

[Prof. Narain Chand Parashar]

vide for the establishment of a permanent Bench of the High Court of Himachal Pradesh at Hamirpur.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a permanent Bench of the High Court of Himachal Pradesh at Hamirpur."

The motion was adopted.

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: I introduce the Bill.

PENSIONS (REGULATION) BILL*

SHRI ATAL BEHARI VAJPAYEE (New Delhi): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for regulation of pensions to Central Government pensioners.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for regulation of pensions to Central Government pensioners."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI ATAL BEHARI VAJPAYEE: I introduce the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Uttamrao Patil . . . Not present.

15.33 hrs.

BLIND PERSONS (EMPLOYMENT) BILL—Contd.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now we take up further consideration of Blind

Persons (Employment) Bill moved by Prof. Madhu Dandavate.

Shri Mool Chand Daga to continue.

श्री मूलचन्द डागा (पाली) :
उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, हम श्री मधु दण्डवते जी की इस बात के लिए प्रशंसा करते हैं, वे प्रशंसा के पात्र हैं, कि . . .

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You have already taken 7 minutes. Now you have to conclude.

श्री मूल चन्द डागा : बड़ी मेहनत कर के, बड़ी निष्ठा के साथ, उन्होंने जो बिल रखा है, उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, आप ने भी उस को देखा होगा, वह जरूर पारित होना चाहिए या उसका संकुलेशन होना चाहिए—मेरी ऐसी राय है। आज विश्व के अन्दर 45 करोड़ ऐसे आदमी हैं जो विकलांग हैं और हिन्दुस्तान में हिन्दुस्तान की सरकार ने जो फिगर्स दी हैं उस के अनुसार 4 करोड़ 6 लाख आदमी विकलांग हैं। उन्होंने यह भी बतलाया है कि हिन्दुस्तान में 90 लाख के करीब ऐसे लोग हैं जो दृष्टिहीन हैं, 2 लाख 30 हजार ऐसे लोग हैं जो दृष्टिवोष के शिकार हैं, जिन को कम नजर आता है। इस विकलांग वर्ग में आप ने जो बिल पेश किया है—इस में दो बातें मुख्य हैं। पेश करने की भावना क्या है? विकलांग आप से दया नहीं मांगता। वह अपनी मांगों के साथ अपने जीवन का अधिकार मांगता है, स्वाभिमान के साथ वह रहना चाहता है। वह यह नहीं चाहता कि आप उस पर दया करें। उन के साथ सहानुभूति होनी चाहिए और इसीलिए माननीय सदस्य ने यह बिल पेश किया है और मैं इस बात को

अच्छा समझता हूँ। अगर हम लोग, हिन्दुस्तान के इन 90 लाख लोगों को रोजगार में लाना हों, तो हम वेम की बड़ी सेवा करेंगे और एक अच्छा काम करेंगे क्योंकि हिन्दुस्तान की जो संस्कृति है, जो उस की परम्परा है, जो उस का धर्म है, वह हम को ये सारी बातें बताता है। अभी इन को नौकरी नहीं मिलती है और अगर इन को नौकरी मिल जाती है, तो बहुत ज्यादा अच्छा उपयोग उन का हो सकता है।

एक बात मैं मधु बंडवले जी से यह कहना चाहता था कि उन्होंने जो बिल पेश किया है, उस में कुछ ऐसी बातें हैं, जिन के बारे में मैं कुछ कहना चाहता हूँ। ऐसा बिल उन्होंने बनाया है, जिस के क्लस बनाने में एक साल लग जाएगा। इस में उन्होंने जगह जगह पर और बहुत सारी क्लोजों में लिखा है "एज प्रेस्क्राइड"। तो इस में कितना खर्च होगा और किस तरह से दृष्टिहीन व्यक्ति नौकरी प्राप्त कर सकता है। इस तरह की चीज रखने से तो एक पाबन्दी सी लग जाती है। इस बिल में यह नहीं बताया गया है कि कितनी उम्र का आदमी नौकरी पाएगा?

प्रो० मधु बंडवले (राजापुर) : चाइल्ड लेबर नहीं हो सकता।

श्री मूलचन्द डागा : वह नहीं हो सकता है, माना, लेकिन यह नहीं बताया कि कितनी उम्र तक के दृष्टिहीन आदमी को आप नौकरी देंगे? क्या 40 साल के आदमी को आप सर्विस देंगे और सर्विस देने का तरीका क्या होगा? इस में लिखा है कि एक रजिस्ट्रार होने चाहिए। वह क्योंकि

अलग अलग रजिस्ट्रार होंगे, इसलिए एक चीफ रजिस्ट्रार होना। फिर कंजिशन डायरी गई है

There will be a board of doctors.

डाक्टरों का बोर्ड बैठेगा और वह सर्टीफाई करेगा कि यह आदमी दृष्टिहीन है, यह अपनी आंखों से देख नहीं सकता है। एक बोर्ड बैठेगा

That will be a special board. और

बोर्ड बैठने के बाद अगर कोई डिस्प्यूट रह जाए उस के अन्दर That will be decided by the Govern-

ment. तो यह जो आप ने तरीका अख्तियार किया है, दृष्टिहीन लोगों को नौकरी दिलाने का तरीका क्या अख्तियार किया है, इस में सारा उस को नौकर-शाही के अन्दर बांध दिया है और फिर आप ने यह क्लॉज दिया है :

'A blind person for registration under this Act may make an application..'

पहले-पहल अंधे आदमी को एप्लीकेशन देनी पड़ेगी और वह फार्म क्या होगा?

That will be prescribed. किस

फार्म में क्या बातें होंगी? आखिर आप जानते ही हैं कि कानून एक मकड़ी का जाल है और कोई भी आदमी इस के ऊपर नहीं आ पाता। मैं तो ऐसा समझता हूँ कि आप जितने ज्यादा कानून बनाएंगे, उतना ज्यादा जनता से दूर होंगे और जितने कम आप के कानून होंगे, उतनी जनता के पास होंगे।

[श्री मूलचन्द डाग]

'A blind person for registration under this Act may make an application to the Registering Authority within whose jurisdiction he resides in such form and in such manner as may be prescribed'.

यह तो एक्ट में होना चाहिए था लेकिन आप इतने सारे रुस्स बनाने के बारे में सोच रहे हैं।
Now, what is that manner? 'In such form and in such manner'—what is that form? The form will be prescribed by bureaucrats or you will delegate the power to them.

यह तो आप एनेक्सचर में लगा देते। ऐसा फार्म बनाएंगे और उस में वे कहेंगे एक एप्लीकेशन दो। ब्लाईन्ड आदमी कहां से एप्लीकेशन देगा और कैसे मैजिस्ट्रेट से सर्टीफाई कराएगा?

"(2) On receipt of an application under sub-section (1), the Registering Authority may cause such inquiries to be made..."

Then, Sir, I wish to draw your attention to Clause 7, sub-clause (2) which says:

"On receipt of an application under sub-section (1), the Registering Authority may cause such inquiries to be made as it deems necessary and if it is satisfied that the applicant is a blind person it shall register his name in a register and issue him a certificate of registration in the prescribed form."

यह कितना लम्बा प्रोसीजर है। उसको क्या पावर है, वह क्या इन्क्वायरी करेगा? वह इन्क्वायरी करने के बाद एक सर्टीफिकेट इस करेगा।

Now, on receiving that application the Registrar will cause an enquiry. A blind person comes with an application and the Registrar will send for an enquiry. Further, the enquiry will be instituted in the manner he deems proper.

अब एक प्रोसीजर बना दिया है। अंधा कितनी जगह घूमेगा? वह जो नेत्रहीन हो गया है, उस को आप ने इतना घुमाया है। दंडवते जी अंधों से सहानुभूति तो बहुत रखते हैं लेकिन मेरी समझ में इतना घुमाने का कारण नहीं आया। क्या आप उस को परिक्रमा कराना चाहते हैं और वह भी इतनी लम्बी-चौड़ी? हमारी अम मंत्री जी जब उत्तर देंगी तो यह सब बतायेंगी। पहले तो वह रजिस्टर्ड हो जाए अपनी रजिस्ट्री करा ले। उस के बाद, उसकी इन्क्वायरी हो। फिर नोटिफिकेशन निकलेगा यह सारी बातें हैं।

Then Section 10:

"As soon as may be after the receipt of the notification of the vacancies under section 9, the Registering Authority shall furnish a list of blind persons registered with it,"

After that it is provided:

"No employer shall reject a blind person on the ground that the cannot perform a particular job unless so certified by a Board of Experts."

So, we find that the experts come in and the doctor comes in.

मधु दंडवते जी ने एक बहुत अच्छा शब्द पकड़ लिया है कि कोई भी क्लाइ हो उस में लिख दिया है कि एज में बी प्रेस्काइड।

"The Appropriate Government shall appoint a Board of Experts in

such manner as may be prescribed

It shall be appointed in such manner as may be prescribed.

मैं तो कहता हूँ कि आप भ्रष्टे को नौकरी दिलाइये लेकिन आप कह रहे हैं....

"The Appropriate Government shall appoint a Board of Experts in such a manner as may be prescribed which shall, in each case, determine whether a blind person can perform a job with the help of modern aids.

The decision of the Board of Experts shall be final and binding —...."

नि यह आप कहते हैं। इसके कहने के बाद आप मुझे कह दिया—तो। सर गवर्नमेंट, सेटिस्काई नहीं है, वह चेलेंज करती है....

"The Central Government or the State Government, as the case may be, shall give an unemployment allowance of three hundred rupees per mensem...."

अब आप कहते हैं कि तीन सौ रुपये एक भ्रष्टे को मिलें। बहुत अच्छी बात है, अगर तीन सौ रुपये भ्रष्टे को मिलता है और मिलना चाहिए। लेकिन हिन्दुस्तान के बारे में आप जानते हैं, हमारे शास्त्री जी को भी ज्ञान है। क्या यह तीन सौ रुपये पोसिबल हो सकते हैं? जिस के यहां कोई कमाने वाला नहीं है आज भी हिन्दुस्तान में उसको 60 रुपये देते हैं। मेरे ज्वाल से हर राज्य में पेंशन देते हैं। कोई राज्य ऐसा नहीं होगा जिस में कि यह व्यवस्था न हो। कोई भावनी गुनाह करेगा तो उस को 6 महीने की सजा

या दो हजार रुपये जुर्माना होता है तो वह कौन देगा? इस सेन्सन को आप पढ़िये...

