

[श्री रणजीत सिंह]

होगा, अगर उसमें आपको कोई खामी लगे, कमी लगे तो आप उस वक्त उठा सकते हैं। आपकी जो भावनाएँ हैं मैं मिनिस्टर साहब को पहुंचावा दूंगी।

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदया, एक वाक्य कहना चाहता हूँ, मंत्री जी भी सुन लें। प्रधान मंत्री जी जर्मनी गए हैं और वहां वापसी हुई है। उसके साथ ही वास्तिक स्टेटस की रिकार्गनिशन की घोषणा की है। तो हाऊस यह अमेक्षा करता है कि एकाध दिन में वहां क्या हुआ है, वहां के हालात की हमको जानकारी दें। मैं इसमें यही कहूंगा कि प्रधानमंत्री से अनुरोध करें कि वह अपने दोरे की कुछ जानकारी और वास्तिक स्टेटस की रिकार्गनिशन के संबंध में हम लोगों को जानकारी दें, जिससे हम लोग लाभान्वित हों।

उपसभापति : हमेशा, जब कभी भी कोई प्रधानमंत्री बाहर के दोरे पर गए हैं, यकीनन वे आकर हाऊस के सामने बयान देते हैं। आपकी भावना उन तक पहुंचा दी जाएगी। Now, we will take up clarifications on the statement regarding report of the National Commission on Rural Labour. We have only three minutes.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal): Madam, we will seek clarifications after lunch. How can we seek clarifications within three minutes?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If the House agrees, I have no objection to it. All right.

The House stands adjourned till 2.30 P.M.

The House then adjourned for lunch at twenty-seven minutes past one of the clock.

The House re-assembled after lunch at thirty-three past two of the clock, The Vice-Chairman (Shri Shanke Dayal Singh) in the Chair.

CLARIFICATIONS ON THE STATEMENT BY MINISTER OF COAL RE SUBMISSION OF REPORT BY THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON RURAL LABOUR

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, the hon. Minister has mentioned about the Report of the National Commission on Rural Labour and the Bill is yet to be introduced. It is mentioned in the Report that 22 items are to be reserved for the handloom sector, but the textile industry challenged it in the court of law and got it stayed. So, is there any proposal under the consideration of the Government to include the reservation of items that are earmarked for handloom in the Ninth Schedule? ... (Interruption) ... Is there any proposal under the consideration of the Government to include the problems of handloom weavers in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution? In the Report of the Commission it is also mentioned that there should be pension for agricultural labour at the rate of Rs. 100 per month. What is the amount the Government wants to earmark towards disbursal as pension to be given to the agricultural and unorganised labour? It is also included in the Commission's Report that maternity leave for the unorganised labour should be incorporated. What is the attitude of the Government in relation to population, family planning measures and welfare measures? I would like to seek clarifications on these from the hon. Minister.

Sir, something is mentioned about the construction workers also in the Report of the Commission. There is no law to safeguard the interest of the construction workers. Does the Government propose to make or go in for any new legislation as far as the construction workers are concerned? Sir, as you know, due to disparity of income among the agricultural lab-

[Dr. Yelamanchili Sivaji]

ourers and other unorganised labourers there is inter-district and inter-state migration of labourers from one State to another State and from one district to another district during season and off-season and no statistics are available with the Government in regard to the migrating labourers from one place to another place. What are the steps the Government proposes to take to compile the statistics in regard to the migrating labourers and to safeguard their interests? What is the implementing agency or nodal agency to undertake all these things? What I mean to say is that the existing machinery of the Ministry of Labour is not geared up to meet the demand.

Sir, as you know, sometime back a survey was conducted to examine whether the Minimum Wages Act is being implemented properly or not in various States. I came across at Guntur that the Labour Ministry had engaged some NMR people (Nominal Muster Roll people) paying some wages—daily wages—and their wages were less than the minimum wages prescribed by the Labour Ministry. So, under these circumstances, how can the Government or the Ministry ensure that the Minimum Wages Act is being implemented properly in its true spirit?

SHRI SHABBIR AHMAD SALARIA (Jammu and Kashmir): All that the hon. Minister has said is that the Report by the Commission has been received since 31st July 1991. It is not clear why, over a period of two months since the receipt of the Report, the Government has not been able to take any decision thereon. I would like the hon. Minister to say what steps the Government has so far taken or what recommendations the Government is inclined to accept from the Report of the Commission. It must have engaged the attention of the Government since 31st July, 1991.

Secondly, the hon. Minister has postponed everything to a future, an uncertain future. The Report of the Commission shows that many matters

with regard to the betterment of the rural labour are such that there cannot be two opinions about them. Would the hon. Minister kindly say with regard to such undisputable and admitted positions, of which there can be no two opinions, that to that extent there would be no further delay in implementing the Report of the Commission?

Thirdly, with regard to the statement of the Minister that certain legislative enactments or measures would have to be taken, would the hon. Minister kindly state whether he has drafted or is in the process of drafting any law with regard to the rural labour so that we can know how long it will take him to come to the House with a legislation? And last but not the least, I would like to ask the hon. Minister to let us know how long it will take him to decide upon the recommendations of the Commission lest this Report also meet the fate of many reports which are received but are given to obli-vion.

