We are living in a capitalistic society. In capitalism, there is process of embourgeoisement and in this process the growth or the rise of middle class is an admitted fact. It is a socio-economic phenomenon. In this phenomenon, it has been viewed that the growth of middle class among the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes community is also an admitted fact.

We should be very careful to see that the Constitutional facility should actually go to the poor, the unfortunate and neglected children of the society and not to the privileged class.

Again, Sir, I beg to mention another point which is a very relevant observation that in many parts of the country brown sugar or such things are easily available. The easy availability of these drugs has already made the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe children polluted. Their culture is being polluted. Their social standard and their natural spontaneity is being exploited. So, Sir, I request the Government, through your goodself, to impose immediate and severe restrictions upon the easy availability of the drugs. I think the bureaucratic approach or funding through the bureaucracy cannot solve the problems of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe children. Human approach is necessary for the solution of these problems. This is what I beg to submit to you, Sir.

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA (Balasore): Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me this opportunity to speak. Whenever any measure is brought to uplift the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people of our country, we should remember our forefathers who have taken care of these downtrodden people of our country. Sir, Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation, had called these people as Harijans and Adivasis. 'Harijan' means the people of the God and 'Adivasi' means the first settler. He knew that without the cooperation of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people of our country, the freedom movement cannot be successful. That is why he took the cooperation from those downtrodden people. Subsequently, after Independence the Father of the Indian Constitution, Dr. Ambedkar and other members of the Constituent Assembly had also taken care of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people of our society. But nothing can be done if it remains only a slogan. Our Government is very much sincere. That is why the Motion has been brought by our hon. Minister Thankabaluji, on behalf of Sitaram Kesriji, the hon. Minister of Welfare.

Though the Reports were to be submitted earlier, there was a delay in bringing these Reports before the House. The Reports mentioned in the Motion had been brought to the House on 23rd August, 1994. This House did consider the 28th and 29th Reports of the then Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the year 1986-87 and 1987-88 laid on the Table of the House on 9th May, 1989 and 29th August, 1990 respectively and the Fifth, Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Reports of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the year 1982-83, 1983-84, 1984-85 and 1985-86 laid on the Table of the House of 5th March, 1986, 26th August, 1987, 4th May, 1988 and 21st November, 1988.

All these Reports were pending for consideration of this House. Now, we are to consider what sort of recommendations have been contained in those Reports. As far as my knowledge goes, since the time of our first Prime Minister, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, the architect of modern India, till the time of Mrs. Indira Gandhi, till the time of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, they were not considered. Now our Prime Minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, is taking steps for the upliftment of down-trodden and SC&ST people. That is why, we should consider the recommendations contained in those Reports in this House.

The House is very much aware of the various welfare and protective measures taken by the Government in this regard and what is going on in the country. I have listened to the valuable speeches of my hon. colleagues. We are not very much sincere about them; we are only keeping them in slogans and in our mind. In my constituency of my State, several times, the people who were of that caste which was synonymous to the caste of SC&ST are now rotting. We have seen what happened in Nagpur in Maharashtra. The people demanded that their case regarding their caste to be included in the list of SC&ST should be considered, but that was not done. Our State Government sent 13 castes to be included in the list of SC&ST of the Government of India. So far, that has not been done. Those castes are synonymous to that of SC&ST. They have got matrimonial relation; they have got blood relation. Father is one. There are two brothers. One is Khadai and the other is Kosuria, if one is Niari then the other is Dewar; if one is Kuduma the other is Kondra. Like that, several times, representations had been made for their consideration, but so far nothing has been done because of the attitude of bureaucracy.

With heavy heart, I am putting forth before this House that this should be considered.

I wrote a letter on 15th December, 1993 to the hon. President of India and the hon. Minister of Welfare requesting them to bring forward a Bill in the House for inclusion of those castes which were left so far. Since one or two decades, they have been rotting. I can quote the example of one of my boys Shri Surendra Nath Jena. He had filed a case which was inquired into in the High Court of Orissa. The hon. High Court of Orissa gave a judgement for an enquiry about his OAC.

Subsequently, it was found that his certificate, which was produced by him, was not genuine. That is why he was about to be removed from the service and he took the shelter of the High Court of Orissa. The High Court gave the verdict that this should be enquired into. An enquiry was made and the Tehsildar gave the report. The Tehsildar of Baste and Jaleswar were also to enquire. They have also given their reports in which they have mentioned that they have got matrimonial and blood relations. Only for record in Khatia they were debarred from getting all sorts of privileges which were available for the Scheduled Caste people.

I want to submit here that even the hon. High Court categorically mentioned, "that in our opinion, the Petitioner is entitled to be issued with a Scheduled Caste certificate as he belongs to 'Niary' community which is a sub-caste of 'Keuta', which has already been declared as synonym of 'Dewar' pronounced in 45(1980) CLT 47 Supreme Court Judgement."

I want to submit here that the Government of Orissa recommended cases of 13 castes for inclusion in the list of SC/ST schedule. These are Radhi, Niary, Tula Bhina/Bhinas, Kuduma, Ghani, Poundra/Pad, Khatia, Khajuria, Kesuri, Mangli, Mirgans, Buna Bauri/Dasia Bauri and Jayantara Pano. This is the case of Orissa. These are several demands from various States for inclusion in the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. I want that that should be considered by this House and the hon. Minister should come forward with the list and should declare when this Bill could be placed before this august House and will be passed, so that the people who are rotting now should get some relief.

Earlier the students were getting stipends, the unemployed youth were getting service under reservation. But subsequently, all these facilities have been withdrawn because they were not issued Scheduled Castes certificates. That is why they are rotting now. Any sort of development in any part of society could not be full fledged upliftment of the society if anyone is deprived of anything.

Sir, I am grateful to you, to the hon. Minister and to my colleagues who have participated in this debate. I am not putting forth the grievances of my State only but of all the States and of all the Castes who are eager to be included in the Schedule. That is why I am submitting again and I shall be very much grateful if it could be done. It could be a greater benefit to all the people who are rotting because of non-inclusion in the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes List.

SHRI SYAM LAL KAMAL (Basti): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

In December, 1985 we had discussed reports of 9 years which included 5 reports of the commissioner and 4 of the Commission. Today we are discussing the Commission's reports of 7 years. Reports of last 4 years are yet to come which will be discussed perhaps after 5-6 years.

Sir, for assessing the condition of SCs and STs, these reports are discussed after 7-8 or 10 years, then

how their condition will improve? It reflects how much we are interested to improve their lot. After so many years of independence, the people belonging to SCs and STs have still realised that there is none to look after their interests or to take care of them. The people belonging to SCs and STs are also participating in the development of the country like those from other sections of the society. Their population is so large that their backwardness has weakened the very roots of country. So it is our responsibility to see that this weakness should in no way stand in the development of our country. Today these Dalit people are constrained to feel whether or not they will at all be given a piece of land in this country for their cremation. Today despite all Acts these people are being dispossessed of their land holdings. Even today situation is the same as it was during British Rule. The post of the Commissioner was weakened by constituting the Non-Statutory Commission. Statutory Commission was set up in March, 1992. Despite such provisions in the Constitution this matter was delayed. It shows how serious or Government is towards the problems of the persons belonging to SCs and STs and what our Government is doing for their upliftment. Constitutional safeguards provided to them in the form of Right over means of production Resources are the first thing to make them feel that they have equal share in the development of the Country. But today they are landless. They have been allotted land but it is on papers only. Despite all rules and regulations they are yet to get actual possession of land. Reports and Action Taken Reports are tabled but they are just eye wash and there is nothing in the planning. But the special attention of the Planning Commission which they require, is not being given to them. There should be one separate chapter on SCs/STs in the planning detailing what is to be done further but there is no mention of this. The department of welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is brought under the Ministry of Welfare while this ministry has no powers. Earlier this department was under the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Department of Personnel was also included in it. Now, Ministry of Welfare does not get any report from the Ministry of Personnel. The ministry is unaware as to how many posts are vacant and how many have been filled up. This year some Members of Parliament have conducted a study and found that more than 1200 posts have not been filled up by the U.P.S.C because those candidates belonging to SC/ST were included in reservation quota who were in the merit and those candidates who obtained less marks, were denied jobs. After writing so many letters it was stated that they will try to fill up these vacancies. If any officer does not fill up such posts, an entry is made in his personal report that he is not interested in filling up these posts with SCs/STs. But this is not done. If this trend continues then, these people will drift away from the national mainstream, and then what will happen, that you can well imagine.