Further, it is not provided that an employer who contravenes shall be punished. Will it be a summary or a warrant trial? By whom will be be punished?

इस में आप प्रोसीजर के चक्कर में भी लोगों को डाल रहे हैं। आप कहते हैं....

Where an offence under this Act has been committed by any Department of Government the head of such Department shall be deemed to be guilty of the offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished.

आप मंत्री रह चुके हैं। आप के विभाग में घाटा और इसके बाद आपने लिख दिया :

Provided that nothing contained in this section shall render the head of such Department liable to any punishment under this Act....

दोनों का क्या मतलब है? एक तरफ आप सजा देने की बात कहते हैं हैड आफ दी डिपार्टमेंट को और फिर कह रहे हैं कि अगर उस ने गलती नहीं की है तो न मिले। आप चाहते हैं और चाहते भी नहीं। अब आप देखें कि कौन सजा को मान लेगा? गवर्नमेंट का प्रादनी इनक्वायरी कर के इस तरह की बात कहेगा? फिर इस तरह के न हमारे पास साधन हैं और न लीगल एड दू दी पूधर की बात हो पाई है। डायरेक्ट बात आपको कहनी चाहिए थी।

अभी प्राइम मिनिस्टर साहिब ने विकलांग बर्ग के अन्दर पर एक बात कही थी। मैं उस का रेजोल्वेंट पोरबन पढ़ कर सुनाना चाहता हूँ।

[श्री मूल अर्थ शोध]

The Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi has issued directives to all the Central Ministries and Departments for the identification of jobs for the physically handicapped persons including the blind.

The directive is a result of Mrs. Gandhi's deep concern over the unsatisfactory employment position of the physically handicapped persons, particularly the blind, despite several concessions granted for their rehabilitation.

In accordance with the Prime Minister's directive, each Ministry and Department would appoint a Liaison Officer of the rank of Deputy Secretary.

There would be quarterly assessment sent to the monitoring cell being set up in the Labour Ministry for keeping a close check on the effective implementation of the reservation orders for group 'C' and 'B' categories of jobs.

अम मंत्री जी जब जबाब दें तो बताएं कि इसकी अनुपालना हो रही है या नहीं? फिर क्या उनके हाथ में यह चीज है? सितम्बर, से ले कर अब तक आठ नौ महीने हो गए हैं। आठ नौ महीनों में कुछ पैदा होता ही है। इन नौ महीनों में आपने कितने आदमियों को नौकरियां दे दी हैं? एग्जिक्यूटिव मिनिस्टर बैठे हैं, ग्रामीण पुनर्निर्माण मंत्री बैठे हैं, मकवाना साहब बैठे हैं, इन्होंने कितने लोगों को दे दी हैं? केवल उपदेश और भाषण ही नहीं होने चाहिए। उनका इम्प्लीमेंटेशन भी होना चाहिए।

मैं दंडवते जी को धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ कि उन्होंने कानूनी रूप से सरकार को पाबन्द करने की कोशिश की है। बहुत मेहनत कर के यह जिन बिल पारित हैं। लेकिन इस में बहुत सी गलतियाँ बाँट हैं, बहुत ज्यादा इन की प्रभाव

की कोशिश की है। इस से ये लोग बों ही थक जायेंगे।

देश के अन्दर बच्चे भी बहुत ज्यादा भ्रष्ट होते हैं। विटामिन की कमी के कारण सरकार के आंकड़ों के अनुसार पच्चीस हजार बच्चे हर साल भ्रष्ट हो जाते हैं। हम समाजवादी कल्याणकारी राज्य की बात करते हैं, वेलफेयर स्टेट की बात करते हैं। वेलफेयर स्टेट केवल भ्रष्टाचारों में बड़े बड़े भ्रष्टाचारों में छाप देने के लिए बात नहीं होनी चाहिए। फोटो निकाल देना, अध्यक्ष बन जाना, एक दो भ्रष्टों को एकत्र करके फोटो खिचवा लेना, किसी को बैसाखी दे देना काफी नहीं है। दिल से काम होना ही चाहिए। धनी नहीं होना चाहिए। कानूनी संशोधनों को मान कर उनको लागू करना चाहिए और सक्ती से उनको अमली रूप देना चाहिए और अथर न मानना हो तो वैसा कह देना चाहिए। उपदेश देते रहने से, आश्वासन देते रहने से, सब्ज बाग दिखाते रहने से, कुछ होने वाला नहीं है।

प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा है कि हर एक डिपार्टमेंट को अपनी फिंगर्स देनी पड़ेगी कि कितने भ्रष्टों को आपने नौकरी दी। वह भ्रष्टे जरूर होते हैं, लेकिन उनको ज्ञान होता है। तो आपको भी ज्ञान मिल जायगा और भ्रष्टाचार भी दूर हो जायेगा। भ्रष्टों के सामने कुछ दे भी लोभे तो देखोगा नहीं।

श्री० मधु बंडवले : सिविल सप्लाय विभाग में सब से कम नौकरियाँ दी गई हैं।

श्री मूल अर्थ शोध : आपने बहुत प्रश्न पूछे हैं इस विषय पर लेकिन मैं आपकी कठिनाई की। जहाँ तक संभव

बिल बनाकर माननीय बंधवते जी ने रखा है उस से मान्य होता है कि आप धर्मशास्त्री ही नहीं बल्कि कानून के भी ज्ञाता हैं। हमारी श्रम शक्ती जी बैठी हुई है इनका दिल तो नरम है, देखते हैं कि आप कितने धर्मों को नौकरी देती हैं। हमारे निर्माण और आवास मंत्री भी बैठे हुए हैं वह बताएंगे कितने धर्मों को आपने नौकरी में रखा। जो मिनिस्ट्री नौकरी नहीं देती उसके लिए आप क्या करने जा रहे हैं, इतना बता दें।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: If every Member of Parliament takes a vow that in his tenure period of 5 years, at least he would get an employment to a blind, using his influence, there would be at least 500 blinds who would be getting employment in 5 years.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: This excludes political blind people.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am doing it in my Constituency.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA: I am very thankful to you, Sir.

SHRI XAVIER ARAKAL: (Ernakulam): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity so that I may be able to share the views of this House. Sir, the Statement of Objects and Reasons have very categorically stated that the blind persons in particular deserve special consideration. This Bill has to be viewed from a background of our country which has the largest number of blind persons in the world. There are about 9 million blind people in this country and about 5 million people are suffering from cataract. The magnitude of this problem has been clearly brought out by the hon. Member, Prof. Madhu Danda-

vate in his introductory speech. I would now like to refer to another important point, which we cannot deny. Now about 12,000 children below the age of 12 go blind every year. Why do they go blind every year? The reason for this is that there is a lack of intake of vitamin 'A'. We should address ourselves and to our conscience irrespective of the party affiliations, as to why this kind of situation is prevailing in this country. Every year about 12000 boys and girls below the age of 12 go blind because of the lack of intake of vitamin 'A' and 30 per cent of the people below the age of 21 becomes blind because of lack of consumption of nutritious food. These are the facts which we cannot deny. It is most unfortunate that there are about 9 million people who are blind in this country. Referring to the statistics, I find that 10 per cent of the Indian population are suffering from disability. That means nearly 68 million people are disabled. This would mean that there is a great set back in the vast population of our country. It is said that poverty is the greatest handicap through which these people have to undergo their life in this country. The mover of this Bill seeks to give 3 per cent employment for these people. Going through the statistics, I find that only 3500 blind people have registered themselves for employment. Out of that number only 1230 were able to get jobs. Just imagine, out of nine million blind people, only 3500 registered themselves for employment, and only 1230 blind people got the employment. What is our policy? Where do we stand? That is why, I say that this Bill is very timely and important to awaken the conscience of this country. How do we treat the blind and disabled in this country? We have miserably failed to cope with this human problem.

I understand there are three Ministries which are concerned in this matter, that is, the Ministry of Health

[Shri Xavier Arakal]

and Family Welfare, Ministry of Education and Social Welfare and the Ministry of Labour. I do not know how many other departments are involved in this. Is it not a time to have a coordinated effort in this matter? I would like to know from the Government, how do they coordinate their efforts in relation to this matter.

Various seminars were held recently, in Delhi, Madras and other places to consider the problems of blind people. I have gone through the proceedings of those seminars and I find that they have highlighted four problems which face these people. One is the lack of training schools. I put a question to the hon. Minister, how many training schools are there at the primary level and the high school level for the blind. How many such schools have we put up in our country? The second problem which they have very clearly and very rightly pointed out is the lack of teaching aids. Recently, in the budget a provision has been made for this, but I would like to know what is the assistance given by the Central Government in obtaining teaching aids for these people. They require a special kind of teaching aid instruments and we are short of them. Do we manufacture them here? What is the method of supplying them? What is the method of obtaining them? Which are the agencies handling these things? We would like to know all this.

The third and the most important problem which they have highlighted is the lack of qualified staff in this matter. We do not have enough—not even enough—I would say no qualified staff at all compared to the magnitude of the 9 million blind people in this country. We do not have the qualified hands. Do we have a training school for them? How many training schools are there for the teachers to undergo training to train

the blind people? This is a serious matter which requires immediate consideration by the Government.

Another important point which these seminars have highlighted is the poor amenities at the hostels, food and other items. We are very miserably treating these people, as inhuman people or sub-human people, when it comes to the matter of food and other amenities. These are the four problems which I put forward in this House and which the various seminars have highlighted in the recent months. I must express a word of thanks to the various charitable and welfare institutions which have thankfully, without expecting anything dedicated themselves in this field. This House cannot bypass the contribution made by these charitable and welfare institutions in this country. Where the Government and other profit-motive agencies do not care, they are to enter. These self-less institutions who love humanity more than anything else have to come forward for this work.

16 hrs.

Referring to my own State, I am proud to mention about one institution specially. If I don't mention, I think I will be failing in my duty. Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I am also involved in the work for these blind people. This institution, Little Flower Eye Hospital of Angamali has done a great service to the blind of Kerala. Dr. Tony Fernandes, an eminent ophthalmologist, has done a tremendous job in this field. We are proud to say that they have done a tremendous job in this field to the credit of humanity. They are the ones who care for humanity and the sufferings of the people. It is worth going to see that hospital.