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES

(Goa): Sir, it is a national tragedy that after 40 years of our independence we have not done any justice to these rural labourers and it is again a tragedy that our planned development could not deliver the goods to the downtrodden people. Sir, the Commission was appointed exactly after 40 years in 1987 by the then Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi. It took four years for this Commission to submit this report. So I feel it will be appropriate that this report is immediately implemented and this scheme is named after the late Shri Rajiv Gandhi. The report says that the agricultural labour accounts for 110 million in this country and out of this 73 per cent are rural labour out of which 50 per cent are Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. I feel the only way to rehabilitate these people is to declare agriculture as an industry and to treat this labour as industrial labour. The other recom-

[Shri John F. Fernandes]

commendation I would like to make to the honourable Minister is that the only way we can rehabilitate these people is to give power to these people. In the last Lok Sabha there was a Bill brought by the then Congress Government, the Panchayati Raj Bill, which was sought to be passed handing down power to the people at the rural level. The Government sought to have a three-tier structure: the Central Government, the State Government and the panchayat. I would like to know from the Minister whether they will bring this Bill again before this House and see that it passed in an appropriate form to rehabilitate these downtrodden people.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): Mr. Vice-Chairman, the Commission on Rural Labour concentrated mainly on agriculture, for giving benefits to the agricultural labourers. I would like to remind this House that Shri Ramamurthi, the then CPI Member of this House brought a legislation for regularising the rural labour. Shri Ramamurthi is no more now. But the Government at that time gave an assurance that they would bring a legislation to regularise the rural labour. But so far the Bill has not seen the light of day. The main problems faced by the rural labour not only in the case of agriculture but also in the small scale industry sector are three: (1) unemployment, (2) construction labour, (3) seasonal labour. On the agricultural side, as you know, sowing starts during the monsoon period. In the meanwhile the agricultural labourers get lesser number of days of work. For one month or one and a half months they are unemployed. When we go to Harijan bastis during the periods when there are heavy floods we can see how the people are unemployed in spite of the various schemes brought by the Government like the NREP, the IRDP and the RLTEP. In

spite of these schemes we find the people are unemployed. And the agricultural labourers are being exploited by the system of contract labour. The person considered to be the master of the area takes care to see that he gets control of all the labourers and he exploits them. Another problem is that the people are also not getting full employment. These are the basic reasons for the sufferings of the rural labour.

Another vital thing is while regularising the rural labour and while fixing the minimum wages for rural labour as recommended by the Commission, I request the Minister to take into account the devaluation of the rupee which has occurred now. There has been a devaluation of the rupee. The Commission had given its recommendations in the month of May. In July there was devaluation. Therefore, I request the Minister to re-fix the minimum wages keeping in view the devaluation of the rupee which has taken place so that the labourers get the benefit which they ought to get.

श्री छोटू भाई पटेल (गुजरात)
उपतभाष्यक्ष महोदय, हमारे देश में 1 करोड़ एग्रिकल्चरल लेबरर हैं और इनका सामाजिक और आर्थिक कंडीशनस के बा में रिपोर्ट देने के लिए कहा गया था तो मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार से कहना चाहता हूँ कि लेबरर्स को आर्थिक कंडीशन में सुधार नहीं हुआ है। हमारे यहां गुजरात का एक उदाहरण देना चाहता हूँ। साउथ गुजरात में हलपति नाम का एक कम्युनिटी है जो खेत मजदूरों के रूप में काम करती है उसका को डेवलपमेंट नहीं हुआ है। हमारे देश में रूरल डेवलपमेंट के नाम से 25 स्कॉम चलती हैं, लेकिन फिर भी जो डेवलपमेंट होना चाहिए वह नहीं हुआ है। इसलिये मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि खेत मजदूरों के लिए जो एप्रोप्रियेट स्कॉम हैं वह चलानी चाहिए वरना इनका इकोनॉमिक डेवलपमेंट नहीं हो सकता है।

मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी निम्नलिखित सवाल पूछना चाहता हूँ

What are the recommendations made by the National Commission on Rural Labour and how many of these recommendations were accepted by the Government? There should be some time limit for the implementation of these recommendations. It is very important for the Government to see that the interests of the agricultural labour are protected. I would like to know whether the Government is willing to do something for them or not? The Government should also bring forward a clear legislation to protect the agricultural labourers.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, it is a pleasure to seek clarifications from the Minister. While paying my personal compliments to the badli Minister of Labour that it was because of his drive that the problem of agricultural labourers could be put on focus in this country, I hope he is made a permanent Minister instead of being a badli Minister in the Department of Labour. This is a clarification I seek from the Prime Minister and not from the Minister. Sir, the point is—and Mr. Sangma knows it better—that there has been a constant clamour and a persistent demand in the country for making laws for protecting the interests of the agricultural labourers who constitute the largest segment of the rural labour force in the country. It is not today, but earlier when the then Labour Minister, Mr. Anjaiah, who is no more made a commitment on the floor of this House that the Government would enact a comprehensive law for this section of unprotected labour, i.e., the agricultural labour. But these attempts to make laws have been frustrated because of the active participation of the *kulak* lobby in the Indian politics. Subsequently, the Home Ministry and the Ministry of Finance raised objection saying that if these laws were made, things would go from bad to worse in the country. It is in this background that, when Mr. Sangma became the Minister of State at the time Shri