Sir, the right of dignity of a person is very important in an independent country. Poor people also want respect, honour, education, post, money and cultural recognition. so many things are talked about but nothing is done in reality. Today, we have to see whether a mere report on papers will solve the purpose. We cannot strengthen our nation

like this. We have to see and make sure that our machinery is effective in implementing the principles, laws, rules and regulations and also proposals made in the constitution and if our administrative machinery is not doing this, what are the reasons behind it. We have to obviate them. The Government should submit an Action Taken Report thereon. To make a country strong it is necessary that each individual, each child feels concerned about the nation. But I know this is not going to happen as we are not concerned about them and are not helping them to develop their reasoning.

When Lord Rama fought against Ravana, he conquered this battle only with the help of these SC/ST people. Lord Krishna Killed Kansa only with help of his peasantry and poor people. Unless we take the help of these people, we will not make progress.

I would like to tell something about the affairs of the commission. There has been tremendous change in regard to the concept of bonded labour and untouchability and I want to congratulate the government for this. To some extent the Government have been successful in removing the child labour for which it certainly requires commendations but still the condition of child labourers is worse. Due to poverty these child labourers are working in adverse conditions.

The position regarding the possession of the land transferred given to them on lease is not satisfactory. I urge upon the Government to formulate a scheme or set up some organisation which ensures actual transfer of land to them and also provides resources alongwith the land so that they can do farming and take pride being the citizen of this country.

Much has been said about education by my several colleagues. I will not say much on this. The students belonging to SCs/STs cannot get admission in the technical institutions as no reservation has been provided for them in these Institutions and another reason for their backwardness is that they are very poor. Due to this reason they are not able to join the national mainstream. I want that they should be given reservation in these technical institutions also and instructions in this regard should be carried out.

So far as money lending is concerned, legally it has been abolished. But there is a provision that the people belonging to SCs/STs will get rebate on interest for the loan they are getting from banks. There was provision to give them half percent rebate on the loan given to them by financial corporation but that is not being implemented. No rebate is given to them by the banks. My submission is that the rate of interest charged from these sections, which are also financially weak, should be the same as is on savings banks account. Government should look into it and try to give instructions in this regard.

Reservation in promotion has been discontinued following the orders of the Supreme Court of India. So justice cannot be done to the employees belonging to SCs/STs. Adverse entries are made in their reports on very trivial matters which affect their promotional avenues. If no reservation is provided for them a void will be created. My submission is that reservation quota should be

fulfilled and special efforts should be made for providing reservation in promotion.

With these words I conclude.

SHRI HERCHAND SINGH (Ropar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are discussing a very important issue. 47 years back we became independent and 47 years ago when an Indian Government was formed there were two hon. Ministers Shri Jagjivan Ram and Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar in that Government. Whenever we happened to come over here from the Princely State both of them used to hear our grievance patiently and at that very moment, they used to ring up the Chief Minister of the State and sought explanation for anti Harijan happenings. That time Harijans were subjected to forced labour in Princely States. Dr. Ambedkar asked Shri Jagjivan Ram promptly to look into the matter because he was busy in framing the Constitution at that time and further added that the Prime Minister had asked him that the Constitution would have to be got passed within two months and I am very busy in this task. So Dr. Ambedkar asked Shri Jagjivan Ram to seek explanation from the Government of Patiala regarding the forced labour from Harijans. At his instance Babu Jagjivan Ram took Sirdar Gyan Singh Rodwale to task over telephone and told him that if this practice would continue there his Government would be dismissed. This forced him to abolish the practice of forced labour. Moreover, he started giving six rupees scholarship to each and every Harijan student from class 1st. There were eight Princely States in Patiala and Pepsu was one of them. At that time it was presumed that 1500 Harijan students were studying. Within two years of introducing the stipend facility, the number of Harijan students increased. As regards child education, I would like to state that the population of my State of Punjab is two crores. Out of them the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes are fifty lac. Now I have found that eight lac Harijan children are being given stipend. How many children were getting admission in schools earlier and why their stipends were being delayed. The Government of Punjab is providing stipends as per its promise. Moreover, the Union Government have instructed the State Governments to do something for Harijans. We demand that the instructions should be implemented.

Secondly, the Government of Punjab has announced to waive off the loans up to Rs. five thousand. Now the hon. Prime Minister should sit and discuss that such loans should be waived off. The officers of the Banks are reluctant to sanction loans to the Scheduled Castes.

I would like to point out one thing more that there is no Scheduled Caste Minister of Cabinet rank. When Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru was the Prime Minister, he made Babu Jagjivan Ram and Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar his cabinet Ministers. During the rule of Shrimati Indira Gandhi we also had cabinet rank Harijan Ministers. But there has been no Cabinet rank Minister since then. According to our percentage there should be 5 or 7 Harijan Ministers in the Cabinet. As regards Shri Ram Lal Rahi, he is a Deputy Minister and nobody takes him seriously.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, my submission is that the Government should provide lands to those Harijans who cannot purchase land. The Government should provide houses to those Harijans who do not have any. There was provision to provide loans for house-building in Patiala district of Punjab but the Harijans never took such loans. Col. Raghbir Singh, the then Chief Minister of Pepsu had distributed 50 thousand acres of land among Harijans and Shri Pratap Singh Kairon had distributed one lakh acres of land among the Harijans. If there is any such land now, it should be distributed among them.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government have provided some gas agencies and petrol pumps for Harijans and stated that these are reserved for them only.

17.00 hrs.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is praise worthy. This has happened for the first time. I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister for constituting a Board to send it therefor providing these facilities to the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes. But it is very disappointing that no expert from Punjab has been included in the Board. Therefore, a Bania picks up any villager of his choice, takes him to the office where the latter is presented as a Scheduled Caste. The Bania enters into a deal and asks the officials to issue a gas or petrol pump agency in the name of that poor fellow after getting bribes. I would like to ask the Government to examine the irregularities being committed in the allotment of these agencies to the Harijans. It must prevent this mal-practice. The Union Government should pay a visit there and examine it. It should also pay a visit to the towns and villages also.

Mr. Chairman, Sir there are many points to be raised here, but the time is short. I therefore, submit that the decisions made by the Government should be implemented. The most important issue is reservation in jobs. The President of India Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma was the President of Congress and Giyani Zail Singh was the Chief Minister of Punjab at that time. The then congress president instructed the Chief Minister to enforce the policy of reservation in promotions. Zail Singh told that it was not possible. Dr. Sharma warned him that he would like to replace him if he could not comply with his instructions. And the Chief Minister accordingly. For this I would like to congratulate Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma. But today there are 150 lawyers belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Punjab but there is not a single judge from them in the High Court. A child begins its education at the age of four or five and becomes a lawyer at the age of twenty or twenty five but there is not a single judge belonging to these castes in the High Court today. Today the situation is such that the President, the Prime Minister and even the Chief Justice of India are Brahmmins. I would like to warn the pleaders of the Congress sitting over here to lend their ears to me seriously. Mr. Chairman Sir, you please do not ring the bells.

17.03 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

I do not speak here every day. I am speaking here for the first time. The condition of the Scheduled Castes who count 50 lakh out of the total population of 2 crore in Punjab, has become so miserable that the Congress cannot get even a single vote if elections are held there.

The Ministers sitting over here should be cautious and improve the condition there.

I would like to submit that the Harijans are in great trouble in Punjab. The Union Government must provide help to them. They have been getting votes from Harijan for the last 42 years but why no Scheduled Caste Chief Minister has been appointed there so far? Similarly, 150 advocates are working there, but why no Scheduled Caste has been appointed there as judge till date? The Jats never cast a single vote to the congress but a Jat is sitting as Chief Minister there. There were 12 Cabinet Ministers. In the wake of election of Shri Umrao Singh as a Member of Parliament the number of Cabinet Ministers now has been reduced from 12 to 11. Out of 11, there are 7 Jat Ministers, 3 Hindu Ministers and only one Harijan Minister. Is it the testimony of the performance of the Government for the Welfare of Harijans.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER, Sir, it is Governments concern. The Scheduled Castes should be given jobs, their economic condition should be improved and they should be given due help. The Government is doing a lot for them. It have also done some commendable works. But some politicians belonging to this category should be given full-fledged independent port-folio in the council of Ministers. I demand that five or seven persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes should be made Ministers. If the Congress do not have well-educated MPs then why did it give tickets to such ineligible candidates? You should only provide tickets to efficient, wise, honest and good working persons.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER, Sir you never advise the hon. Prime Minister to induct Minister belonging to this category. You also being the relative of the President should do something in this regard.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (Shri Sukh Ram): The President and the Prime Minister have come here through elections and not by nomination.