PROF. N. G. RANGA (Guntur):
Tirumala.

SHRI XAVIER ARAKAL: Tirumala temple authorities have done it.

There are various institutions here. Sir, when we have the eyes, we do not have the value of the eyes. Those who have the limbs do not appreciate the value of limbs. While God has given us this sight, he has made us blind in our hearts. I shall put it like that. Dr. Tony Fernandes, an eminent Ophthalmologist, has done a tremendous job in this field.

One suggestion that I would like to make is that more vocational training centres should be opened. I know that this Bill, as Mr. Daga has put it, is not going to do too much, but it has done a great deal to open the mind and eyes of this House and the public in regard to this problem. If we mean seriously to do something for these people. I suggest sufficient vocational training centres should be opened. In 1974, there was an integrated scheme, but it was a failure. Has the Government learnt anything from that scheme? I put that question. I don't know which Minister is there to answer. More vocational training centres have to be opened in our country. I understand that only 125 training schools are there in our country for the High School blind people. That is not enough. This is the time when we have to set apart a considerable amount for this purpose.

Sir, I know you have given me enough time. I would like to mention about a letter written by the Prime Minister to the President of the International Federation of the Blind somewhere around 17-3-1981 in which our Prime Minister has categorically stated that the blind and the disabled will be looked after properly and all the considerations will be given to them. We are proud to say that this Government is aware of the problems and is sincere in its efforts to do something for the blind in this country. Therefore, our Prime Minister has very clearly expressed her dedication to the welfare of the blind in this country. With these words, I request the Government earnestly to endeavour and try its

best to help those who are blind—but not blind in their heart.

I will now acknowledge a thankful remark which I have received from the Blind Association of Kerala, for whom I could obtain some concession from the hon. Finance Minister, to import a machine. They have said: "We are blind for the outside world. But we are not blind inside, not to see the goodness of other people." That should be our motto. We should not be blind in our hearts, while we have the eye sight. Those who don't have eye sight, are not blind in their hearts. Let us go forward and help these disabled people of our nation.

PROF. N. G. RANGA (Guntur): I want only half a minute. I would like to place on record, the sense of great gratitude I have for Dr. Modi. I am sure the House will also join me in expressing our gratitude to Dr. Modi, the famous doctor who has conducted thousands of operations, removed cataracts and blessed them by restoring to them their God-given sight.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD (Hingoli): A few more names should be added. He has mentioned only Dr. Modi.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Are you not going to speak later?

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: I am going to speak; but we have to add a few more names.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: They can be added. Now Shri Sudhir Giri.

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI (Contai): I have been listening with rapt attention to the points made by the hon. Members. Blindness is the most terrible disability that a human being can get. It is the most shocking ailment of mankind. To a man who has not got the gift of sight, it is the most terrible misfortune in the world. That is the reason why Prof. Madhu-

[Shri Sudhir Giri]

Dandavate has brought this Bill. I praise him from the core of my heart, and I praise him for the most sincere efforts he has made to make the bill most comprehensive.

If blind men were to be given employment, it would add to the working force of our country. I have something to say about the thing which have fallen short in the Bill. First of all, whenever there is a talk of employment to be given to the blind, only the enlightened among the blind will get this opportunity. Blind people living in the villages will not get this opportunity at all, because they are so poor, illiterate and surrounded by superstitions. As such, they will not be able to come forward and get their names registered, as proposed in the Bill. Therefore, I suggest that the total economic aspects of the country should be reviewed so that the blind people living in the villages can get an opportunity of getting their names registered with the Registration Office as proposed in the Bill.

In the case of employment, we have found that the private sector employers do not give priority to the appointment of these disabled persons. So, there should be a proper machinery and this machinery should be made effective so that the private sector employers are compelled to get the blind people employed. In the public sector, generally the posts are filled up as are kept reserved in those employment offices.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: If you have solved this problem in West Bengal, you should tell those things here. It will be very helpful. heart has no limit.

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI: You know best of all that the State Government has its limit, monetary limit.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: But heart has no limit.

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI: Hearts are there not only for the blind people but for the wretched people also who are living in the country side. Most probably you are not aware of those people, but we are aware of them, because we come from the villages. (Interruptions) I think he is not aware of them. Had he been aware of them, he would have resorted to a different political economy.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Every one is from a village in our country.

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI: Most of us in this House have no relation with the village people. They go and purchase votes in the villages; they spend money for this purpose, but they do not do for the upliftment of the village people who live below the poverty line. As per the Planning Commission 48.5 per cent of the total population live below the poverty line in spite of our freedom achieved 34 years ago. How is it? So; I am compelled to remark this way. Please do not take it otherwise.

I have some suggestions to make. The first suggestion is that not only the reservation should be made for them in the Government or public sector offices but there should be training opportunities for the blind people. Those who are not educated, those who have not got any kind of opportunity to get themselves registered, should be given training; they should be made to learn how to earn for themselves. For this purpose, there is a proposal for a co-operative in West Bengal in a particular area for the blind people so that those blind people can get employment and earn their bread and butter. So, small scale industries and artisan work should be there and training should be given to these blind people for earning their bread and butter.

In this connection, I would like to emphasise the role of the banks and other financial institution. These banks lend money to the big rich people. If they are compelled to give some loan to some voluntary

organisations, then those voluntary organisations can create some jobs for the blind people. That they can do. And I feel that the Bill should have taken into consideration this aspect. Again, Prof. Dandavate had said that there should be a marginal board to issue certificates in respect of the blind persons who want to be enrolled in the unemployment registers. But in 1978 it was found in Delhi that some doctors of the Jaya Prakash Narain Hospital issued some certificates to some persons who were not disabled but the certificate mentioned that they were disabled and on the basis of that those people, who were not disabled, got employment in offices. So, care should be taken that such things do not occur and those who are not disabled do not get registered in employment registers.

Prof. Dandavate would not have been required to bring forth this Bill if our economy would have been socialist. Some of our leaders speak of socialism. Even our Constitution has been amended. The Preamble has been amended to include the word "socialism". But what about socialism? In the socialist countries such Bills need not be introduced at all. Because, provisions are there, employment opportunities and rights are guaranteed in their constitutions themselves. So, I say that the Labour Ministry, alone would not be able to cope with this vast problem, but different Ministries of the Government would have to be engaged for this purpose and if the total economy is changed towards Socialism, then we can cope with these problems.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD (Hingoli): I welcome the Bill introduced by Prof. Madhu Dandavate. I would have been extremely happy had he also said that there should be reservation for the physically handicapped also. Ours is a country, you can say, which only talks as far as the people—the blind people—are con-

cerned. So far, I thought that the total number of the blind people in this country is almost 40 lakhs, but my learned friends have enlightened me. I am told that the number is not 40 lakhs but it is almost one crore or so—more than 90 lakhs. This particular section has completely been neglected by us. Only in the beginning of the twentieth century some social workers in this country thought of educating the blind people. Bombay was one of the States which took the lead in that and we started Blind Schools with the result that today we have almost 175 Blind Schools imparting education in the three R's and also training centres which are training people in different vocations. I will also mention that there are certain agricultural training farms for blind farmers; the biggest one in Asia is in Phansa in Gujarat. The percentage of the physically handicapped including the blind is very high in rural areas and that is why I would suggest that we should take care that more Blind Schools are opened in rural areas. But unfortunately in this country, it is an urban concept. We were the first people 20 years ago in a far remote corner of Maharashtra to open the first blind school for the villagers in a village called Budhri. May I tell you from whom I got the inspiration? It was from Dr. Rajendra Vyas, who became blind at the age of 11. He was the son of a great doctor of Bombay. He did not only his B.A. but also his M.A., L.L.B. and also Ph.D. He has been working zealously to the satisfaction of all the blind people. Today he represents the blind in the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind. That is why I thought, when Prof. Ranga mentioned something about Dr. Modi, must mention Dr. Rajendra Vyas, because he has been working zealously for the betterment of the blind people.

There are different reasons for blindness. The biggest one is deficiency of Vitamin A, as Mr. Daga described. The second one is small

[Shri Uttam Rathod]

pox, which we have eradicated. The third is, ophthalmic disorders.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Lack of vitamin A was mentioned by Mr. Arakal.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: I am happy about it. Though we have eradicated small pox, still the number of blind people is not on the decrease. That we will know very shortly when the census figures appear. I suggest that Vitamin A tablets should be distributed more generously through the hospitals established in the rural areas. I was told by Dr. Kapur, who was Director of Sitapur Eye Hospital, which had a Chain of hospitals throughout UP, that our Government is not cooperating with the same spirit which they expect. I was shocked to hear it. The Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind wants to give us vitamin A tablets and they want the Government hospitals to distribute it. But we are not doing that properly. Why? I want that the Government should take steps to distribute these medicines.

As far as employment is concerned, we are told there are 18 employment exchanges opened by the Central Government. In addition to that, there are some bureaus which are working on behalf of the National Association of the Blind. The total number of registered people is supposed to have been about 5000. These are the educated people. But what about uneducated people who are adults roaming in the streets begging? Can we not do something for them? We have passed a law which prohibits people from begging. But are you going to give anything to them in return or not? That is why suggest that we should first go to the villages and see that the first cause of blindness is removed and then to see that they are trained in the 3 R's and some vocational training is imparted to them, after which they may be given some employment.

As far as employment is concerned, there are two groups. One is known as sheltered institutions where the blind are given free boarding and lodging, they are asked to work and they are given some money for pocket expenses. Another group is known as Free Employment. It is here that the Government has to come to the rescue of the blind people. We have seen that the Central Government has done something. I do not say they have done nothing. When I was a Minister, even the Maharashtra Government passed a resolution, an executive order, that 3 per cent seats should be reserved for physically handicapped and blind people. But these are executive orders. Nobody can challenge the officers in a court of law. What is the ultimate result? Can you imagine? There is one Dr. Diwakar from Nagpur, who was throughout first class first. He is a physically handicapped person who got gold medal for his MS. He went to London and did his FRCs. When he was operated, unfortunately he was paralysed. He came back to India and requested the Government. "I may be given some job because I want to work." I also tried, but to my utter shock, I was told by the Director that these executive orders are meant only for Class III and Class IV jobs. This man who stayed in the hospital, did his MD in Radiology. Still the Government of Maharashtra could not provide him some job. When Dr. Nikan who was Professor in Plastic Surgery, became blind, he was continued in the job. It was found that he was most efficient as a doctor. The students also found him most competent. Not only that. I did not quote about Milton, Surdas or for that matter Dr. Taha Hussain, the man who became blind at the age of three. He was imprisoned by the Egyptian Government for writing something critical of the Quran. The same person was put in charge of the Education Ministry by Col. Nassar. It was he who raised the budget not only of education they may be given some employment.

from 3.5 lakh pounds to 44 million pounds. They are capable people. We have to realise and put them to use. That was done by the West after the Second World War when they found that so many soldiers had become either blind or physically handicapped. They thought that they should be given some training in vocation and their services utilised. I met one Mr. Mc Fallender who was blind. He was a soldier during the Second World War.