Rajiv Gandhi was he Prime Minister, he appointed a number of study teams and these teams consisted of Members of Parliament belonging to different political parties including the Indian National Congress. The team recommended that there should not be any further delay in the enactment of legislation for the agricultural workers. The report was pending for a very long time and then the Prime Minister took it upon himself the responsibility of appointing a national commission. The National Commission worked for about four years and after that a report was produced. The Commission also recommended in unambiguous terms that there should be some law for the protection of this section of labour in the country. Therefore, the point is that the matter is pending too long with the Government, too long. The question is whether the country has got laws for the agricultural workers. In the meantime, when Mr. Bindeshwari Dubey became a full-fledged Labour Minister, there was a conference of the Labour Ministers and, in that conference, a situation was created in which the people were given to understand that the State Labour Ministers were against this law. It is in this background that the National Commission has made its recommendations. Therefore, there is no question of any delay. Sangmaji has been quite evasive in his answers. He says that he will take some time to study the problems. It is not for him to say this because he has studied this problem. But it is the Government which has not made up its mind. It is through him that this impression has been created that the Government has not made up its mind. On the 30th July, we were together presenting the Commission's Report to the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister promised all of us, those who were the Members of this Commission, that some expeditious action would be taken. My question is how long the Labour Minister with his expanded tiers will take to study this problem.

[Shri Gurudas Das Gupta]

How long will it take to study this problem? You have an extended Labour Ministry. Why? There must be a Minister. Because of the headless condition of the Ministry, the officers may not have time and they might be enjoying their leisure somewhere; I do not know. But why should the Ministry take so much time to study this problem which has been under the consideration of the Labour Ministry for a long time?

Since he was instrumental in initiating measures for investigating into this problem, since his personal initiative has been rewarded and since the investigating team including the National Commission has made recommendations, my question is how long the Government will take and for how long it will sit over the files. This country has been sitting over this problem for the last forty years. It is not a point that the contractors were exploiting the labour. But the point is that the most of the State Governments did not do enough for the agricultural labour and there is no State machinery for looking after their problems. The Labour Ministry looks after the organized labour force who will come to the Labour Ministry and threaten a strike. It is because of their collective bargaining that the Ministry is too much preoccupied with the organized labour force. Since these people are not organized at all, you can treat them or deal with them shabbily as you are doing now.

And, Sir, in this Report, it has been categorically mentioned that during the last forty years of planning, little has been done so far as these hungry and unemployed people are concerned and these people constitute nearly forty per cent of the Indian population. Therefore, my question to the honourable Labour Minister is—we have enough of evasive answers—how long he will take to give us a concrete answer. I would like to know this now.

I now come to my second clarification. If the Government decides to bring about a law, will it make adequate provision for implementing the laws? We do not need laws only. We need laws and, at the same time, finances also. We need proper financing and organization. If there is no proper organization to look after the interests of the agricultural labour and no proper funding of the schemes, then the schemes will be more or less paper schemes only. Therefore, the Government must make adequate budgetary allotment. Is he agreed on this or not? Sir, I would like to know what his personal view is in this regard. Does he believe that this section of the labour force has not been given a fair deal? Does he agree with this? If he agrees, then let him categorically say that enough has not been done for this section of the labour, but enough dilatory tactics have been there from the Government side.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH): Now, Mr. Anand Prakash Gautam. You have taken ten minutes already.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: I know. It is because I have been so intimately connected with this question and everyone in the House knows it. Is he ready to recommend to the Government that enough funds should be made available?

Thirdly, will he as the Minister, looking after the Labour Ministry even temporarily, prevail upon the Prime Minister and the Labour Ministry to take an expeditious decision in the matter? Thank you, Sir.

श्री आनन्द प्रकाश गौतम (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, सन् 1987 में राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण श्रमिक आयोग का गठन हुआ था और ठीक चार साल के बाद उसकी रिपोर्ट 31 जुलाई को पेश हुई है। यह जो माननीय मंत्री जी का वक्तव्य है, केवल मात्र इतनी ही सूचना इसमें मिलती है कि रिपोर्ट पेश

हुई। इसमें और कोई खास सूचना नहीं है जब कि रिपोर्ट की प्रतीक्षा करते-करते चार साल बीत गए हैं। सदस्यों को निश्चित रूप से यह अपेक्षा थी कि माननीय मंत्री जी अपने वक्तव्य में कुछ मुख्य मुख्य बातें जो रिपोर्ट में हैं उनको प्रकाशित करते। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो इस रिपोर्ट में ग्रामीण श्रमिकों के लिए सामाज्य विकास के प्रयासों, सामाजिक, आर्थिक और वैधानिक उपायों और संस्थागत संबंधी अनेक सिफारिशों की गई हैं इन सभी तरह की आर्थिक वैधानिक और सामाजिक सिफारिशों में से मुख्य मुख्य सिफारिशें क्या हैं जो श्रमिकों के लिए सुझाए गए हैं। दूसरी बात यह है कि इन सिफारिशों का कार्यान्वयन निश्चित रूप से बिना कानून बनाये संभव नहीं होगा। इस वक्तव्य के अंतिम पैरा में जो बात है उसका साफ और स्पष्ट अर्थ यह है कि अभी कार्यान्वयन के लिए कोई ज्यादा चित्रित माननीय मंत्री जी नहीं हैं, बल्कि उनमें कुछ छानबीन किए जाने की आवश्यकता महसूस करते हैं। उन सिफारिशों के कार्यान्वयन के लिए केंद्रीय सरकार के विभिन्न मंत्रालयों और विभागों द्वारा जहाँ कहीं आवश्यक होगा, राज्य सरकारों से विचार-विमर्श करके उनसे विस्तृत छानबीन करने का कार्यक्रम है। इससे साफ और स्पष्ट यह होता है कि उन सिफारिशों को कानून रूप देने के बारे में सरकार को बहुत जल्दी नहीं है। इसमें निश्चित रूप से यह माना जाएगा कि डिले होंगी और देर लगेगी। चार साल तो वैसे ही बीत गए हैं और नियम नहीं बना पाए तो सारा का सारा काम घरा रह जाएगा। इसलिए मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या उनका अतिशीघ्र कानून के लिए कोई व्यवस्था करने का इरादा है।