SHRI HARCHAND SINGH: I know that they have been elected. I also had voted for them. So, why did they not induct any Minister belonging to Scheduled Castes? They are not Pakistani nationals, they are also Indians. I, therefore, request the Hon. Minister to induct Ministers belonging to the Scheduled Castes. also. It will benefit the Congress also. The electorate belonging to Scheduled Castes will ask us as to who are their Ministers for to whom they have voted. The Congress therefore, must induct Harijans also into their Cabinet. It will blow over all the crises. The Government may make any Harijan at least the Cabinet Minister of Labour. When Shri Jagjivan Ram became the Minister of Railways, lakhs of youths had got

jobs. When he became the Minister of Defence, he taught a lesson to Pakistan in a very short time. For which work a Harijan is misfit? In my opinion they are the fittest and par-excellence.

Lastly, I would like to submit only this much that Harijans should also be inducted in the Government.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The time allotted for this discussion is six hours, but we have already consumed eight hours. So, the time at our disposal is very limited. Kindly speak very briefly on relevant points.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (Agra): It is a very important issue.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This subject is very important and that is why we have been able to extend the time by two hours. Now, each Member will get five minutes. Most of the points have already been covered. So, Mr. Yaima Singh, please speak only on those points which have not already been covered.

[Translation]

SHRI KALKA DAS (Karol Bagh): This report is being discussed after twelve years. The Scheduled Castes constitute one-fourth of the population of the country. They are the most unhappy lot and yet you are allowing only six hours for discussion.

[English]

SHRI YAIMA SINGH YUMNAM (Inner Manipur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, at the outset I am prepared to appreciate the efforts made by the Ministry of Welfare for the promotion of the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in the country. I am also prepared to agree with the Ministry in taking up special programmes for uplifting the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in the country.

Sir, I appreciate that this discussion has come up although it is very late but the spirit is better late than never. Hence I am participating in the debate. In short, we can mention that so much relaxation has been given to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in respect of rules, age and others. But in spite of so many efforts we understand that there is a lot to be done by the Government for the upliftment of SCs and STs in this country. Because they are so much down trodden, it will take time to uplift them to the level of advanced people. So, in that spirit I urge the Government to implement the recommendations made by the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and other committees immediately. Since the time allotted is very short I do not want to elaborate other points.

Sir, in my State almost 33 per cent of the total population belong to STs and a little more than 2% of the population is of SCs. For the upliftment of SCs, the Government has been trying to do a lot in that area. But the unfortunate part of it is that while the Central Government is trying to take up programmes for the

batterment of SCs of Manipur, the State Government is delaying these programmes. The projects and programmes which we propose to the Central Government, they take a long time to approve them. Some time it takes more than one year to reach Manipur. For example, I have proposed one project for self-employment in Manipur in my constituency which is the only Scheduled Castes village. But it has not been finalised. It requires a particular notice of the Ministry of Welfare.

Sir, it is unfortunate that there have been clashes between Kukies and Nagas. They are killing each other and are trying to eliminate each other. So much tragic things are happening in Manipur.

Kukis are killing Nagas and Nagas are killing Kukis. They kill in whatever way, by chopping heads, by daggers, by shooting or by throwing children and women to the fire. Hundreds of houses have been burnt down; so many hundreds of innocent persons, not sparing even women and children, have been killed. It is unfortunate. We are unfortunate onlookers. Though I shall raise it in another form, here I am mentioning only because there are a lot of tribal people who are homeless because of this clash.

I want to urge upon the Government in the Ministry of Welfare to take up certain programmes for rehabilitating these very unfortunate people.

I have heard some hon. Members also on this point. We have been taking up a Bill so that the tribals who are left at the initial stage might be included in the Schedule of Tribes in the Constitution of India. I have been putting up a Private Member bill for inclusion of two tribes—one is Pomei and the other is 'ANY Kuki' from any area. They were excluded in the list as a result of which they are so much frustrated. In Manipur, we have been facing so many troubles on account of the prevailing law and order situation. So, let us not add fuel to the fire or let us not create problems which make frustration in the minds of the tribal youths and Scheduled Castes.

Although, I have so many points to be discussed, I shall conclude by urging the Minister that for the State of Manipur please give special consideration for finalisation of those programmes to be taken up for the welfare and upliftment of the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the State of Manipur.

[Translation]

SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA (Salumbar): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir the report of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes commission is being discussed here today. I thank you for allowing me to speak on this issue.

It is a fact that we are discussing the Commissioner's report after about eight years. All the Members have given their suggestions in this regard and I hope that the Government will pay attention towards it.

I come from that tribal area of Rajasthan which is inhabited by eighty percent tribals. I have read the report of the Commissioner. Some suggestions have been made in this report. The Government should pay attention toward these suggestions, if the Government is really interested in speeding up the pace of development in tribal areas and

improve their economic condition. It has been suggested to formulate a master plan regarding mobilisation of irrigation resources. I have also read in this report that some States have sent the Master plan to the Central Government but others have not sent any plan. Most of the tribal areas are in hilly region and water of these areas flow down from those areas. According to this proposed master plan this water should be stored. It will provide irrigation facilities to small fields belonging to tribal people and they will be able to earn their livelihood. It will also reduce deforestation. Irrigation facility will promote afforestation in these areas and tribals will also get some occupation. If they get good crops, it will be easy for them to earn their livelihood.

The Government launch several schemes and programmes for the welfare of tribal and do a lot of work for them but these schemes are not implemented properly. I come from tribals area and fully aware of their economic Condition. But our suggestions are never recorded. I would like to say that suggestions may be invited from the representatives of these areas and people belonging to schedule tribes and these may be implemented. Schemes are formulated here and tribals remain ignorant about all those schemes. Private Committee are set up to import training to them but they swallow the money in the name of tribals and no training is imparted to them. I would like to say that scheme prepared for them, should be implemented properly.

In respect of the ownership of land, I would like to say that it is not allotted in their names. Mostly tribals live in hilly region and their population has also increased during the last few years. They have encroached some land for cultivation and they work hard to make it cultivable. But this land is under occupation of Revenue Department or Forest Department. The land which has been under their occupation for the last 15 to 20 years, should be given to them. They have built their houses and wells on this land and cultivating it since long but it has not been allotted in their names. Officials of Forest Department harass them and impose penalty on them. The same condition is with the Revenue department. How long this will go I urge upon the Government that land under their occupation for the last 10-15 years should be allotted to them and uncertainty prevailing in their mind should be removed. It will improve their economic condition.

They are given facility under reservation policy in the matter of employment. The backlog of vacancies under reservation policy should be cleared. At the time of interview they are told that they are incompetent and unfit and in these circumstances other people get chance. In place of tribal, a person from affluent class is selected who might have got good division and studied in private or central schools. Children of poor farmers, who have passed higher secondary or matriculation in third division are not given chance. Tribal people get employment but only those who are affluent. Poor people are not given chance. I would like to say that it may kindly be looked into.

Sir, as you have asked me repeatedly to be brief, I would not take much time. I would like to make a couple of submission. The first issue is regarding scholarship. Earlier it was Rs. 150/-, perhaps at present it has been raised to

Rs. 250. I am very sorry to mention that whenever we attend any party given by some minister, official or any member of mafia, per plate of food served in these parties costs about Rs. 150 and sometimes it is Rs. 200. Take it Rs. 150 per plate. It means scholarship being provided to them is equal to the cost of one plate of food. You can well imagine how a person can progress with this meagre amount. How will we be able to improve their economic condition? How could he be strengthened morally? He is weak and will remain weak.