From the West we have taken this concept. I would only suggest that we have to go much ahead. Really they do not want any pity. Stephen Zweig had done it in 20s by writing 'Beware of Pity' and 'A letter from an unknown woman'. This aspect has to be realised. We should provide them facilities for Class I and Class II posts also which they have done in one case i.e. in the case of Lal Advani. But then he was asked to go back. I do not know why. Now, he is serving in the Dehra Dun Institute. (Interruptions)

16.29 hrs.

[SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI in the Chair]

Lastly, I would say that this executive order should be changed. There should be a statutory provision providing reservation of seats not only for the blind but also for the physically handicapped. I will request hon. Madam to please reserve some seats in Class I and Class II posts.

I remember one more case in Maharashtra. Mr. Wade Gaonkar did his LLB from Nagpur University. He could not be provided a job by the Nagpur University. Ultimately it was the Bombay University which provided him a job after considering his merit. Now it is the Jawaharlal Nehru University which calls him as Visiting Professor. He gives lectures on International Law.

4400 LS—12

Lastly, I hope the House will forgive me if I take another three minutes, just to quote Milton's *On His Blindness*. Milton became blind at the age of 40. He wanted to become a missionary, a priest, but he could not. When he became blind, he wrote;

When I consider how my light is spent, Ere half my days in this dark world and wide, And that one talent which is death to hide Lodged with me useless, though my soul more bent.

To serve therewith my Maker, and present My true account, lest He returning chide, "Doth God exact day-labour, light denied?" I fondly ask. But Patience, to prevent

That murmur, soon replies, "God doth not need Either man's work or his own gifts. Who best Bear his mild yoke, they serve him best. His state

Is kingly; thousands at his bidding speed, And post O'er land and ocean without rest; They also serve who only stand and wait."

श्रीमती कृष्णा साहू (बंगलूर) :
जो नेत्रहीनों और विकलांगों के सम्बन्ध में विधेयक पेश हुआ है वह आज के समय में मानवीय, सामाजिक और मनोवैज्ञानिक दृष्टिकोणों से बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण है। मैं प्रो० मधु दंडवते जी की भावना से सहमत हूँ। विकलांग अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय वर्ष हम मना रहे हैं। ऐसे समय में इस विधेयक का महत्व और भी बढ़ जाता है।

म आंकड़ों में जाना नहीं चाहती हूँ। पूर्व वक्ताओं ने आंकड़े दे ही दिए हैं। हम सभी जानते हैं और सहमत भी हैं कि विकलांगों और विशेषकर नेत्रहीनों की समस्या बड़ी जटिल है। लेकिन दंडवते जी का जो विधेयक है वह ब्यूरोक्रेसी का इस तरह का माका

[श्रीमती कृष्णा साही]

जाल है जिस में अगर नेत्रहीनों को फसाया जाएगा और वे इन सारे प्रोसेसिस के माध्यम से जाना चाहेंगे तो निरुत्साहित हो जाएंगे। इस लिए इसको सहूल बनाना चाहिए था।

विकलांगों और विशेषकर नेत्रहीनों को कानूनी सुरक्षा तो मिलनी ही चाहिए। जैसे परिवार में जो सम्पत्ति होती है सम्भूमन देखा जाता है कि जो नेत्रहीन होता है या विकलांग होता है, उस को उस से वंचित कर दिया जाता है। यह नहीं होना चाहिए। जो असामाजिक तत्व हैं, सड़कों पर जो नेत्रहीन जाते हैं, वे उन पर कोई पत्थर फेंक देते हैं या उनको परेशान करते हैं। इस पर भी रोक लगनी चाहिए। सरकार का और समाज के लोगों का यह उत्तरदायित्व होना चाहिए कि वे उनकी सुरक्षा का प्रबन्ध करें।

वायो साइकोलोजी में कम्पेंसेटरी बिहेवियर का नियम है। देखा गया है कि जो जन्मांध होते हैं उन में कुछ विशेष गुण होते हैं। उन में जन्मजात कुछ गुण होते हैं। कोई कोई तो बहुत अच्छा संगीतज्ञ होता है। कोई बड़ा अच्छा कवि होता है। अगर ऐसे गुण न होते तो हमारे समाज में सूर पैदा नहीं हुआ होता। मिलटन का भी अभी जिक्र किया गया है। वह पैदा नहीं होता। सूर किसी कालेज में नहीं पढ़ा, वहां जा कर उस ने डिग्री हासिल नहीं की लेकिन कृष्ण के बारे में जो लिखा, बाल सुलभ भावनाओं को ले कर लिखा, वह सब जन्मजात गुणों का द्योतक है। उनकी जो भावनाएं थीं जिन को उन्होंने सारे संसार के सामने प्रकट किया, उसका कहीं उदाहरण नहीं है। उसका उदाहरण नहीं है। कृष्ण के

बालपन का जो सूर ने वर्णन किया है किस तरह मक्खन खाते हैं और किस तरह अपनी माता यशोदा से रुठते हैं और मिलटन ने जो पैरेडाइज लोस्ट और पैरेडाइज रीगेन्ड लिखा है यह उनके अभूतपूर्व गुणों को दर्शाते हैं, यद्यपि वह ग्रंथ थे। अभी भी हमारे बच्चों में कितने सूर और मिलटन हैं जो भागे जा कर वह स्थान प्राप्त कर सकते हैं यदि हम उनको वैसा बनाने की सुविधा प्रदान करें। टीक है नियम और कानून के घेरे में तो बांधना ही है, लेकिन साथ, साथ समाज के दृष्टिकोण को भी बदलना होगा। हमें देखना होगा किस प्रकार इनको समाज के एक उपयोगी नागरिक बनाते हैं। हम उनको अपने समाज में स्वीकार कर के तब सिखायें। उनकी जो संदिव्य ज्योति है उस से भी कुछ हमको ग्रहण करना चाहिए और जो उनके हृदय की भावनाएं हैं उसकी कद्र कर के अपने समाज और परिवार में उनको उचित स्थान देना चाहिए।

एक बात और कहना चाहती हूं कि जो महिलायें होती हैं वह मर्दों पर अपनी रोजी रोटी के लिए निर्भर करती हैं, लेकिन अगर कोई महिला अंधी हो जाती है तो उसकी डबल डिपेंडेंस हो जाती है। उसको समाज और परिवार के लोग एक प्रकार से बहिष्कृत समझते हैं। मैं अम मंत्राणी जी से कहना चाहती हूं कि महिलाओं के लिए उन्हें कुछ विशेष प्रयोजन और नौकरी की व्यवस्था करनी चाहिए, उन के लिए नौकरियों में आरक्षण देना चाहिए, जैसे नर्सरी स्कूल या कला के क्षेत्र में उनको आरक्षण मिलना चाहिए ताकि वह बच्चों की देखभाल कर सकें। मेरे क्षेत्र में राम सुमिरन शिल्प शाला है, जब म जाती हूं और छोड़े-छोटे नन्हें मूने बच्चों को देखती हूं और वह बच्चे जिनकी

अपने मां बाप का प्यार नहीं मिला, वह बच्चे इतने सुन्दर और कलात्मक प्रवृत्तियों से भरे हुए हैं कि देख कर आश्चर्य होता है। सुन्दर सुन्दर काठ के खिलौने बनाते हैं, पेन्टिंग करते हैं। अभी हाल में वहां एक नाटक का प्रदर्शन हुआ था जिस में उन्होंने अपनी रचनात्मक भावनाओं को दिखाया कि देश को आगे बढ़ाने में किस तरह से नागरिकों का सहयोग होना चाहिए, उसे देखकर मैं दंग रह गई। मंत्री महोदय से मेरी मांग है कि उस संस्था को वह भ्रान्त दें। इस और मैं विशेष रूप से ध्यान इसलिए आकर्षित कर रही हूं क्योंकि वह संस्था अपने ढंग की एक है और ऐसा कर के समाज के सामने एक उदाहरण पेश कर सकते हैं।

हमारी सरकार इस समस्या की ओर सजग है, और प्रधान मंत्री ने अक्तूबर और नवम्बर में बार-बार कहा और एक मानीटोरिंग सैल की स्थापना हुई मैं नहीं जानती उसका प्रतिवेदन प्राप्त हुआ कि नहीं, लेकिन श्रम मंत्री जी देखें कि वह प्रतिवेदन अभी तक क्यों नहीं प्राप्त हुआ है, और उसके अनुरूप कार्य करना है। केन्द्रीय मंत्रालयों के सारे विभागों को आदेश दिया गया है। कितने महीनों हो गए, अभी तक उसका कार्यान्वयन नहीं हुआ है। मैं जानना चाहती हूं कितने लोगों को अभी तक नौकरी दी गई है? शायद एक, दो लोग ही होंगे। मुझे खुशी है कि पी० एंड० टी० विभाग ने निर्णय लिया था कि विकलांगों को नौकरी दी जाएगी। उसी तरह से सभी विभागों को इस दिशा में ठोस कदम उठाना चाहिए।

इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं आपको अन्धवाद देती हूं।

श्री हरिकेश बहादुर (गोरखपुर) : मान्यवर, पहले तो मैं आपको धन्यवाद देता हूं कि आपने मुझे तुरन्त बोलने का मौका दिया, और उसके बाद मैं माननीय दंडवते जी को धन्यवाद देता हूं और बधाई कि उन्होंने इतना अच्छा बिल सदन के सामने पेश किया। आज इसकी आवश्यकता थी क्योंकि अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय विकलांग वर्ष चल रहा है जिसमें क्लिंग पार्टी की सरकार ने, जिस दिन वह दिवस था उसी दिन अंधों की पिटाई की थी जो एक शर्मनाक और दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण घटना है। ऐसी स्थिति में इस बिल का लाया जाना बहुत ही आवश्यक था, माननीय श्री दंडवते जी ने इस बिल को ला कर बहुत बड़ा काम किया है। मैं नहीं समझता कि इस सरकार के मन में मनुष्यता, मानवता के प्रति कोई आदर है।

श्रम मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती राम बुलारी सिन्हा) : कुछ नहीं है, सब कुछ आप ही के पास है ?