SHRI SARADA MOHANTY (Orissa): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the rural labour in our country have work only for a certain period of time and for the rest of the year they have no work. In view of this and in order

to give them work for their livelihood, is the Food For Work programme going to be implemented shortly by the Government or not? My second question is whether the Government is going to have cottage industries in every panchayat on cooperative basis to give work to the rural labour both males and females. My third question is whether the Government is going to abolish bonded labour system.

Sir, these are my questions to the hon. Minister.

श्री रणजीत सिंह (हरियाणा) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, जैसा कि मेरे से पहले सदस्यों ने अपने सुझाव दिए हैं, मैं समझता हूँ कि हमारे आनरेबल प्राइम मिनिस्टर साहब को जो यह कमीशन की रिपोर्ट दी गई है और जिस पर मिनिस्टर साहब ने स्टेटमेंट दिया है उसमें कुछ बातें रह गई हैं। मेरे से पहले माननीय सदस्यों ने कहा कि इसमें डिटेल नहीं दी गई है। चार साल के बाद यह रिपोर्ट आई है। माननीय श्री हनुमन्तराव और बहुत से पार्लियामेंट के सदस्य इस कमीशन के मੈम्बर थे। इसमें जो 20 रु० मिनियम वेजज का सुझाव दिया गया है, मैं समझता हूँ कि अगर इस समय के प्राइज इंडेक्स को देखा जाय तो पता चलेगा कि यह उसके मुकाबले में बहुत कम है। प्राइस इंडेक्स को सामने रख कर वेजेज रिवाज होने चाहिए।

एक बात मैं और कहूँगा। हरियाणा जो इस देश का एक स्टेट है वहाँ मिनियम वेजज जो है वे 29.5 है और इससे ऊपर ही है। इसलिए मेरा सुझाव है कि एक स्टेट में जब मिनियम वेजेज साढ़े 29 रुपए है तो 20 रु० कम है। तीसरा सुझाव मेरा यह है कि इस बात का ध्यान रखा जाना चाहिए कि 51 परसेंट पोपुलेशन रुरल लेबर को है और उनकी हालत सबसे ज्यादा बद्दतर है और कुछ बच्चे माइनर हैं और स्कूल जाने लायक हालात ऐसी है कि अगर फाइनेंसियल कण्ट्रोलन खराब है तो पैरेंट्स

[श्री रणजीत सिंह]

3.00 P.M.

को सजबूर होकर उन्हें लेबर के लिए भोजना पड़ता है और वह लेबर ऐसी जैसे कि माइनिंग है, क्यूरिंग सेक्टर है, कारपेट का है, मैन्यूफैक्चरिंग आफ मैच एण्ड फायर वर्क्स है, बीड़ी उद्योग वहां करते हैं। यह वाइलेनश कांस्ट्रिक्शन है। तो मेरा मिनिस्टर साहब से यह निवेदन है कि छोटे बच्चों के मामले में वाइलेनश आफ कांस्ट्रिक्शन को रोक जाय और आइदा इसमें सबन कदम उठाए जायें और अगर जरूरी समझा जाय तो इसमें अमेंडमेंट किया जाना चाहिए। जैसे कि मेरे से पहले सभी आनरेबल मंत्रों ने कहा है कि कमीशन की रिपोर्ट आती है। कितने ही कमीशन हर गवर्नमेंट स्पचाइंट करती है लेकिन उसके इम्प्लीमेंटेशन की बात नहीं होती और वह बहुत कम कारगर होती है। तो मेरा सवाल है कि क्या गवर्नमेंट इस का टाइम बाउन्ड इम्प्लीमेंशन करेगी? यह देश के 51 परसेंट पापुलेशन का सवाल है।

मैं एक और शब्द बूझकर अपनी बात खत्म करूंगा। पूरी दुनिया में, मेरे ख्याल में, जो हिन्दुस्तान के लेबर की कमीशन है, दो-तीन देशों में इससे बुरी हो सकती है; लेकिन बाकी सभी देशों में चार से लेकर दस टाइम तक उनको ज्यादा वेजेज मिलता है। तो मिनिस्टर साहब से मैं रेक्वेस्ट करूंगा कि सब बातों का डिवीजन हो और कुछ बातों को दुबारा देखा जाय और इस मिनिमम वेजेज को दुबारा रिवाइज किया जाये, जैसे कि हरियाणा में 29.5 दिया जाता है, इसी तरह से आप भी इसे बढ़ाइये। इन शब्दों के साथ मैं आपको धन्यवाद देती हूँ।

श्री मोहम्मद सलीम (पश्चिमी बंगाल): माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, हमारे समाज के सबसे पिछड़े रूप वर्ग, जिसकी हालत सबसे बदतर है, उसके बारे में मंत्री महोदय, के स्टेटमेंट पर हम चर्चा कर रहे हैं।

[उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री मास्कर अन्नाजी मासोदकर) पीठासीन हुए]

मेरा पहला सवाल यह है और जैसे कि अन्य आदरणीय सदस्यों है ने कहा कि

हम कमीटी, कमीशन अप्वांट करते हैं और चार साल की मेहनत और अध्ययन के बाद जब रिपोर्ट मिलती है तो हमारे मंत्री महोदय स्टेटमेंट के द्वारा यह कहते हैं कि इसमें विस्तृत छान-बीन करने की जरूरत है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या इसकी आइ में जो सरकार की जम्मेदारी है, क्या वह उससे छुटकारा पाने की कोशिश तो नहीं कर रहे हैं? मैं मंत्री महोदय से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि इस कमीशन की रिपोर्ट के बारे में सरकार का मत क्या है, एक्शन क्या है क्या वह इसे ठाड़े घर में तो नहीं भेजना चाहते हैं? क्या वे इसके लिए एक और रिव्यू कमीटी बनना चाहते हैं जो इसकी विस्तृत छान-बीन करने के लिए कुछ समय लगाकर ज्यादा तफसील में जाय? या फिर क्या वह इसके इम्प्लीमेंटेशन के लिए कुछ एकदमात की, कुछ कदमों की घोषणा करना चाहते हैं? अगर पूरी रेकोमंडेशन नहीं भी मानते हैं तो मंत्री महोदय, एक ऐसा टाइम शेड्यूल बता दें कि इनने समय के अन्दर इसे करेंगे। इसके अंदर कुछ ऐसी बातें हैं जो उनको मैनुफैक्चर्स में भी कही गई हैं। तो क्या इसके इम्प्लीमेंटेशन के लिए, इसमें इसको विस्तृत छान-बीन की जरूरत नहीं है, जो सच्चाई हमारे सामने है, उनको लागू करने के लिए सरकार क्या करने जा रही है, यह मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ।

दूसरा, सवाल मेरा यह है कि इस कमीशन के विचार में यह था कि जो एक्जीस्टिंग लेजिस्लेटिव प्राविजंस है, इसके बारे में इनका जो अध्ययन है, जो हमारे जो कानून बने हुए हैं, वे सही ढंग से लागू नहीं होते। अभी माननीय सदस्य गुरुदास गुप्त जी बता रहे थे कि बहुत सी राज्य सरकारें चाहे मिनिमम वेजेज की बात हो, चाहे वह अग्रिकल्चरल वर्कर्स की बात हो और चाहे उनको सोशल सेक्यूरिटी का सवाल हो और चाहे वह बड़े लेबर अबोलिशन के बारे में है हमारे कानून हर क्षण में बने हुए हैं लेकिन आज भी हमारे देश में बांडेड मजदूर हैं, इसको दूर करने के लिए कानून का सही ढंग से उपयोग नहीं होता है। इसको कहां विस्तृत छान-बीन होती है।

महोदय, कल मैं जम्मू गया था। वहाँ जो सरकारी कामकाज कांटेक्टर के जरिए गावों में होता है, लेकिन उनको साल भर मजदूरी नहीं दी जाती है। इस बात को लेकर हमारी संगठनजी है वह जब बातचीत करने के लिए जाते हैं तो सरकार क अफसरों का जो रवैया है वह यह है कि वे सुनवाई नहीं करते और कानून में उनको जो प्रोटेक्शन दी हुई है, उनको लागू नहीं करते। तो ग्रामीण क्षेत्र में जो सरकारी काम होता है, वहाँ के जंगलों में काम कांटेक्टरों को दिया जाता है या जो अन्य एजेंसियों को दिया जाता है उसको न दे करके हम डायरेक्ट उनको काम दें सकते हैं इस बारे में सरकार का क्या विचार है यह मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ ?

इसके अलावा जो हमारे देश में सोशल सिक्युरिटी का मामला है, जिसके बारे में दूसरे माननीय सदस्य भी कह रहे थे, जब उस पर बहुत कम ध्यान दिया जाता है, चाहे चाइल्ड लेबर का मामला हो ...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR):
You need not repeat it.

श्री मोहम्मद तलीम : मैं दूसरे बारे में कह रहा हूँ। चाहे चाइल्ड लेबर के बारे में हो या दूसरे प्रकार के लेबर के बारे में हो, जो कम से कम बेज में ज्यादा से ज्यादा मेहनत करते हैं और सब से खराब हालत में हैं, उनकी कोई सोशल सिक्युरिटी का अरेंजमेंट नहीं है चाहे रिटायरमेंट के बाद हो या नौकरों के दौरान में हो, यहाँ तक औरतों का जो मेटरनिटी बेनिफिट दिया जाना चाहिये, वह भी नहीं मिलता है। इसलिए मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो एग्जिस्टिंग प्रोविजन राज्य सरकारें लागू नहीं करती हैं, उनके बारे में सरकार क्या कदम उठा रही है ? मैं यह भी कहना चाहता हूँ कि केरल और पश्चिमी बंगाल सरकारों ने ग्रामीण श्रमिकों के क्षेत्र में कुछ एचबीमेंट्स प्राप्त की है और उनको इस में सफलताएँ मिली हैं, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि उनकी सफलताओं को सामने रख कर दूसरे राज्यों में भी इसी प्रकार के कानून लागू किये जाएंगे ? इस के बारे में एक कमेटी की रिपोर्ट भी है और