I have mentioned two or three points. I would like to mention another point. Thousands of people have encroached land throughout the country. That land should be get vacated from them and allotted to tribals. I am very sorry to say that there is no factory in my constituency. Government has invited private sector to set up factories in these areas and with the result factories are being set up. But all these factories are being set up near cities where the required material is available but no factory has been set up in my area so far. They do not find material in tribal areas. There are mines of soft stone and marble in my area. Lead, zink and phosphate are also found there. People working in marble factories are very poor and live in miserable condition. I have mentioned earlier also that these factory owners arrange lavish parties but do not give wages to these people. In case any inspector goes to inquire into any matter, either he is bribed or forced to go back. If any brave labourer goes to register his complaint, he finds the owner and the inspector sitting in front of the final authority so he fails to lodge his complaint. In fact he is paid Rs. 15, 16 or 17 but record shows that he is paid Rs. 25-30 or 50. The same situation is prevailing in our mines. We know that the Government intends to provide benefits to them but in fact these people are getting nothing. Our country has so many poor people and we should make sure that benefits of these schemes should reach the actual needy if we wish to alleviate poverty.

Sir, through you I would like to mention one more point. The Government gives funds as grant to provide assistance to them for buying cow, oxen or installing pumps. But this grant of 50 percent given to them through Panchayat committee becomes useless because the thing where cost is Rs. 8000 in the market is given at a cost of Rs. 14,000 through Panchayat Committee. I would like to say that the Government should pay attention towards this increasing corruption.

With these words, I conclude and thank you for giving me a chance to express my views.

(English)

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): Sir, I will speak on a single point. My intention of participating in this debate is to invite your attention, the attention of the House and, through the House, the attention of the people at large outside to the unhappy trend which has been revealed in the Report. I mean that the reservation for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was accepted by the makers of the Constitution on the ground that there should be protective discrimination for a large section of our population. It is so because those people have been the subjects or victims of social, economic, political and

cultural oppression and repression. Originally, it was conceived that the reservation would continue only for ten years. But it has not been so. It has been extended on several occasions. I think it will continue till 1999, if I am not incorrect.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera): In respect of service, there is no time limit.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Whatever might be, the reservation will continue till those backward communities or the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes are brought to the level of development of the general community of our country.

Sir, I have gone through the Report with much interest. What has really pained me to see is that the disparities between Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the general community are not decreasing, not diminishing but increasing as the year passes by. I will just give you one example because I have got no time to make enough study or enough elaboration. The disparity in respect of education between the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the other section of people, in 1971, was 33.80 per cent. In 1981, it increased to 41.30 per cent. So far as literacy is concerned, it was 14.16 per cent in 1971 and it has increased to 21.38 per cent. In this way, the disparities between the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the other general segment of people have been increasing instead of decreasing. This is so in relation to women's education and education as a whole. This is so in relation to University Education. This is so in relation to employment also.

Now, I want to put a question to the hon. Minister. I do not accuse him. I would like to know by which time we will be able to bring the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people on par with other sections of society because that was the constitutional objective. If these measures are not adequate to bring them up to the level of development of the general population, is it not time for us to think that there should be other methods also, there should be other special programmes also to see that they are brought to the general level of development of other sections of the society? At least, this was the letter and spirit of the Constitution of our country. I accuse the Government that the Government has dismally failed to implement the constitutional obligation. I want that this should be fulfilled by the Government.

My second point is and it is an expression of my resentment against the cavalier manner in which these subjects are being treated by the Government. The Report has been prepared and the Report is being discussed after eight years. During these eight years, there has been many changes social, economic and political. Is not the Parliament entitled to take this into account and discuss the changes that have taken place? Why is this delay? Why is this inordinate delay? Does this inordinate delay not indicate that the Government treats this segment of the society in a cavalier manner? Therefore, by treating this weaker sections of society in this way, the Government has not implemented the constitutional obligation. There is no end to my argument. Therefore, in what manner will the Government equip itself to fulfil the constitutional obligations? I charge the Government that the Government

has failed and failed dismally to fulfil the constitutional commitment and obligation. I take it that the Government will rise to the occasion to fulfil this.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (ADOOR): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, we are discussing these Reports of SC/ST Commissioner after the gap of 12 years. As far as Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are concerned, this august House made several legislation and also we had discussed several issues related to the socio-economic development of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. But what is the total condition of the SC/ST persons in the country? I may tell the hon. House that their life is day-to-day becoming very difficult. In these circumstances, the Government of India had appointed the SC/ST Commission to study various issues and problems of SC/STs in the country. The Government of India decided in 1978 to set up a high level commission consisting of persons of eminence and status in public life. The Special Officer is appointed under Article 338 of the Constitution and entrusted with the duty of investigating into matters relating to constitutional safeguards of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. This would include a review of the manner in which reservations in public service for SCs and STs are in practice, implemented. He is appointed to study the implementation of Protection of Civil Rights Act 1955 with particular reference to the objective of removal of untouchability and invidious discrimination. He is appointed to ascertain the socio-economic and other relevant circumstances as also to enquire into individual complaints regarding denial of any safeguards provided to any person claiming to belong to SC/ST community.

During 1982-83, the Commission visited various States in the country to study the SC/ST programmes and the implementation of related schemes. Some States are not utilising the Special Component Plan Fund for development of SC/ST. Tribal sub-Plan is also facing the problem of ignorance as also low level of literacy, relative isolation and ignorance. At the same time, the recommendations of the Commission are not implemented properly. The SC/ST Commission have been taking several measures to solve the problem of SC/ST problem. But the bureaucracy has not taken any steps in this regard. We have a number of Commissions and legislations for the development of the SC/ST in the country. Every year the States and Central Government allocate funds for the upliftment of SCs and STs.

What is the result? The result is not satisfactory. The funds allocated for the upliftment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are not utilised properly. The Commission found out various irregularities, corruption and misutilisation of funds. The Commission has rightly pointed out that the Special Component Programme for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are not properly implemented for lack of funds. A number of schemes are not implemented. Funds are not utilised under the Special Component Programme. This is the situation all over the country. Every year, the Government of India gives huge amount to all the State Governments under the SC/ST Scheme. But, the Central Government has not found out how they are utilising. The Government of India do not

have any monitoring agencies. The poor SC/ST people do not get any facilities from SCP. Therefore, Sir, may I request the hon. Government to make sure that SC/ST Scheme is implemented properly so that the SC/ST people could get the benefits?

Sir, we have discussed several times for the allotment of surplus land to SC/ST people. But, so far several States have not implemented. The distribution of surplus land to the SC/ST people should be undertaken immediately.

Sir, the SC/ST workers are not getting even the minimum wages. The Commission also found thousands of poor SC/ST workers working for a very meagre wage. The landlords are not giving minimum wages to SC/ST agricultural workers. This is a very serious matter and a major challenge before the Welfare Ministry.

Regarding the educational facilities for SC/ST, the Government of India should set up more technical educational institutions for SC/ST students. In the SC/ST areas Government should run the ITIs and polytechnics and other technical institutions.

Today, our country is developing in all fields. We have provided new technology for the productive and other sectors. But SC/ST youths are not getting benefits out of this. Therefore, Sir, the Government of India should seriously consider and encourage the SC/ST students for coming up in this higher educational scenario.

Regarding employment of SC/STs they are quite unhappy. The Central and State Governments do not take any initiative for appointing SC/ST candidates.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You kindly close it....

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: For want of time, we are not in a position to accommodate all the hon. Members...

(Interruptions)

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: I once again support this Motion.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Professor Saheb please excuse me. Time allotted was six hours...

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Very relevant, important and heart touching points are being made by every hon. Member who has participated in the debate. So, therefore, kindly excuse....

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, many hon. members want to speak on this issue, therefore, we request your goodself to extend the time. Secondly the report has come after a gap of 12 years, the hon. Members would like to speak on it, so please extend the time.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Those who are expected to participate, they have fully participated, digged out very relevant points and loopholes. Therefore,

[Translation]

SHRI VISHWANATH SHASTRI (Gazipur): Mr. Deputy Speaker sir, I would like to say something in nut-shell on the report presented here. First of all, some provisions have been made in our Constitution to improve the conditions of the Schedule Castes and Schedule Tribes in the social set up of our country. Provisions have been made in our Constitution to remove the basic disparities like the economic and the educational ones.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shastri Ji, the permission to read it out in the House can not be granted. Please speak, whatever you have to speak.