श्री हरिकेश बहादुर : जिस दिन विकलांगों का अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय दिवस मनाया जा रहा था, और अन्ध लोग प्रधान मंत्री जी के पास जापन देने के लिए मिलने जा रहे थे तो पुलिस ने उन्हें बुरी तरह पीटा।

श्रीमती राम बुलारी सिन्हा : यह बिल्कुल गलत बात है।

श्री हरिकेश बहादुर : यह अलग बात है कि कुछ कम ही लोगों को चोट आई हो। इतना ही नहीं, अगर अंधों की सारी समस्याओं का इन्होंने समाधान कर दिया होता, तब तो इन्हें आवश्यकता होती कि कुछ और लोगों को अन्ध बनाया जाये। कुछ ऐसा करते जो ठीक था, लेकिन अन्धों की सारी की सारी समस्याएं ज्यों की त्यों ही पड़ी हैं, जहां तहलूक देश में अन्धे भटक रहे हैं शिक्षा मांग रहे हैं फिर भी कांग्रेस पार्टी की सरकार ने भागलपुर में

[श्री हरिकेश बहादुर]

कैदियों को अन्धा बनाने का कार्य किया है ।

आज दुनिया के अन्दर कुल 30 मिलियन अन्धे लोग हैं और केवल हमारे देश में ही उनकी संख्या 9, 10 मिलियन के बीच में है । इतने लोगों की समस्या है, उसका कोई समाधान आज तक नहीं हो पाया है, फिर भी कुछ और लोगों को अन्धा बनाने का क्या मतलब है, इसको माननीय मंत्री जी को सदन के सामने स्पष्ट करना चाहिए । माननीया मंत्री जी मेरी बात को ध्यान से सुनें ।

श्रीमती रामबल्लारी सिन्हा : आपकी तो मैं खूब सुनती हूँ ।

श्री हरिकेश बहादुर : इन 9, 10 मिलियन अन्धे लोगों में से केवल साढ़े 3 हजार लोगों का रजिस्ट्रेशन हुआ है जब के लिए, उसमें से भी केवल साढ़े 12 सौ के करीब नौकरी पा सके हैं, बाकी सब बेकार हैं और अपने जीवन में तरह-तरह की यातनाएं भुगत रहे हैं, यहां तक कि बहुत से अन्धे लोग भिक्षा मांगते हैं कुछ भोजन के लिए । समाज में क्योंकि वह भिक्षा मांगते हैं, इसलिए हेय दृष्टि से देखे जाते हैं । उनको भिक्षा भी नहीं मिलती है, और उनकी दुर्दशा हो रही है । इन सभी समस्याओं को ध्यान में रखते हुए सरकार को कारगर उपाय लागू करने चाहिए ताकि इन्हें रोजगार प्राप्त हो सके ।

मैं सरकार से इस बात के लिए अनुरोध करूंगा कि अन्धों के प्रशिक्षण के लिए, उनकी ट्रेनिंग के लिए अधिक से अधिक स्कूल खोले जायें । अन्धों के अन्दर एक विशेष प्रकार की प्रतिभा होती है, उंगलियों से छू कर वह पढ़ सकते हैं कि क्या लिखा हुआ है । एक अन्धे व्यक्ति के बारे में

मैं जानता हूँ कि वह उंगलियों से छू कर वस्तुओं के रंग बता सकता है कि कौन सा रंग है । इसी प्रतिभा उनके अन्दर छिपी होती है । इसी प्रतिभा को उभारने की आवश्यकता है । यही कारण था कि सुल्साद और मिस्टन का नाम लिया गया है जो कि बहुत अच्छी ब्याख्या चीजों की कर सके हैं । यह इस बात को स्पष्ट करता है कि एक प्रतिभा अन्तर्निहित होती है, जिसका उद्घाटन करना आवश्यक है । यह तभी संभव होगा कि इस तरह के प्रशिक्षण के स्कूल खोले जायें ।

हमको तो एक बात की और संभावना है कि बहुत चीजों की कल्पना हम नहीं कर सकते हैं । ऐसा भी हो सकता है कि अगर हम अन्धों को प्रशिक्षित करें तो वह कल्पनातीत कुछ खोज कर लें और उसमें पूरी मानव-जाति का लाभ हो सके । यह खोज बहुत आवश्यक है । इसलिए अन्धों के प्रति विशेष व्यवस्था की आवश्यकता है । जहां कहीं अन्धों के स्कूल आज हैं, वहां पर होस्टल अन्धे बनाये जाने चाहियें, लेकिन आज जो सुविधाएं वहां दी जाती हैं, वह बहुत ही खराब होती हैं । वहां खाने और रहने की अच्छी व्यवस्था नहीं होती है । इस लिए जहां कहीं भी इस प्रकार के स्कूल खोले जायें, वहां उन लोगों के रहने के लिए भी अच्छे आवास की व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए और खाने-पीने का अच्छा इन्तजाम करना चाहिए । सरकार को इस दिशा में काम करने की आवश्यकता है ।

जहां तक उनको रोजगार देने का सम्बन्ध है, यह तो सम्भव नहीं होगा कि हर किस्म की नौकरी में उनके लिए जगहें रिजर्व की जायें, लेकिन बहुत से काम अन्धे बहुत आसानी से कर सकते हैं । उन कामों के लिए अन्धे लोगों को प्राथमिकता देनी चाहिए ।

हमारे क्षेत्र में, गोरखपुर जिले में, एक आँखों का अस्पताल है, जिसका नाम

है सीतापुर आई हास्पिटल। इस अस्पताल ने पूर्वी उत्तर प्रदेश की बहुत सेवा की है और उसमें बहुत योग्य डाक्टर काम करते हैं। उन्होंने ऐसे बहुत से लोगों को फिर से ज्योति प्रदान की है, जिनकी आंखें खराब हो रही थीं और आंखों की ज्योति नष्ट हो रही थी। उन्होंने इतना अच्छा काम किया है कि सारे पूर्वी उत्तर प्रदेश में उस अस्पताल की विशेष रूप से सराहना की जाती है। असंख्य लोग वहां चिकित्सा कराने के लिए जाते हैं।

मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह भी अनुरोध करूंगा कि पूर्वी उत्तर प्रदेश के पिछड़े इलाके में यह जो हास्पिटल बना हुआ है, वह उसके विकास पर विशेष रूप से ध्यान दें, क्योंकि वह इस समस्या को हल करने में काफी बड़ा योगदान कर सकता है। वहां आधुनिक मशीनें लगाई जायें और सरकार की तरफ से उसको अधिक से अधिक अनुदान दिया जाए।

मैं सरकार से फिर निवेदन करूंगा कि अंधों के लिए रोजगार की विशेष व्यवस्था की जाये। मैं श्री दंडवते के विधेयक का पुनः समर्थन करते हुए आपको धन्यवाद देता हूँ।

श्री हरीश चन्द्र सिंह रावत (अल्मोड़ा): सभापति महोदय, मैंने अपने पिता, श्री हरिकेश बहादुर के भाषण का बड़ी गम्भीरता से सुना है। उनको सुनने से पहले मैं केवल दो प्रकार के अंधों के विषय में जानता था। एक तो जो जन्मांध होते हैं, और दूसरे, जो बाद में किसी प्राकृतिक प्रकोप के कारण अन्ध हो जाते हैं। लेकिन उनकी बात को सुनने के बाद मेरी समझ में चार प्रकार के अन्धों की बात आने लगी है। तीसरे जो प्रेमांध होते और चौथे, जो विरोध करने में अंधे हो जाते हैं। हरिकेश भाई कांग्रेस-विरोध में अन्धे हैं, अन्धया माननीय

श्री दंडवते ने एक मानवीय समस्या की ओर इशारा करने वाला एक इतना अच्छा बिल यहां पर रखा है, उसका वह राजनैतिक पुट देने की कोशिश न करते।

आज जहां विश्व में हमारी मानवता के कुछ हिस्सों में चांद तक और अन्तरिक्ष में जाने की होड़ लगी हुई है, जहां दुनिया के कुछ मुल्क अरबों अरब रुपये शस्त्रों को जुटाने और अधिक सुविधाओं को जुटाने में खर्च कर रहे हैं, वहां मानवता का एक बहुत बड़ा हिस्सा दरिद्रता, भूख और गरीबी में जी रहा है। मैं समझता हूँ कि हमारी अपंगता की समस्या—चाहे वह अंधा होने की अपंगता हो या कोई दूसरी अपंगता—देन है, विरासत है गरीबी और भूख की। हम देखते हैं कि विश्व के 43 या 45 करोड़ अपंगों में से अधिकांश लोग अफ्रीका, मध्य एशिया, लैटिन अमरीका, भारत और अडोस-पड़ोस के मुल्कों में हैं। ये वे मुल्क हैं, जहां गरीबी का साम्राज्य है।

इस समस्या को मूल रूप से हल करने के लिए जरूरी है कि हम अपनी गरीबी की समस्या को हल करें। हमारे गांवों और शहरों में अधिकांश जन्मांध या बाद में अंधे हो जाने वाले लोग उन्हीं परिवारों में पैदा होते हैं, जो गरीब होते हैं, जिन्हें अच्छा खाना नहीं मिलता है। मैलन्यूट्रीशन के कारण ही यह समस्या पैदा होती है। मैं सरकार से निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि कम से कम हमारी आने वाली पीढ़ी को इस समस्या का सामना न करना पड़े, इसके लिए जरूरी है कि हम न्यूट्रीशन की प्राबलम को हल करें। हमें यह प्रबन्ध करना चाहिए कि हमारे बच्चों को अच्छा खाना मिले, विटामिन्स मिलें।

दूसरी बात से लगी हुई समस्या यह है कि जो लोग अन्धे हो गए हैं उनकी समस्या का निराकरण कैसे किया जाय। मैं समझता

