

RE: FAILURE TO CONSTITUTE  
LABOUR BENCH OF THE SUP-  
REME COURT

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): Sir, I am raising one urgent issue in which I am reflecting the feelings of all the trade unions on both sides of the House. Unfortunately, when three Judges of the Supreme Court tendered resignations on the supersession issue and the then former Chief Justice, Shri Sikri retired on the 2nd May 1973, there were four vacancies in the Supreme Court out of which only two vacancies were filled up by the Government. In addition to that, Mr. Justice Mukerjee has left the country and after the Supreme Court session started on the 16th July he is not available at all. Because of the inadequacy in the number of Supreme Court Judges, for which the Government is responsible, the Chief Justice has not been able to constitute the Labour Bench of the Supreme Court. The result is that hundreds of cases of labour, which are related to the issues of retrenchment, dismissals, wages, dearness allowance and bonus are pending and only cases of rich men are coming up. As justice delayed is justice denied, justice is being denied to the labour. I am voicing the concern of all the trade unions in this country belonging to all the trade union organisations. Though the Minister of Law and Justice is not present here, I would request you to draw his attention to this matter and request him to make a statement.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Sir, I support his contention. This is a grave matter. For years labour cases are pending. If the Labour Bench is not there, where are we to go?

MR. SPEAKER: How long can we go on like this? You take up the zero hour, you take up the lunch hour and now you are encroaching into Government business. Where will we end? There should be some proportion. What about the poor Speaker? You are torturing the Speaker.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: This is a matter affecting the trade unions in this country. Should I move a privilege motion on this?

MR. SPEAKER: I am not referring to you. I am referring to some others.

SHRI DINESH JOARDER: Sir, will you send my application to the Minister?

MR. SPEAKER: I will see what to do in this matter. Now everything that concerns the States comes up in this House.

14.19 hrs.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR  
GRANTS (ORISSA) 1973-74—contd.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up further discussion on the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Orissa).

14.19½ hrs.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI (Bhadrak): Sir, the Supplementary Demands in respect of the State of Orissa for the current year amounting to Rs. 179.97 lakhs.

This expenditure is to be incurred on various special welfare schemes. It includes the sinking of 35 tube-wells in the cyclone-affected districts of Balasore and Cuttack and salvaging of the cyclone damaged trees, rural health schemes etc. In the capital account there is an amount of expenditure of Rs. 26.70 lakhs for loan to co-operative societies.

While supporting these Demands, I would like to make some observations. I am very happy that the Government is providing a sum of Rs. 4 lakhs for sinking of 35 tube-wells in the cyclone-affected districts of Balasore and Cuttack.