SHRI VISHWANATH SHASTRI: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, first of all it is necessary that the agricultural labourers to whom the land has been distributed should be given the possession of that land. Besides it, the ceiling limit should be reduced and in this way the surplus land should be distributed among them.

Secondly, I would like to say that the Scheduled Tribe people who used to live in the jungles and enjoy natural rights on jungle land, should again be given those rights. Likewise, the minimum wages law should be enacted for the agricultural labourers and it should be ensured that they get the minimum wages. Schools should be set-up on the Ashram pattern to provide more opportunities of education to the Schedule Caste and Schedule Tribe people. Steps should be taken to curb the atrocities on them.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, earlier this department was under the Home Ministry but now it has been transferred to the social welfare Ministry. My submission is that the District Social Welfare Officers of this departments do not have even the facility of car. They can not arrange a car for the Minister of their department, They lack resources.

With these words, I conclude and thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, it is going to be 6 O' clock. I would like to know whether the Minister's reply will be today or tomorrow.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Today only.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (Ajamgarh): Sir, no Members are present here. It is a very important topic. It should be replied tomorrow.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, It is not proper to extend the House beyond 6 P.M. today. Many hon. Members are also not present in the House. Therefore, the House is of the view that those hon. Members who want to speak, should be given an opportunity to speak and the hon. Minister should reply to the Debate tomorrow.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, let us see.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: The reply will be given tomorrow. The Minister can also gather information about Tamil Nadu also.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Tomorrow we have got a lot of business. If we do not do it today, tomorrow there is a huge agenda.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (Kolar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the subject.

The Government is doing very good work for the development of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people. I have already mentioned the most important points that I would like to mention here, to the hon. Minister in the Consultative Committee Meetings.

The residential schools for Schedule Caste and Scheduled Tribe boys and girls should be started at the taluk and district levels. Even in the other communities there are so many poor people. We have to encourage them also. So, I would recommend that in these schools 75 per cent seats are reserved for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students and 25 per cent for the economically weaker sections from the other communities. By doing this, the stigma of belonging to a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe community will also be removed. So, these residential schools like the Navodaya schools should be established in the taluk and district levels.

The other important point is about the educated unemployed students. In every taluk and district, the industrial infrastructure should be developed and industrial sheds should be constructed by the Government of India to provide suitable jobs and to allot sheds to the educated unemployed. These industrial sheds should be run by the educated unemployed, the technical graduates and the technical diploma holders.

The third thing is that training institutes for IAS and IPS should be started at the district level. This would make the students to come up easily in the IAS and IPS.

Another important thing is that in the labour areas also it is necessary to start the residential schools. As they do not have any land for cultivation, they have no other livelihood. So, establishment of these schools will prove helpful.

In the farming community, more importance should be given to the Scheduled Castes. They are very small land owners. They have to be given proper irrigation facilities. I request the hon. Deputy Speaker to direct the State Governments to provide more facilities for irrigation purposes to the Scheduled Caste farmers who have got small holdings of half to two acres.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: But the community irrigation facilities are there though they are not properly functioning.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: That is why I am mentioning that individual benefits should be given. The community irrigation facilities are not working properly. So, I request that individual benefits like borewells and pumpsets should be given to the farmers. What the Government is giving is not sufficient. They have given these benefits to only 10 per cent of the population of the Scheduled Castes. The remaining 90 per cent are still suffering without these facilities.

In the small scale industries and also the village and cottage industries people belonging to Scheduled Castes should be given more employment. There is no other livelihood for them. They have no land of their own. They have to go as labourers and serve the landlords. Though they have studied upto SSLC and have done their diplomas, they cannot earn their own bread and butter. That is why they have to be provided suitable jobs and given industrial loans. If industrial sheds are provided to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, they can come up and stand on their own legs.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity....
(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Rawat will speak after Shri Hossain. First Shri Hossain will speak; then, afterwards, hon. Member Professor Rasa Singh Rawat will speak, Professor, not now.

[Translation]

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN (Murshidabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this discussion has been going on for the last session but at first it should be decided as to who are the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes people. Whose welfare will be done and for whom this report is meant for? The Scheduled of the Scheduled Caste in each State is not the same. The incident that took place in Nagpur was due to this reason. This part is close to Madhya Pradesh and the people of this caste living in this part are enlisted as Scheduled Caste at present. They had also been recognised as of Scheduled Caste in Maharashtra since 1985 but now this recognition has been withdrawn. Such a big tragedy happened due to this reasons only. In west Bengal also some people want the status of Scheduled Caste. Their names are included in the list of Bihar but not in the list of West Bengal. The Central Government first of all should correct its list. Unless there is a uniform list such sort of trouble will continue to crop up.

Secondly, you want to work for the welfare of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes and want to educate them. It is good but do not you want to given them the equal status? They need the equal status very much. The people of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes have not so far been given equal status anywhere in the country. The Nagpur incident is an example of it. Had that procession been taken out by the upper class people, the hon. Minister would have definitely gone to meet them. Since they were the poor people, so the hon. Minister did not speak to them. There is a tension in all the tribal areas in the country right from North Eastern region to Kashmir. Nowhere the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes people are not getting equal rights. Be it Utrakhand issue or the Bodo-land issue, the Central Government has its own policy. Wherever there is hue and cry, divide the State into two parts to avoid any complication. Assam was divided into seven parts but still there is the question of Bodoland.

The Jharkhand issue is there in Bihar. Although I do not agree with the way the Jharkhand movement is going on but their demand is genuine to some extent. If you do not look into their problems and do not try to find out the root cause of their problems the tension will go

on mounting and both the States and the country will be divided.

Now I take up the issue of Land reforms. Everywhere there is a ceiling law but Bengal is the only state where 50 percent of the waste land is given on lease to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Can a law be enacted that in each State 50 per cent of the waste land will be given to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes? If the poor farmer does not have land, money and the other facilities all these reports will merely remain scrap of papers. In an agricultural country like India, the major problem is of land reforms. Has the Government taken a stern step to allot land to the poor people? Do you have a political will in this regard? Whatever incident takes place outside, you simply say it should be taken up in the House in nonpartisan manner. You shed crocodile tears. The problem will not be solved unless there is a political will. Therefore, my submission is that attention should be paid towards all these things. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shall we extend the sitting of the House by half-an-hour?

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: No, Sir. We can continue the discussion tomorrow. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, The Minister will reply tomorrow. Let us discuss it today itself and complete it.

We will extend it for another half-an-hour.

18.00 hrs.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: All right.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the time is extended up to 6.30 p.m.

[Translation]

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN: I am concluding. A quota has been fixed for the education of the wards of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Will the purpose be solved by it? Those who have nothing to eat and nothing to put on, will they be seeking admission merely by having the quota? Will it make them self reliant? What the Government has thought in this regard? Why the free hostels for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes student have not been constructed in each district? We extend the reservation after every ten years. The Constitution had provided reservation for these people for ten years but unfortunately we have to extend it even now after every 10 years. How long we will continue to do like this? It is wrong and we will have to stop this practice. If we have the political will and if we have to function properly then we have to stop reservation during the next ten years. If we do not bring an end to reservation within the next 10 years, the people of other communities will take it otherwise. They are angry with the reservation. People think that everything is being done for them while nothing is being done for them in reality and none is making progress. We are talking about the backlog of the reserved vacancies only. If we talk about their way of living then even today they are living outside the village, on the banks of rivers, in the remote areas and they do not get even tube-well water to drink. There are so many laws an

our country and many new laws are enacted every year but we do not see whether these are being implemented. We will have to see as to whether the implementing agencies should be pressed for proper implementation. Keeping all these things in view if we are to make progress. If we do not take care of all these things, then the tension mounting up in the country will prove dangerous for the country in the coming days.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: (Ajmer): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me time to speak.

The main aim of our Constitution makers in providing a provision for reservation in our constitution was that the backward classes, oppressed and depressed people, who have remained socially, economically and educationally backward for centuries together, could be uplifted, a social harmony and social equality could be created and the evil of untouchability could be eradicated, so that all sections of the society could go ahead on the path of development and make the country strong. But if we think over this objective we would find that no headway could have been made till now. It is true that in the name of reservation vote banks of backward classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled tribes have been created. It will not be an exaggeration if I say that political exploitation of these classes has definitely been made.