[श्री हरीश चन्द्र सिंह रावत]

हूँ कि माननीय दण्डवते साहब ने जिस समस्या की तरफ इशारा करने के लिए यह विषयक यहां पर रखा है, उस में उन का उद्देश्य सरकार को किसी तरीके से प्रतिबन्धित करने का नहीं है, उन के बिल की मंशा जहां तक मैं समझ पाया हूँ मात्र सरकार का ध्यान इस ओर आकृष्ट करना है कि इस मानवीय समस्या को हल करने के लिए सरकार को कारगर तरीके से युद्ध-स्तर पर कार्य करना चाहिए ।

अभी हमारे कई मित्रों ने जैसा कहा और मैं भी धन्यवाद देना चाहूंगा माननीय प्रधान मंत्री को और उन की सरकार को कि उन्होंने इस समस्या को बड़ी प्राथमिकता से हल करने के लिए कोशिश की है । इस के लिए माननीय योजना मंत्री जी ने संयोजकत्व में उन्होंने कमेटी का गठन किया है और प्रदेश की सरकारों को तथा केन्द्र के जितने मंत्रालय हैं उन को निर्देश दिया है कि अपंगों को अपने यहां रोजगार देने में वे प्राथमिकता से काम लें । लेकिन जहां हम इस के व्यावहारिक पक्ष को देखते हैं कि जो हमारी संविधान प्रदत्त आरक्षण की व्यवस्था है, कई सरकारें प्रान्तों की ऐसी हैं, अभी पिछले दिनों सदन ने उस पर विचार किया है, कई सरकारों ने जो संविधान प्रदत्त अधिकार थे लोगों के उन को देने से इन्कार किया है, उन को नहीं दिया है या उनको ठीक से लागू नहीं किया है, ता जहां हमारी मशीनरी ऐसे कामों को करने में कोताही बरतती हो वहां मात्र निर्देश देने से या प्रपत्र जारी करने से वे इस काम को कर देगी, इस में मुझे बड़ा संदेह है इसलिए अम मंत्री जी से मेरा निवेदन है कि सरकार को इस मामले में गहराई से विचार करके कुछ इस तरीके का प्रावधान करना चाहिए ताकि प्रत्येक विभाग के लिए यह जरूरी और लाजिमी हो सके कि वह अपने यहां

अपंगों को रोजगार दें और जिस विभाग में अपंगों को रोजगार न मिले उस के जो विभागाध्यक्ष हों, साल के अन्त में या उस के लिए कोई डेड लाइन बना दी जाय कि इस समय तक जो अपने यहां इतने लोगों को रोजगार न दें उनको दण्डित किया जाय । जब तक हम इस तरीके का प्रावधान नहीं करेंगे तब तक मैं समझता हूँ कि हम कितना ही यहां पर कहें, कितना ही इस के लिए मंशा जाहिर करें, इस से कोई मामला हल नहीं होगा ।

दूसरा निवेदन मैं सरकार से यह भी करना चाहूंगा कि जो हमारे अपंग हैं उन को ट्रेनिंग देने का उत्तरदायित्व सरकार को चाहिए । बहुत कम अर्धे या इस तरीके के विकलांग लोग ट्रेनिंग लेने के लिए आगे आ पाते हैं क्योंकि उन के पास इतना पैसा नहीं होता है, वे गरीब होते हैं, तो सरकार को इसे अपनी एक जिम्मेदारी मान लेनी चाहिए कि हम इस तरह के अपंगों को ट्रेनिंग देंगे, उन को इस लायक बनाएं ताकि उन को यह महसूस न हो सके कि हम किसी तरीके से घटिया दर्जे के लोग हैं । एक तरफ प्रकृति ने उन के साथ ज्यादती की है, इसलिए सरकार को उन के दुख को बंटाने में उन के साथ सहयोग करना चाहिए ।

एक और निवेदन है कि सरकार को अपंगता के लिए इंश्योर करना चाहिए । जो अपंग पैदा होते हैं सरकार उन को इस बात की गारण्टी करे कि उन को हम किसी न किसी रूप में रोजगार देंगे और किसी न किसी रूप में उन के जीवन-यापन की समस्या को हल करेंगे ।

इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि माननीय दण्डवते जी का जो बिल है, हो सकता है उस में बहुत सारी टेक्निकल खामियां हों और शायद माननीय दण्डवते जी खुद अपने बिल को वापस ले लें,

लेकिन उन्होंने अपने बिल के माध्यम से जो हमारा ध्यान खींचने की कोशिश की है इस मानवीय समस्या की तरफ, उन की उस मंशा के साथ मैं अपनी सहमति प्रकट करता हूँ ।

SHRI P. K. KODIYAN (Odoor): I also join the other members in congratulating Prof. Dandavate for having brought this Bill which is very timely and which has been brought, I think, with a limited purpose of providing employment to the blind people of our country.

I would appeal to the Hon. Minister to accept this Bill since the Government has failed to bring forward a legislation for protecting the interests of the blind people despite the fact that in the meeting the Labour Minister had held last year in the month of August with the representatives of the National Federation of Blindmen it was recommended that their interests should be protected through enactment of a law. What I understand is that the Ministry of Education and Social Welfare, which was asked to prepare a Bill for the purpose, had set up a Working Group, and the latest information is that the Working Group's Report is still awaited. In this background, whatever limitations Prof. Madhu Dandavate's Bill might have, it is a welcome and timely measure which the entire House would support, and Government should have no objection to accept it.

So many hon. Members have referred to the wider problem of the blind men, the problem of their proper training and their proper upbringing. Some hon. Members had referred to the blind people in the villages. I should say that, out of the ten million blind people in our country, the majority are illiterate because they are living in villages. Even if

the provisions of Prof. Madhu Dandavate's Bill are implemented, there is not much scope for these illiterate blind men living in villages to get any sort of employment. So long as they remain illiterate and ignorant, they have no hope, they have to remain as destitutes. Millions of blind men in our country are living as destitutes and as beggars in cities. We are seeing them every day.

Coupled with this problem of blind people, there are millions of other categories of handicapped people. Considering the problem of blind men and other handicapped people in our country, the task before the country, as well as the people is so enormous that it should be tackled on a national plane. While supporting Prof. Madhu Dandavate's noble venture, I would request the Government to consider this problem as a national issue and set up a national-level machinery to tackle the problem in its entirety. I would suggest setting up of a National Board to go into the problem of the handicapped people, including those who are illiterate, to give them training, etc., because it is not merely a question of providing employment to those who are qualified among them, educationally or vocationally, but it is a question of providing them education and training when a vast majority of them are not qualified today to do any job and there is a dearth of training centres in our country to equip them for life. Therefore, the question of giving training to these handicapped people, including the blind, has to be taken up on a national plane, and the National Board representing the various Ministries which are involved in this—the Labour Ministry, the Education Ministry, the Health Ministry and also the Finance Ministry and voluntary agencies should give the necessary guidance. All these various Central Ministries should come together and work in this national Board in a co-ordinating manner to solve this problem on a national plane.

17.00 hrs.

[Shri P. K. Kodiyan]

I would request the Government to provide more workshops, sheltered workshops for these blind people where they can be given some training and they can be provided with some gainful employment like toy-making as one hon. Lady Member has suggested or any such kind of job. I would request the hon. Minister to pay more attention to this problem of giving them training and giving them job outside the Government Departments and outside the public sector and private sector enterprises because the scope of employment in various Departments of the Government as well as the private and public sector projects is limited. That is why I am requesting the hon. Minister to pay more attention to this problem of giving training to these people and also providing workshop for them to provide jobs.

With these words I once again commend Prof. Madhu Dandavate's Bill and I hope it will be supported by the entire House.

श्री रामबिलास पासवान (हाजीपुर) : समापति महोदय, इस बिल के सम्बन्ध में बहुत सी बातें कही जा चुकी हैं। प्रो० दण्डवते जी तथा कुछ अन्य सदस्यों ने जैसा कहा है कि जितनी नीतियाँ इस सम्बन्ध में बनाई गई हैं, यदि उन का सही ढंग से कार्यान्वयन हुआ होता तो आज वह स्थिति न होती जो इस समय है। मैं मंत्री महोदय और सदन की जानकारी के लिए बतलाना चाहता हूँ कि आज विभिन्न राज्यों में विभिन्न श्रेणियों की नौकरियों में बिकलांगों के लिए आरक्षण है। आन्ध्र प्रदेश में आप ने बिकलांगों के लिए 3 प्रतिशत आरक्षण है, गुजरात में 4 प्रतिशत, हिमाचल प्रदेश में 3 प्रतिशत जम्मू-काश्मीर में 3 प्रतिशत, महाराष्ट्र में 3 प्रतिशत, उड़ीसा में

1 प्रतिशत, राजस्थान में 2 प्रतिशत, त्रिपुरा में 2 प्रतिशत, पश्चिम बंगाल में 2 प्रतिशत उत्तर प्रदेश में 2 प्रतिशत, चण्डीगढ़ में 3 प्रतिशत, दिल्ली में 3 प्रतिशत, गोवा-दमण-दीव में 3 प्रतिशत, पाण्डिचेरी में 3 प्रतिशत, कर्णाटक में 2 प्रतिशत, हरियाणा में 3 प्रतिशत। हर प्रदेश में आरक्षण है, लेकिन इन से पूछा जाये कि इन नीतियों का कार्यान्वयन कितना हुआ है? मैं समझता हूँ—मंत्री महोदय हम को अपने जबाब में बतलायेंगे कि कितना कार्यान्वयन हुआ है।

इस बिल में प्रोफसर साहब की मंशा यह है कि केन्द्रीय सेवाओं में भी आरक्षण किया जाय। मैं देख रहा था—आप ने दो बार बैठक की है प्रधान मंत्री जी ने भी नेत्र-विहीनों के फंडेशन के साथ बैठक की थी और इस सदन में आश्वासन भी दिया गया था कि हम उन के लिए बहुत सारी चीजें करने जा रहे हैं, योजना बना रहे हैं। श्रम मंत्री जी की अध्यक्षता में 5 अगस्त को बैठक हुई, उस के बाद 14 अगस्त को बैठक हुई। निजी क्षेत्र के मुख्य नियोजकों के साथ बैठक हुई—इतना सब होने के बाद भी परिणाम कुछ दिखाई नहीं दे रहा है, उनको कहीं भी रोजगार नहीं मिल पाता है। आप चाहें तो जो नीति बना लीजिए, लेकिन नीयत साफ़ नहीं होगी तो उस को रोजगार देने के कोई ठोस उपाय नहीं निकल सकेंगे। अभी मैंने आप के सामने स्टेट्स की फिगर्स पढ़ कर सुनाई, जितने भी सरकारी विभाग हैं, यदि प्रत्येक अपनी-अपनी जबाबदेहीँ सम्भाल लेता तो बिकलांगों और नेत्रविहीनों की समस्या का काफ़ी हद तक निपटारा हो गया होता।