पार्लियामेंट में कई बार कहा गया है कि केरल के ढांचे पर कुछ कानून बनाया जा सकता है। मंत्री महोदय से मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि हरल इम्प्लायमेंट ग्रामीण श्रमिकों के बारे में कंस्ट्रक्शन वर्कर्स के बारे में एक बिल वर्षों से पड़ा हुआ है। मंत्री महोदय यह बताएं कि कंस्ट्रक्शन वर्कर्स (रेगुलेशन ऑफ इम्प्लायमेंट एंड कंडीशंस ऑफ सर्विस) का जो बिल पड़ा हुआ है, उसको आप कब तक लागू करेंगे ? मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार यह बिल इसलिए नहीं ला रही है क्योंकि उनको बिल्डर्स लॉबी यह बिल नहीं लाने दे रही है ? इंट-ग्रुपों में जो काम करते हैं ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में, उनके लिए भी ब्रिक क्लिन वर्क (रेगुलेशन ऑफ सो इम्प्लायमेंट एंड कंडीशंस ऑफ सर्विस) बिल लाने का सरकार वायदा भी कर चुकी है, आप यह बताएं कि उसको कब लाएंगे ? आखिरी बात यह है कि जब तक हम पंचायती व्यवस्था नहीं करेंगे तब तक ग्रामीण वर्कर्स के बारे में हम सही ढंग से काम नहीं कर पाएंगे। जम्मू में कोई विधान सभा नहीं है, इलेक्टोड रिप्रेजेंटेटिव नहीं है, डिस्ट्रिक्ट नहीं है, कश्मीर में अगर वायलेस है लेकिन कम से कम जम्मू में भी अगर कोई इलेक्टोड रिप्रेजेंटेटिव का अरेंजमेंट हम नहीं करते हैं तो हम मजदूरों की सुखोशों, महाजनों और रेकेटारों से बचा नहीं पाएंगे अन्धकार

SHRI T. A. MOHAMMED SAQHY (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Vice-Chairman, hon. Members persistently demanded appointment of this Commission. Like the Mandal Commission which was appointed with great difficulty and then it was kept in cold storage, this Commission has also met with the same fate. This Commission was appointed in 1987. It has been four Prime Ministers. It submitted its report in July this year. So it has taken four long years. Now the condition of the agricultural labourers in our country has changed. We must take into account whatever formulas we worked out, the recommendations which are enumerated in the report, and the same should be implemented in a time-bound manner, otherwise it will become infructuous and useless

[Shri T. A. Mohammed Saqhy]

The Statement, given by our Minister, does not contain anything about the report of the Commission. This report has been kept in the library.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): Minister wants you to read the statement.

SHRI T. A. MOHAMMED SAQHY: The report says that there are more than 60 per cent of our village population who were holding less than one hectare of land. This was the position in 1961. In 1982, this has increased to 67 per cent. This shows that our agricultural labour are not getting proper funding through the co-operative banks and other banks. Why are these co-operative banks not able to finance them? It is because the agricultural labour are not able to repay the loans they take, simply because they do not get proper wages. They are also not able to get proper yield from their land or proper return on their investments to be able to pay back their loans taken from those banks. The result is that these rural banks are not able to pay to their apex banks. Therefore, financing such people has become limited and restricted. In 1978, Gandhi Peace Foundation identified 26,17,000 bonded labourers. How these bonded labourers come up? It is because they do not get proper wages; the money-lenders and the big farmers exploit them by extracting work from them and by taking away their produce, reducing them to the position of a bonded labourer. The big farmers and big landlords who are very powerful in the villages, and their will is the law. They pay them very less wages. That is why, though child labour has been prohibited. In spite of that, the Government has accepted in its report....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): Nothing is accepted; this is only in the report.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Andhra Pradesh): We have

legitimised child labour; we have passed a Bill in this House.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): Please ask your questions on the statement only.

SHRI T. A. MOHAMMED SAQHY: I found it from the annual report "that child labour to a considerable extent persists in various kinds of employment on account of socio-economic compulsions." The reason is that the parents do not get proper wages; they do not have proper earning and even though we have fixed minimum wages taking into account the poverty line, these wages are not being paid to the workers. Even poverty line has not been properly assessed. As a result of non-payment of the minimum wages, sufficient for running their family, they find employment for their children. What happens to our own legislations? We violate them ourselves by not providing proper financing avenues for the agricultural labour who is the backbone of our country. All these problems arise because we do not take much care about them. We have to take all the precautions and see that proper funds are provided to them. Just enacting laws would not be sufficient; we have to see that these laws are properly implemented. How far have we been able to implement the legislation relating to child labour? We have Sivakasis and every year children die there due to accidents, due to fire accidents, and we are not able to prevent these things. By the time we decide to act, so many things crop up in mind and we do not act. We have become inactive.

Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister to tell us what steps Government is taking to avoid and avert all such accidents, and also how the Government is going to improve the condition of the agricultural labour in the rural areas. Take the case of brick kilns. This is one of the important village industries. Even the brick kilns association have complained that they are not getting

proper supplies of coal and other materials which they require. They have also to face a big competition. We must try and protect the village industries. Then only, the people in the villages, both the agricultural labourers and the non-agricultural labourers could compete with the other sections of the society.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Can I add just one thing?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): Mr. Mathur has to seek clarifications.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Mr. Mathur will never say 'no'.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): We can say 'no' to you?