Many social reformers like Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati the founder of Arya Samaj, Raja Ram Mohan Rai, Swami Ramkrishna Paramhansa, Swami Vivekanand, Mahatma Gandhi, Jyotibha Phoolé, Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar etc. had understood these social evils. They worked for the upliftment of these oppressed classes, eradication of untouchability and bringing about equality in the society. As a result of their endeavours, the institutions, which came into existence, be it Arya Samaj, Schools and Gurukuls of Arya Samaj or be it any Ashram set up by other great reformers, worked in this direction. There was such an arrangement in these institutions that no distinction could be made on the basis of caste whether someone was a Harijan, Brahmin or a Kshatriya. There was an atmosphere of complete uniformity. Many learned persons were produced by these institutions who later on established their own identity in the society. This was their motive behind setting up such institutions. They organised big special feasts. They worked among Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and understood them and created goodwill among them. They awakened their confidence and self-respect. They created similar atmosphere for them. The high caste people used to atone for their misdeeds.

We are discussing here in this August House the 28th and 29th reports for the year 1986-87 and 1987-88 which were laid on the table of the House on 9th May, 1989 and 29th August, 1990 respectively. Similarly 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th reports of the National Commission for SC/ST for the year 1982-83, 1983-84, 1984-85 and 1985-86 were laid on the table of the House on 5th March, 1986, 26th August, 1987, 4th May, 1988 and 21st November, 1988 respectively. These are being discussed in the House after a lapse of 6 years. It indicates the

insentiveness on the part of the Government towards these reports. The Government merely follow the traditions. I was also the member of 9th Lok Sabha and now these things are being discussed in the 10th Lok Sabha. Sir you should direct the Government to make such an arrangement for future that any report of the Commission regarding Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes should be discussed immediately on the presentation of it in the House so that their burning problems could be solved. There is a great difference between the today's problems and the problems of six years back. I have to say it with regret that atrocities are being committed on the weaker sections of the society in those states where your party is in power. We have not forgotten the incident of Aligarh where 17 Harijan women were raped. In Maharashtra, people of Gowari Samaj, who were assembled for demanding their rights, were lathi-charged as a result of which 113 persons were killed and now the Government is shedding crocodile tears for them. Who was responsible for creating such situation there?

Indira Awas Yojana was launched for the Scheduled Castes. But if you go to see the houses constructed for them you will find that they are lying vacant and their walls are on the verge of collapse. SC and ST people are not prepared to live in these houses. Some other people are getting benefits in the name of Scheduled Castes.

I hail from Rajasthan. Just now Shri Bheru Lal Meena was speaking here. The Bhils of Mewar stood shoulder to shoulder with Maharana Pratap and demonstrated their patriotism and self respect. With a view to rehabilitate them our first Prime Minister Shri Jawahar Lal Nehru went to Chittorgarh and said to the Bhils and Gadiya carpenter that they had faced a lot of hardships for protecting our motherland. What is their condition today? How much reservation and other facilities have been provided to them? Only some handful forward classes are getting benefit of it and other people are still leading their lives on pavements. They are still reeling under the same conditions. Similarly, how many Harijans have reached the high posts? there are some handful people who are getting most of these facilities and rests are still facing the situation of negligence. He the time not ripe even after 47 years of independence to review the reservation policy of the Government? Had it been reviewed it would have become clear as to how many persons have got employment, how many posts are lying vacant and what are the reasons for not filling up these vacancies. It would have also become clear as to what extent this policy has brought about uniformity and good will in the society.

Sir, it is very difficult to unite the society but easy to break it. Today the wind of casteism is blowing all over the country and attempts are being made to divide the society in the name of casteism. The provision of reservation was made by our Constitution makers with a view to uplift the weaker section of the society so that they may get a status of equality in the society but that objective has not been achieved. The evil of untouchability is still there. Somewhere they are not allowed to enter temples and somewhere they are not allowed to fetch water. So many commissions have been

constituted and many reports have been received but they are all gathering dust. It is needless to say that we are discussing about those people who are still living a miserable life.

I have to say it with regret that some of the people of these classes who are well educated and got high posts have constituted their own class and they do not like to mix up with other people of their community. They do not work among them to awaken their self respect and to make them realise that they also belong to them and inspire them that they can also rise like them. No efforts are being made to create such feeling among them. It seems that a new class is being created and reservation is being made a permanent feature. Reservation has been increased several times for 10-10 years, but how long we will continue to increase it. Therefore, Sir, I would like to say, through you, that such reports should be discussed immediately in the House as and when they are submitted and it should also be determined as to how long this reservation policy would continue. It should also be looked into whether the objectives for which reservation was provided by our Constitution makers, are being achieved or not. Many schools have been opened for them and scholarships are also being given out in spite of all these, their population is rapidly increasing. Population is increasing rapidly in slum areas. Most of these people are illiterate. Multinational are coming to our country and there will be no job illusion and decreasing job opportunities have resulted into the growth of unemployment by leaps and bounds. Today they are not getting any work to do and they are not leading respectable life. We have to think over the objectives for which reservation was provided by our constitution makers. A system was made in our society on the basis of division of labour but with a passage of time it became a caste system by birth as a result of which our society got divided into thousands of castes. It is a stigma on our country. This casteism should be abolished and weaker sections of the society should be brought up. A sense of self respect should be created among them.

Sir, one thing I would like to say through you that this commission should be made competent, strong and effective. At present it is like a toothless tiger. This commission cannot take any action. Whenever any incident of atrocity is occurred and news are read in the newspapers, the Chairman of the Commission or Minister goes there to get information. But the inhuman act that has been committed cannot be done undone and later on matter is hushed up and no action is taken. The exploitation and oppression which is being done of these classes should be checked. That is why I would say that the Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes should be strengthened and it should be empowered to accomplish the task with which it has been entrusted.

With these words I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this subject.

[English]

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES (Udupi): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, Thank you for giving me this opportunity to say a few words on this subject. In the first place let me

congratulate our Government and the Minister for having brought this subject before this House for discussion.

Sir, we are completing nearly five decades of our Independence in this country and it was the dream of Mahatma Gandhi that we should bring up this section of our people.

A lot has been done but there is still a lot to be done for this section of people. I do agree with most of our Members that we should have a review of what has happened in these years and find out how much more we have to do for this section of people. I would like to give one or two suggestions in this regard.

It was our policy that whatever surplus land is there it should be first given to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. This programme has to be accelerated and whatever surplus land is there should be given to these people.

Secondly, a large number of educated youngsters are not able to get employment. In case we do not have Government land, even wasteland should be acquired and given to these educated youngsters so that they may take to farming and in this way the unemployment problem is also solved.

The two main things that are required for bringing up these Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are education and employment. Within the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes we have one more section which has to be taken care of, that is the physically handicapped persons. They are the worst sufferers. We do not have any special programme for these people. I think our attention has to be focused towards this section of physically handicapped people so that they are also rehabilitated.

I would like to place before the House the one achievement of the Karnataka Government so that we may take it up in other States. We have given reservation for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and women in political positions like the Panchayat Pradhans. This is a big achievement which I feel should be taken up in other States. When 25 per cent or even 33 per cent of our women and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are able to run the Panchayat, they will be able to extend the benefit to these people and they can see that the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are not denied of the benefits that are being made available by the Central Government as well as the State Government.

These are my main points. I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (Agra): Sir, I thank you for giving me time to speak. I would like to make three submissions. My first submission is that the hon. Minister, who has expressed his views on this subject has said that the Government has enhanced the prestige of Scheduled Castes. He has also mentioned one thing about Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar that the Government is celebrating his birth centenary with pomp and show. But I would like to say that great disgrace and disrespect is being brought to Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar. The villages, which have been selected as Ambedkar villages in

Uttar Pradesh, are mainly Scheduled Caste dominated villages and there was a proposed for their electrification but till now no development work has been undertaken there. Neither the Central Government nor the State Government has allocated any fund for electrification. The scheme is becoming a laughing stock.

Sir, there was a proposal to set up Ambedkar University at Lucknow but till now it has not been set up. Similar is the condition of Dr. Ambedkar Institute at Agra. My second submission is that besides Baba Saheb Ambedkar, other great leaders of Scheduled Castes should also be honoured. There is a Jhalakari Bai of Kosi Samaj without whom the history of Rani Laxmi Bai and the history of first battle of our independence 1857 cannot be completed. The story of her sacrifices is unparalleled but when her birth anniversary is celebrated, the Government do not release even postal stamp in her commemoration and no national holiday is declared on that day. What I want to say is that the Commission has been creating many situations of rift among different castes but it is essential for the Government to properly honour the great men of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled tribes to create equality in the society. Their personalities should be honoured in the society and their bravery, great deeds and their contribution should be perpetuated so that people from all walks of life may get inspiration from them.