अभी डिप्टी स्पीकर साहब केयर पर थे। उन्होंने कहा—यदि एक-एक एम० पी० एक-एक आदमी को लेते तो 500 लोगों की समस्या का समाधान हो जायगा। लेकिन

एम० पी० क्या करेगा, क्या उन को स्टेनो रख लेगा ? हां, यह हो सकता है कि अगर एक एम० पी० दो अंधों के लिए आप को लिखे और आप इतना यहां कह दें कि हम उन से अंधों को नौकरी दे देंगे, तो हम लोग इस को मानने के लिए तैयार हैं

अध्व संवालय : राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती रामकुमारी सिन्हा) : आप भी तो कुछ कीजिए ।

श्री राम विलास पासवान : हम क्या कर सकते हैं, बोलिये ।

श्री रामावतार छास्त्री (पटना) : आप साधन दीजिए, सब होगा ।

श्री राम विलास पासवान : हम तो इतना ही कर सकते हैं कि जो प्रशिक्षित अंधे हैं, उन को आप की नालिज में ला दें । आप को बता दें कि ये मैट्रिक पास हैं, प्रशिक्षित हैं लेकिन सब से बड़ी बात तो यह है कि नौकरी तो आप देंगी ।

इस में यह भी लिखा है कि जो सोशल वेलफेयर डिपार्टमेंट है, वे स्वेच्छिक संस्थाओं से कहें कि तुम हमारी मदद करो लेकिन अभी तक क्या किया गया है ? डब्लू० एच० ही० की रिपोर्ट निकली है और उस रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक यदि 20 पैसे प्रति बच्चे पर प्रतिदिन विटामिनों पर खर्च किये जाएं, तो वे बच्चे अंधे नहीं हो सकते हैं । एक तरफ जो अंधे हैं, उन को रोजगार देने की बात करते हैं लेकिन दूसरी तरफ प्रति दिन अंधों की संख्या बढ़ती जा रही है विटामिनों के अभाव में और पोष्टिक पदार्थों के अभाव में । क्या प्रति दिन 20 पैसे प्रति बच्चे के लिए आप व्यवस्था करने के लिए तैयार हैं । (बबबबब)

कहिए तो मैं बोल दूँ लेकिन बंदी बज रही है । बहुत सी पोस्टें हैं, जिन में उन को लगा सकते हैं । आप तो हम लोगों की नेता हैं और आप अपना योगदान भी दे रही हैं । हम लोग ऐसेम्बली में भी एक साथ थे । तो मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि जैसे एनाऊन्सर की पोस्ट है, केन-बीवर, संगीतज्ञ और लैंग्वेज आपरेटर का पद है, ये सारे पद ऐसे हैं, जिन में इन को लगाया जा सकता है और उन को आप काम दे सकते हैं ।

मैं आप से आग्रह करूंगा कि न इस पक्ष के लोगों को और न उस पक्ष के लोगों को यह मानने में कोई आपत्ति होगी कि उन लोगों की मदद की जाए, सरकार यह जरूर सोच सकती है कि मधु दंडवते जी का प्रस्ताव है, इस को कैसे मान लें और कैसे इन को क्रेडिट मिल जाए । इसलिए वह कोई दूसरा रास्ता निकालें । इस प्रस्ताव को मानने में किसी को कोई आपत्ति नहीं होगी और न होनी चाहिए लेकिन कम से कम आप यह तो कर सकते हैं कि जो आप के विभाग है, आपके विभिन्न विभाग हैं, उन पर आप कड़ाई कीजिए ताकि जो कानून आप बनावें, इस का इम्प्लीमेंटेशन हो, जो नीति आप बनावें, उस का पालन कड़ाई से करावें । इस देश में जो विकलांग हैं और जो नेत्रहीन हैं, उनकी क्या समस्या होती है, इस का पता इस बात से चल जाता है कि जब हम आखें बन्द कर लेते हैं तो

“मूँदहु आंख कतहु कुछ नाहीं”

आंख बन्द कर लीजिए, तो समूचे संसार में अंधेरा ही अंधेरा है, ऐसा मानूँ पड़ता है । इसलिए जो परमिनेट अंधे हैं,

[श्री राम विलास पासवान]

तो उनकी क्या दुर्गति होगी, यह हम और आप सभी जानते हैं। इसलिए मैं मंत्री महोदय से इतना आग्रह करूंगा कि जो नीति ब बनावें, उस को कड़ाई से लागू करावे।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं प्रो० मधु दंडवते के बिल का समर्थन करता हूँ।

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI-MATI RAM DULARI SINHA): Sir, the Government fully appreciate the sentiments expressed by the hon. Member, Prof. Madhu Dandavate, while moving this Bill.

Sir, I have also heard the speeches made by the hon. Members, Shri Daga, Shri Arakal, Shri Giri, Shri Rathod, Shrimati Krishna Sahi, Shri Harikesh Bhadur, Shri Rawat, Shri Kodiyan and Shri Paswan with great interest. Most of their suggestions relate to education and health. I have taken note of it and it will be sent to the concerned Ministries.

Like many other countries in the Asian region, India does not have an adequate and reliable data regarding the number of blind people in India. Some sample surveys have, however, been conducted by one or two agencies. But the estimate varies widely since the system adopted has also been different. The National Sample Survey of India has estimated that the blind population in India is one million and an in-depth study of the Indian Council of Medical Research estimates the blind population to be nine million. That comes to 90 lakhs.

In fact, Sir, Government are already seized of the problems of the physically handicapped including the blind and have already initiated a number of steps to promote employment opportunities for them.

Eighteen Special Employment Exchanges functioning in different parts of the country provide placement services to the physically handicap-

ped. The Live Registers of these exchanges account for roughly half of the 5,000 blind registered with all the exchanges in the country. Eleven Vocational Rehabilitation Centres assess their vocational and psychological needs and assist in their rehabilitation.

Sir, steps are also being taken to set up skill training workshops and rural extension services in some of these Centres during the Sixth Plan. Government have already issued orders reserving 3 per cent of the vacancies for the physically handicapped in Group 'C' and 'D' posts in the Central Ministries/Departments and in comparable posts in public undertakings, the quota set apart for the blind being 1 per cent. Sixteen State Governments and Union Territories, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tripura, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Chandigarh, Delhi, Goa Daman and Diu, Pondicherry, Karnataka and Haryana have also issued similar orders reserving 1 per cent to 4 per cent of vacancies for the physically handicapped. The progress of implementation of these orders in the Central Ministries/Departments and public undertakings is being monitored continuously for the blind. The desired in part-Ministries/Departments shows that on the 20th January, 1981, 745 blind persons were employed in the Central Ministries/Departments and Central public sector undertakings.

The Prime Minister desired in June, 1980 that vigorous steps need to be taken to promote employment opportunities for the handicapped, especially for the blind. She desired in particular that a quick and comprehensive survey should be conducted to identify jobs which the blind and the other handicapped could handle so that thereafter steps could be taken to absorb the handicapped in these jobs.

The Ministry of Labour have already published a booklet indicating Group

A' and 'B' posts against which the physically handicapped could be appointed, and a similar publication on Group 'C' and 'D' posts is in the press. Meanwhile a list of such posts has already been circulated to all the Ministries/Departments for their guidance.

All Ministries/Departments have been urged to appoint at least one blind person against a suitable vacancy by the end of February, 1981. Information received so far from five Ministries/Departments shows that 3 persons have already been appointed and 4 more are being appointed. Other Ministries are being asked to indicate the position early.

Orders have also been issued to the effect that the recanning of chairs in the offices of the Government of India should be entrusted only to the blind and that, where sufficient workload exists, a post of chair recanner should be created and filled by the blind.

Governments efforts for the rehabilitation of the physically handicapped have been intensified and extended in the context of the International Year of the Disabled. A National Committee consisting of the concerned interests has been constituted to draw up a National Plan of Action for the observance of the International Year of the Disabled. Minister for Social Welfare is the Chairman.

Three Working Group of this Committee are currently examining different aspects of the disabled, namely, employment, prevention and early detection of disability and education and skill development of the disabled child. In fact, the working Group on Open and Shed etc. employment and the one on Education of the Disabled have already submitted their reports. The first Group has recommended ways and means of promoting wage employment as well as self-employment among the physically handicapped. Other Group has recommended ways and means of increasing education and training opportunities for them.

The Ministry of Social Welfare have also set up a Working Group to examine how far legislative action can promote the economic integration of the handicapped and, if this be necessary, to formulate such legislation.

The hon. Member has referred to the need for development of aids to help the blind to function more effectively. There can be no two opinions about this. The House would be glad to know that the National Institute for the Visually Handicapped at Dehradun is engaged in research on technological innovations to help in finding new avenues for the blind and in promoting their employment in various sectors. The Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi has evolved a special Gadget which helps a blind person to operate a centre lathe machine, and a Gadget to help him to locate a broken thread on the powerloom. Another piece of equipment to make it similar for the blind to control a telephone switchboard is also being evolved.

The Dr. Rajendra Prasad Centre for Ophthalmology has also developed special magnifying aids for those with low vision.

The Ministry of Social Welfare provides grants-in-aid to institutions wishing to take up research, aimed at promoting the welfare of the handicapped and at evolving simple innovations for their gainful employment.

I have mentioned earlier that the Ministry of Labour have drawn up a list of Group 'C' and 'D' posts suitable for the physically handicapped and circulated the same to the Central Ministries for their guidance.

This list, I would like to add, also indicates, wherever necessary, the equipment that would enable the handicapped to function effectively in the specified posts.

For instance, the list indicates that the blind could function as Stenographers if they are provided with dictaphone and digital typewriters. They

(Shrimati Ram Dulari Sinha)

could be employed as Telephone Operators with small boards equipped with electronic beeps and embossed digits, and as Liftmen in lifts provided with digital controls.