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Thank you, Sir. My point is that the women agricultural labourers are paid far less than the men. Now, when we have laws for non-discrimination between sexes, it is not being made applicable to the agricultural sector of our country. Is there a concrete proposal on plan for eradicating this discrimination? Because of this very reason, women are employed much more than men in this field. This is again denigrating the status of women in India. We work more, but we get paid less.

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर (उत्तर प्रदेश) : श्रीमान्, मैं इस रिपोर्ट में क्या लिखा है, कैसे करेंगे, उसका सवाल नहीं उठाना चाहता, क्योंकि यह बड़ा मोटा पोथन्ना है। उसमें सब फलों के लिए यह, पोथन्ना है। उसमें सब फलों के लिए यह, और... (व्यवधान)

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री भास्कर कर्नाजी मसोदकर) : तो श्री कुछ सवाल...

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या केंद्रीय सरकार

ने प्रदेशों की सरकारों से इससे पहले सलाह की थी ? और अगर नहीं की थी, तो क्या कानून बनाने से पहले स्टेट गवर्नमेंट से वह इस कमीशन की रिपोर्ट पर उनका मत मांगेंगे ? क्योंकि उस रिपोर्ट के बाद जो भी कानून वह बनाये, उसके इम्प्लिमेंटेशन की जिम्मेदारी सरकार पर आयेगी और छोटी सी क्लॉज को छोड़ कर, जोकि किसी कारखाने में लगा हुआ है गांव के अंदर, बाकी अघे या लगभग अघे से कुछ कम देश इस के अंदर आता है। तो इसकी इम्प्लिमेंटेशन मशीनरी क्या होगी ?

यदि प्रदेश सरकार से आपने पहले परामर्श किया है, तो क्या परामर्श मिला है ? अगर नहीं किया है, तो कब करेंगे तथा किन-किन प्वाइंट पर करेंगे ?

दूसरे उत्तरी इम्प्लिमेंटेशन की मशीनरी आप स्टेट्स को देना चाहेंगे, अथवा स्टेट्स के नीचे जाकर अधिभार देना चाहेंगे, इसका दावा बनाया होगा। अगर नहीं

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: (Tamil Nadu): Sir, the statement was laid by the Minister three days ago and he was said in the statement that the report has been placed in the library for reference. I went to the library three times but could not get it as there was only one copy in the library.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): Was there only one copy?

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: There was only one copy. I waited for three hours since another Member was reading. The Minister could have laid at least three or four copies for the use of the Members. Otherwise, the Minister should have given some salient points of the report in the statement itself.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): That is true. This is not a statement at all.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: That is a voluminous one. It was laid on Friday. We didn't have time on Saturday and Sunday because, many of us

[Shri G. Swaminathan]

have gone out. Today morning also, we didn't have time to read. We are not supposed to read such a big book and then came here to seek clarifications. It is an impossible thing. Next time onwards, the Minister should have some salient features of the report in the statement itself so that the Membres could seek clarifications on it or some more copies of the reports should be made available in the library.

My second point is about the Minimum Wages Act. As has been said by my learned friend, Shri Mathur, it has to be implemented by the States. The States have got their own Commissions to go into this Act. I heard that the minimum wage has been fixed at Rs. 30 and some hon. Member had said that this was not sufficient. The Minister should clarify whether he has recommended Rs. 30 for all the States or it is different for different States. I am not aware of this as I was not able to read the report. Therefore, this has to be clarified. There is some confusion here. There is some confusion in regard to the minimum and maximum wages.

Sir, I was a Member of the Minimum Wages Commission in Tamil Nadu some years back. We visited many years. Then, we made certain recommendations. We were criticised in the Legislature that the minimum wage recommended was so minimum that it was not sufficient for a man to live. The point is this. We make a recommendation that this should be the minimum wage. If somebody pays more, if somebody pays Rs. 50, it is all right. This point has to be clarified because there is some confusion in the minds of the Members. The question is, is the minimum wage that you say going to be the maximum, or, whether somebody is allowed to pay more than this?

When you are recommended minimum wages, one important point

which has to be taken into consideration is the capacity to pay. This is very important. As has been pointed out by some hon. Members, these minimum wages are not paid by the Government. They have to be paid by the landowners or the tenants to the agricultural labourers. As you know, most of the lands have been fragmented. After the implementation of land reforms, from 15 acres once, over a period of years, it has now come to three or two acres. Therefore, you have to take into account the capacity of the landlords, the capacity of the landowners, to pay. Somebody said "zamindars". As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, there are no zamindars. As I said, capacity to pay is a very important criterion. Of course, it is another thing if you pay more for the paddy. Now, you restrict it. You pay a certain amount for the paddy. You have got the levy. The Agricultural Prices Commission recommends a certain price to be paid. You have to keep some parity vis-a-vis the consumers. In such a situation, the capacity of the landowners has to be considered. Wherefrom they can pay more? Therefore, capacity to pay is a very important criterion which has to be taken into account.