Secondly, I would like say that even after so many years of independence the people of these classes are becoming victims of atrocities. What one of my friends was saying just now I would like to substantiate that point. An incident of mass rape has occurred at Nagalaparesi place in Aligarh in which 15 SC women, 13 Jatav women, 2 Balmiki and 2 muslim women were fallen victims of this inhuman act. After the incident the ruling party in conivance with the Police tried to destroy the evidences, their report was not registered, no medical check up was done and no other assistance has been given to the victims. Only some officials have been transferred and few have been suspended in this case and efforts are being made to save the real culprits of the incident. If you really want to review the working of the Commission, it should be allowed to investigate this case in impartial manner and no political protection should be given to the culprits. The police party, which was on a round there had not come to the rescue of the victims. Properties of the culprit have not so far been attached and they are moving scot free. What I want to say it that a CBI inquiry should be conducted into it so that there may not be any political interference from the State Government to save the real culprits. The Government has failed in awakening self respect among these people. In the centenary year of Dr. Ambedkar, no developmental works are being carried out for them. Similarly Jhalakari Bai has not been honoured. Birth day of Jhalakari Bai should also be declared a national holiday and a postal stamp should also be released.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, so long as the steps are not taken to improve the economic conditions of these classes, our country cannot make any progress. Most of the workers working in cottage industries are from these classes but due to the entry of multinational companies to India these cottage industries would face closure and

condition of these classes would worsen further. A target has been fixed in the Eighth Five Year Plan that the practice of carrying night soil on head would be abolished but till now it has not been done. Therefore, I would like to say that some concrete steps should be taken to improve social and economic condition of Balmiki Samaj and more and more employment and development opportunities should be provided to them.

I also would like to say one more thing that it should also be reviewed whether the benefits of reservation have reached these classes or not. Except some particular groups among 1-2 castes, no other Scheduled Castes people could get benefits of this reservation policy. We have to think over the bottlenecks existed in the policy and then a new policy should be formulated so that all people belonging to Scheduled Castes could be benefited. It is very essential and hence it should be reviewed at once, and a comprehensive strategy should be formulated for their development.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur):
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak on the subject. Today, a very important matter is being discussed. In spite of all provisions made in the Constitution, the Government have not taken any effective step for the betterment of the downtrodden. The main reason behind it is that though the policy is there but the intention is malefide. That is why, after so many years of independence, the Government is still unable to find out a suitable way for implementing the provisions made in the Constitution, whereas everything depends upon the implementation of provisions made therein.

Therefore, it all depends upon the method of implementation and implementing authority, since their intention is not good so it is not being implemented. There may be defective Constitution but if the intention of implementing authority is fair even then poor people can be benefited. The very reasons behind it are the traditions, mal-practices, disparity between man and man, enmity and disharmony for the thousand years because the history of the land, wealth, education and culture of this country remained in the hands of a few people. What is the reason behind it that according to the data of the last census, this class is not provided about 25% reservation fully so far, whereas Constitution provides it. But it is being observed that the Government are not going to take any positive initiative in this direction in this Session also. It is true that correct report is being prepared. But these reports will also remain as wonder-Caskets in cold storage and suppressed class will be not benefited from it. This is what I feel. If a good report is prepared but not implemented. Then it is of no use. Unless these 25% people are brought educationally, socially, politically into the national mainstream, till then the country can never develop completely. This class produces foodgrains for us, this very class produces various leather and wooden articles. This is the only class which could not be brought into the national mainstream so far. Today, we see that person who does not work hard is considered to be a honourable man because the person, who is financially sound, is know as an honourable person in the society.

"Bare Aadmi Ki Kya Pahichan—

Jo git pit Bole aur Kare Na Kam
Chhote Aadami Ki Kya Pahichan—
Kare Kam Aur Pawe Aapman."

So long as we would not change this definition we can not follow the provisions of Constitutions made there in by Baba Saheb Ambedkar in letter and spirit. So, this definition has to be changed and it should be 'do work and get honoured'. For this, the society must be prepared and we have to be liberal and be ready to give respect to our brothers of weaker sections of the society. Today fundamentals and people of feudal mentality have their own views, due to which these people do not get respect at any level, be it on educational level or political level. It is true that today honourable members of Lok Sabha like Shri Chhedi Paswan or Shri Ram Vilas Paswan are accepted by everyone. It is so because they are Members of Parliament. They are holding high positions in the society. It is the mentality of our society, that if somebody from suppressed class gets higher position, then he is acceptable to us, we don't hesitate in giving respect to him. But those who are poor, be they Paswans, 'Chamars' and 'Kamera' community do not get respect in the Society. Our social set up is like that we do not respect them. We have to change our thinking. Unless they are brought into national mainstream, this country will remain backward in the eyes of the world. That is why I have mentioned it. Whether it is a question of providing reservation to them in jobs or promotions.

Why so much time is being taken, why these things remain only on papers and why positive aspect is not adopted in this regard because we are not mentally prepared for its. Why these people are denied of their rights? It is evident for the history that this problem is continuing from time immemorial. The battle of 'Haldighati' was fought 400 years ago in which 375 Bheels were killed then and the hero of that battle Maharana Pratap under whose leadership they fought was held in high esteem. But after that the 'Bheel' community was not mentioned in history. I would rather say that our historians were prejudiced.

Even Scheduled Caste, Suppressed and downtrodden people have been deceived. Therefore, while creating history this inequality has to be eradicated in order to created equal opportunities and to establish an egalitarian society otherwise future would be dark.

Honourable Deputy Speaker, Sir, it used to happen in the ancient days that only a single big man used to sit on the elephant but today people belonging to a few classes are availing these facilities and they constitute only 2 per cent which include MP's and statesman, but people of the lower started are not getting justice and the so called big people of today are flying high at 35,000 feet. If it is not economic in inequality, then what is it? What I want to ask is that why this gulf between the rich and the poor is increasing? That is why a violant situation is being developed here, A.K. 47 is being used. Unless this inequality is removed peace and harmony cannot be restored in such a situation of turmoil and violence. A poor man, who is living a hellish life would definitely be violent.

When he would not get his share peacefully he would adopt the path of violence. If he is not provided his rightful dues by constitutional or democratic means the violence would increase. Therefore, it is my submission that in order to calm down the violent situation and to remove this disparity, these people must be provided their rights.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to conclude with these words that action should be taken against all those officers, they should be penalised and put behind bars if they commit any irregularity in the matter of reservations and do not fill up the backlog of vacancies and do not implement the laid down policies in this regard. This matter has to be decided once for all. It is necessary to fix responsibility in case where there is any procrastination negligence and for not providing reservation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to give an example of Bihar where poor people are constructing houses under Indira Awas Yojana. If the house has not been properly them it gets damaged in rain and storm but I invite honourable members to see it themselves as to how these concrete houses withstand rains or storm for which the Chief Minister has provided a sum of Rupees Fourteen thousand and five hundred as loan to the poor people there. These loans have been given to the landless and homeless persons. Nobody goes there to inspect these houses even then they are constructed so strong such homes are being constructed for 2 lakh people. I want that this should not only be implemented in Bihar but in the entire country for successful implementation of the Indira Awas Yojana, the downtrodden would be benefited by this scheme. With these words I conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): At the outset, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to express my views on these Reports and give some suggestions on them. I also congratulate the Government for having brought this subject for discussion in this august House. It has provided an opportunity for a detailed discussion on the conditons, on the sufferings of the weaker-sections of the country in various ways and causing an anxiety to the Government and to public servants, social workers including Members of Parliament and Legislators.