Government are thus not only taking steps to tackle the problem of the handicapped, but also considering the question of the need and the feasibility of legislation covering the entire gamut of problems, relating to the economic rehabilitation of the handicapped, while the present Bill, moved by the Hon. Member confines itself only to the employment of the Blind. In these circumstances. I would request the Hon. Member to withdraw the Bill.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: (Rajapur): When I moved the Bill for the consideration of the House, I did it from purely humanitarian considerations. I did not intend to induct any political overtones in the discussion on the Bill.

Sir, I am happy to find that the spirit behind this Bill has been totally endorsed by all sections of the House.

There may be some difference of opinion about the bureaucratic device that has been suggested over here. When the Bill is to be implemented, what happens is this. The hon. Minister himself will realise that even when an executive order is issued by the Government, fortunately or unfortunately, the bureaucracy always comes in. In regard to the implementation of the executive order, some bureaucracy or other will be required. I am not against bureaucracy as such but I am only against bureaucratism. Some machinery has to evolved in this regard and that is what has been proposed in this Bill.

Now, Sir, another important aspect of the Bill is this. Some statutory machinery is provided to see that the miseries of the blind who constitute an important and major section of the total physically handicapped people are removed.

Sir, there is no assurance that whatever is decided upon will be implemented. Therefore I have suggested a penal provision. If the employer fails to comply with the requirement of the Bill, he will have to undergo imprisonment for 6 months or in lieu thereof he will have to pay a fine of Rs. 2,000. All these aspects are dealt with here.

Mr. Daga asked, why should there be so many machinery. Once you make it compulsory that the employer must provide jobs up to 3 per cent, disputes are bound to arise. That is why a Board of Experts is always found to be necessary. This machinery will help the Government out of the difficulty which may be faced by them. That is why provision has been made in the Bill for this Board of Experts to go into such matters.

Sir, after all, the blind persons have to be registered. Any one may come to the Minister and say, 'Sir, I am almost blind.' Immediately it cannot be taken for granted that he is blind and there should be some sort of registration, there should be some sort of Advisory Board and there should be some members of experts for this purpose. All the machineries have been suggested on the assumption that some sort of a Bill will be brought forward so that it would be passed into an Act. Therefore, all those provisions are necessary. I am not worried about the modus operandi, I am worried about the results. As some of the hon. Members have rightly pointed out that we, the Members of this House, are not at all worried about the modalities, we are not worried about the modus operandi. We are interested only in the results whether the results are produced by an executive order or by an Act or a Bill. They should produce the results. The blind man is not worried whether he gets a job because of the Bill that has been moved by Mr. Madhu Dandavate or he gets a job because the hon. Minister has executed an order. The blind man is not worried about whether he is a Congress-I Member or

a Member from the Opposition Party. All that he sees is the total darkness. For him it is irrelevant which political party wanted to take the credit for this. And I am the last man to build my politics at the cost of blind men, I can assure the hon. Members. Therefore, I am not worried whether the credit goes to me because I have brought forward this Bill. If an executive order is coming it is because of the consensus in this House, because of the sentiments expressed by all sections of this House and she anticipated this Bill. She is such a competent hon. Minister with a perspective planning that she could anticipate what would be the views expressed by various Members in this House. Therefore, she came out with a neatly prepared speech giving all the schemes. I am glad that she anticipated that there would not any difference of opinion in this House on this issue and therefore she came out with an exact report of whatever has been done. She has come out with statistics. But there is a little lacuna in the percentages that have been quoted. The percentages quoted are the percentages of jobs reserved in various States. She said that the percentages vary from 1 per cent to 4 per cent. But these are the percentages reserved for the jobs to be given to the physically handicapped and blind men are one section of that and it is not a small section. She said that it would be very difficult to find how many blind men were there. There are enough social institutions from whom particulars could be obtained. We are fortunate to have some hon. Members like Mr. Rathod in this House who are connected with the blind men institutions and the training centres. We have Members like Professor Ranga who are connected with a number of doctors and medical practitioners who are connected with this particular task and see that cataract is removed, they are operated upon and at least those who are potential blind men, should get some sight. There is enough statistics available. A rough statistics indicates that the blind population of the people in the entire world is 30

million and if I mistake not out of this the estimate of blind men in the country is about 10 lakhs next only to Egypt. That is the present position. Here is a problem as to how to offer jobs to the large section of the physically handicapped who happen to be blind men. It is not merely saying that the job will be offered to all the physically handicapped. That is why the blind men have formed a separate Association, a separate Federation. The national federation of blind men had a meeting with the Prime Minister of the country and I am happy to know that negotiations proceeded on good lines. I am told that some sort of understanding has been already arrived at thus averting their threatened strike and agitations. Their problems are being solved. We are a country where we always say that even the international disputes should be solved across the table. In that case, problems of the blind men can always be solved by sitting across the table, and, therefore, it would be possible for us to see that these problems are solved.

I have very carefully listened to the report that has been read out and the report of the work that has been done so far, by the hon. Minister. Of course, I am not fully satisfied with what has been done and the Members on that side will also not be fully satisfied. It was no less a person that hon. Shri Daga who himself asked a question to the hon. Minister that since the Prime Minister expressed her pious wish and desire that enough must be done for the physically handicapped, since the time she made the announcement, up to today what exactly is the report of the work that has been done in that particular direction. The report that has been read out is not a very substantial report. No doubt, the move is in the right direction. At least, it is in the right direction. Once it was said that in Mussolini's Italy, the trains were running in right time. The answer was that the trains were running in time, but they were running in the wrong direction. I would be happy if the train runs in the right direction.

[Prof. Madhu Dandavate]

Even if the speed is less or more, I am not much worried about that. Once you start moving in the right direction, provided it does not get derailed, it is likely to reach the correct destination. Therefore, I would be satisfied if through the executive order, this particular quintessence of the Bill is actually implemented. I would be satisfied that some concrete disciplinary action, some measures are taken against those who violate the executive order. Action is not always to be taken against employees, sometimes action is also to be taken against the employers, because there is no division like this that employers represent the quintessence of all ethics in life and employees represent all the sins in life. There is no compartmentalisation of virtues and vices like that.

The hon. Minister has referred only to the various Departments of the Government, but outside the sector of the departments of the Government and outside the public sector, there is a large private sector in this country. In my Bill, I have made a reference not only to the public sector and the Government departments, but to the private sector also. Why should it be the sole responsibility of the Government and the public sector only to provide jobs to the blind men in the country? The private sector wants all sorts of concessions during the budget; the private sector wants all sorts of incentives for growth and development, but has private sector no social obligation at all? And they have to admit that they have a certain social obligation. This is the land of Mahatma Gandhi, who told even the men in the private sector that even if they owned property, they should own it and act as the trustees of the common people. That is what Mahatma Gandhi told the men in the private sector in this country.

Should there be no obligation as far as the private sector is concerned? Your executive order will act only for the public sector and the departments

of the Governments, but what will happen to the private sector industries and private firms? That is a large sector. They must also be brought into the picture by some method. I do not insist that at one stroke here and now, everything must be done, but I am glad to find that the entire House is convinced. I must express my gratitude that when the discussion on this Private Member's Bill is going on, even veterans like Prof. Ranga and Panditji have remained present in the House. It is because of their keen interest. I have witnessed here that no matter whether one belongs to the opposition or the ruling party, all of them have expressed their sentiments.

We cannot forget the lessons of history. We have seen Surdas and Milton as also Bethovan. Bethovan was deaf, and other were blind. But even those people who suffered from these physical handicaps, who suffered from these human discrepancies, were able to give expression to their creativeness in life. Someone composed the best song, someone composed the best poetry, someone composed the best symphony in life. These are the expressions of creativeness by those who are supposed to be physically handicapped. Even the physically handicapped has certain urges in life. When properly expressed and when they get proper opportunity to express those urges they will be able to give proper vent to their creative ability. And that is what is going to happen provided the Government takes cognisance of the spirit of the Bill. I am glad that the Government has taken cognisance of the Bill that I have moved. I am not among those dogmatic men who insist that I must have a feeling that my Bill is either passed or thrown out. I do not want to take that dogmatic approach. I want to respond to the appeal that has been made by the Hon. Minister that on the basis of whatever she has said and on the basis of whatever you will be able to promise in the future and on the basis of whatever talks you will

be able to have with the National Federation of Blind. Sir, I would seek the permission of the House to withdraw this Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is an Amendment standing in the name of Shri Mool Chand Daga. I will now put this Amendment to vote. The question is:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by 30 June, 1961." (1)

The motion was negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you withdrawing it, Prof. Dandavate?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Yes.

I beg to move for leave of the House to withdraw the Bill to provide for employment to blind persons and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to withdraw the Bill to provide for employment to blind persons and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The Motion was adopted.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I withdraw the Bill.

RE. CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL

(Amendment of Article 326)

MR. CHAIRMAN: This Bill, the Constitution (Amendment) Bill (Amendment of Article 326), stands in the name of Shri George Fernandes. He has sent information that because he has gone in some meeting with the Prime Minister, he will not be able to move the Bill today.

He has requested that this Bill be moved next time. But the rule will look to that point.

17.32 hrs.

SMALL FARMERS ASSISTANCE BILL

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA (Tumkur): I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the grant of loans and various subsidies to small farmers, be taken into consideration."

Sir, the Objects and Reasons of my Bill are that at present farmers beset with financial difficulties are facing immense hardship in procuring loans to meet the cost of farming operations, in buying agricultural implements, improved seeds etc. and marketing their produce at a price commensurate with the cost of operation.

Sir, my intention in moving this Bill is that today 80 per cent of the population of the country is living in villages and their main occupation is agriculture. After the land reforms initiated by the Congress Government and that in most of the States where land reforms have taken place, a revolutionary change has taken place because of the distribution of lands to the small holders and also because of the opportunity to get the land titles registered in the names of the small farmers and tenants. Today in this country about 80 per cent of the farmers are small holders of land except a certain percentage of plantation crops where they have got more land because it comes within the purview of industry.

Sir, the basis of my argument is this. We have to see whether after the land reforms there are any adequate measures to meet these exigencies of small farmers. This is a point to be considered by this House.

Sir, this Bill was placed before the previous Lok Sabha, but its turn was not reached and it lapsed. Therefore, I am reviving it.