While starting this discussion, I would also like to pay a glowing tribute to the sacred memory of the Father of the Nation, Gandhiji. His contribution in this field, ameliorating the sufferings of the dalits, the untouchables, is not only commendable, but there is no parallel about it not only in India but also in the whole world. There is an attempt, I painfully observe, by vested interests in the country, to demounce Gandhiji, to underplay his contribution. I do not mind appreciating, praising others. So many people have tried in different ways for improving the whole lot of the weaker-sections. Dr. Ambedkar is also a great figure, a legendary figure. He was the main person who had drafted the Constitution of India, a great legal luminary, social reformer; he himself was a dalit. He had suffered inch by inch, bit by bit since his birth, the agony of untouchables. But, at the same time, it is really a crime to demounce, to underplay the immense contribution of Gandhiji, the Father of the Nation.

I give one instance here. Gandhiji visited Puri, the seat of Lord Jagannath in Orissa in the late 1920s together with his wife, Kasturba Gandhi. He started from there his *pad yatra*. He had also gone there for Harijan *pad yatra*. Several times, he had gone to Orissa. Once, while in Puri for a religious lady like Kasturba Gandhi, it was difficult on her part to resist the temptation of paying a visit to the Jagannath Temple and had a *darshan* of Lord Jagannath. He sought the permission of Gandhiji. Gandhiji said, "No." He did not allow her to have the *darshan* of Lord Jagannath. The reason was that since Harijans were not allowed inside the Jagannath Temple, why should she go there? We would not go inside the temple.

In spite of that mother Kasturba could not resist the temptation and she cultivated guts within herself to go without the knowledge or permission of Gandhiji. The attraction of Lord Jagannath was so much that on that occasion she defied Gandhiji and she went there together with a Sevadal worker. But Gandhiji could know about it. The consequence of that was so disastrous that husband and wife used to talk to each other about that for several years. This glorified example indicates in volumes the sympathy, the feelings, the heart Gandhiji had for the dalits.

Today our objective naturally is growth with social justice. We have to achieve in our economic development and at the same time we have to pursue such policy that it would ensure social justice, i.e. balance in the society. Increasing imbalance has got to be curbed, that trend has got to be arrested so that the people belonging to different sections, that means poorest of the poor also get the benefit of the freedom, get the benefit of the economic achievement that we are having since independence. In that direction our policy has got to be formulated and implemented in right earnest.

In this regard we have taken a number of steps. We have provided reservation and we are having so many programmes or schemes. It is not that they are not giving us the result but a lot more is yet to be done. Here I want to say that the increase in population at galloping speed also creates problems for us.

Here the most important thing is education. If right type of education is provided, it goes a long way in eradicating the problem of untouchability. If somebody is highly educated, he gets a good Government job. Even the boys of 'swarna' category or belonging to the higher caste or Brahmin boys come and serve in the kitchen of Harijan officers. As IAS officer has Brahmin boys as his cooks.

So it is education which destroys or demolishes this barrier of untouchability, this difference between touchable and untouchable. Looking at the poor conditions of the weaker sections of the society, along with education other facilities like food, clothing, books, etc. should also be made available to them.

Coming to the economic side, as this is an agricultural country, our people are laborious, they do menial work and in the absence of job opportunities in their native places, they have to travel far off places in search of livelihood.

Anna Chinta Chamatkara, there is a problem of

food and anything may happen any time. A hungry man is an angry man and a youth who is angry hungry may do anything or even commit any crime also. Even today we find that when educated boys of good families, of highly placed officers, do not find jobs they also commit crimes.

Increasingly this is happening today. So, job opportunities have got to be provided.

Our country is basically an agricultural country. There is concentration of land. Although we are implementing land reforms in different States, there is no sincerity on the part of several State Governments in implementing the provisions of land reforms in right earnest, in letter and spirit. So, this concentration of land has also got to be broken and land reforms should be implemented in a proper way. Also the surplus land should be distributed to these people. Something needs to be done. When we distribute the land which is not suitable for growing any cereals, that does not really mean anything in terms of fighting out poverty. We have to apply our mind to that aspect also. And in such land, there should be collective forestry, social forestry on a cooperative basis. Something like that has to be done and that could be taken on a commercial basis.

I would request the hon. Minister to apply his mind on one other point also. On record, we find many places, a large chunk of land is occupied by Adivasis near jungles, in the periphery of reserved jungles but these places are shown in the map as reserved forest land. Indeed there is no trace of any forest there. But on record they are forest lands and thus lakhs of tribal people all over the country are continuing as encroachers and they are being exploited by the revenue officials. Potash is not given to them. Let us have a practical approach. You cannot drive them away, you cannot get them evicted because for decades they are continuing there and on record, it has been recorded as forest land. In Arovar, there is a bar and they are being disturbed very often. And when they pay something, when they grease the palm of the officials, then they can continue there. It is a nuisance, which is going on regularly. It is a continuous nuisance. I would request the hon. Minister to take it up before the Cabinet and also in the appropriate forums and apply the Government's mind to have a permanent solution once for all from a practical stand point. This is one suggestion.

About agricultural land, some allied irrigation benefits should be arranged.

As regards power, Sir, you know, particularly the people in Harijan *bastis* are untouchables from time immemorial and they are outside the main *basti*. Under the Rural Electrification Programme, when we supply power to the main village, in many cases we leave these Harijan *bastis*, which are slightly away from the main *basti*. We have some schemes on priority such as one bulb scheme's or 'Harijan *basti* scheme'. But looking at the magnitude of this problem, what we have done is very little, insignificant and, therefore, this also has to be done. When we visit these people—Sir, this must be your experience also during elections or otherwise also, they are telling that though power and bulbs are there in their main village, they still remain in the dark.

Sir, this is something which is agitating their mind. And for everything, these days, you know Sir, power i.e. electricity, holds the key to development. Power has a hold in any thing like handloom, handicraft. If electricity is there, we can provide improved instruments. Yes, if power is there, Sir, in DRDA scheme, this scheme and that scheme, there will be a difference. There will be a remarkable difference.

Sir, I am closing. I have given a word also that I will not take much time.

Sir, in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa, I have found that professionwise, next to agriculture and land, handloom comes to picture. A large chunk of people engaged in this handloom weaving are from Harijans. They belong to Scheduled Castes. Sir, now handloom sector is neglected. There is a problem. These people are suffering because of imitations etc. Something has got to be done there also as to how we can provide, improve and modernise this handloom sector. If it needs to be modernised, the other benefits should be given to the people who are depending on weaving for livelihood. They are being disappointed now. They are becoming jobless. They are turning to other jobs like agricultural labour which they cannot cope up. Throughout life they are doing something else because of this handloom sector.

Sir, lastly, so many schemes like anti-poverty schemes which are being implemented and are meant to benefit the SCs and the poor section of people, are not properly implemented. The purpose is getting defeated.

Another thing I would like to mention is about drinking water. Sir, even you do not find drinking water in some areas, but there is no dearth of country liquor and liquor *mouli*. There is no dearth of that. Even, Sir, in hot summer, in the drought hit areas, there are serious complaints of scarcity of water. There are complaints of acute water shortage. But on the other side, some people do work where relief work will be going on. By relief work or some projects, they get some wages. They straight away go to the liquorwala and liquor shops. On the one hand, we give them something and on the other hand, through this

process, we take it out. Sir, what does happen ultimately? It is that poor woman in the house waiting for the gentleman to come with some wage, instead of getting money from her husband, gets threatened. She is assaulted and inhuman treatment is meted out her. And on the other hand, whatever she earns out of doing some domestic work here and there, she has to manage the household. This is the situation in regard to so many families everywhere. So liquor is the enemy of weaker sections and poor classes.

Sir, Gandhiji once said that drinking of liquor is a crime much more heinous than prostitution. Gandhiji in his own words said in his writings in the *Harijan* and other publications that drinking habit, *madhyaburna* etc. is a more heinous crime than prostitution. Sir, in today's context also, this is relevant. And when we talk of different schemes for the batterment of these down-tordden *dalits*, let us see to it that prohibition is there and not only in namesake but in real terms. Now in certain States, there is no prohibition. But starting from the Minister to the officials, nobody is sincere. They are concerned with their own money that they get from this illicit business etc. That is why even in areas, where prohibition has been declared, this sort of spurious liquor claims a large number of lives.

Therefore, in right earnest, prohibition should be implemented in the country, particularly in the tribal dominated Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes areas.

With these few suggestions, I thank you once again for having given me this opportunity to participate in the Debate.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The discussion on this subject is over today and the reply will be made by the hon. Minister tomorrow.

The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow.

1856 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, December 9, 1994/Agrahayana 18, 1916 (Saka).