Another thing is, whenever such Committees are appointed, they examine the issue and give their report. They give their recommendations. Then, the report has to be considered by the Ministry. The Ministry has to consider whether this particular amount can be paid. Ultimately, this has to be done by the State Governments. I would suggest that, first of all, you should convene a conference. You should have a time-limit for the implementation of the report. Otherwise, it can go on for years together. There will be a conflicting views within the Ministry and then there will be different views expressed by the State Governments. That is why I suggest that there should be a time-bound programme in regard to this. You should imme-

diately convene a conference of Labour Ministers on this. If you go into the recommendations must and then you ask the State Governments for their views, it takes time. If the Ministry has not done it already, you should send copies of the report to the States. Then, you should convene a conference of Labour Ministers in the beginning itself so that you get the views of the State Governments. After getting their views, you can take a decision on it and then inform the State Governments. Otherwise, you will be wasting six months or one year.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): You can say that conference should be convened.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: As I said earlier you should take into account the capacity to pay.

Another important thing is, the question of implementation. How long will it take to implement it and how will it be implemented? It is a question of implementing it all over the country in relation to 51 per cent of the people. It is not like a factory where the factory inspector can go and look into things. There are many remote villages where agricultural labourers are there. There are many remote villages where the officials like the Tahsildar or the Deputy Tahsildar or the Karnam may not be able to go. The question is, how will you ensure the payment of the minimum wages in the remote villages when there is a dispute? If there is a dispute, who is going to decide? Who is going to arbitrate? What will be the mechanism? There should be a Tahsildar or somebody else to decide the dispute. When a dispute arises, when a conflict arises, where will they go? To which police station they should report? Otherwise, when a conflict arises, the agricultural labourers may get agitated and assault the landlords. Or, the landlords may employ hoodlums

to attack the labourers. My last point is about payment of unemployment allowance. In the Thanjavur District, for example, the agricultural labourers are unemployed for more than six months in a year. The problem is aggravated as we do not get the Cauvery water. Therefore, they should get some unemployment allowance. My friend, Mr. Hanumanthappa, is here. He is responsible for this. He is responsible for the problems of the agricultural labourers in Thanjavur District. He has been a Member of this Commission. The question is, are you going to give some unemployment benefit to these people? If so, what will be the amount?

Thank you.

SHRI K. G. MAHESWARAPPA (Karnataka): As our friends have stated, the statement of the Minister...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): It is not a statement. It is about submission of the report.

SHRI K. G. MAHESWARAPPA: Yes, I would like to draw this attention to the last but one paragraph of his statement.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: I think this is a very important subject. I want a full-fledged discussion on this subject in the next session.

SHRI K. G. MAHESWARAPPA: He has said that the recommendations of the Commission will need to be examined at length by the various Ministries/departments in the Central Government, in consultation with the State Governments, where necessary, before they are implemented. This means that the matter is required to be examined at length and that 'length' may mean a very long period to come to a decision whether a particular recommendation is to be implemented or not. In fact, you should have at least

[Shri K. G. Maheswarappa]

indicated that certain of the recommendations, like the old-age pension.....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): They will examine it.

SHRI K. G. MAHESWARAPPA: They should say whether the Government is prepared to accept anticipated recommendations without going at length and consulting all the Ministries, State Governments. Otherwise, as my friend stated, it will be putting the Report in the cold storage like the Mandal Commission Report. I want an assurance whether the old-age pension, maternity benefits, accident compensation, payment of minimum wage, recommendations relating to all these categories will be implemented by the Government within a particular time-limit.

The other point is that 67.1 per cent of rural India lives below poverty line according to the Operation Research Group study as on March 31, 1991. About the rural labour latest figures are not found. According to the report it is 150 million but I think it is more than 200 million. Most of them, nearly 27 per cent of the rural poor, live on Rs. 2 per capita income, Rs. 2 per day. This is the section which has not benefited after independence. They have not reaped the fruits of development in this country. For the first ten to twenty years their problems were not even looked into. Even now at this late stage, after forty years of independence you want to take a long period for consulting various Ministries State Government. If that is so, when are you going to implement the recommendations? That is our point.

Instead of making this bald statement you should have placed the report for discussion. If need be, we could have extended the House by one day and discussed the report. As my friend said, there is only one copy available. There are so many good recommendations. I could only

glance over the introductory portion of the report. We may have to go into it. Where was the hurry in making this bald statement? You could have indicated the salient features of the recommendations made in the report.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): I hope the Government is taking note of a serious objection. They have not read the report and you have made the statement. The copies are not available with them. How will they apply their mind and ask you questions?

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA (Karnataka): The statement is about receiving the report only.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: You should direct the Minister. This is a report which has been presented to the Ministry two month back. It could be printed in any press. Why are you spending so much money on so many things?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): Let him say what we wants to say.

SHRI GURU DAS GUPTA: You should direct.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): Directions are given in a different form.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: A copy each can be given to the Members, if possible.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): At least to the parties—important parties—you can give.... (Interruptions)...

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MAITHUR: At least the report should be given... (Interruptions)...

SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, at least some of the recommendations may be given to the Members. ... (Interruptions)...

श्री मोहम्मद खलीलुर रहमान (ग्राम्य प्रदेश) : जनाब वाइस चेरमैन साहब, यह जो नेशनल कमिशन ऑन ररल लेबर क बैठायी गया था, यह 1987 में बैठाया गया था। चाल साल के बाद इसकी रिपोर्ट आई है। चार साल के बाद रिपोर्ट आने के बाद भी जो है अब इस स्टेटमेंट के जरिए से सिर्फ इतना ही बतलाया गया है कि हाऊस को, कि इसकी जो है रिपोर्ट आई है। इससे कोई तफसील जो है, नहीं बताई गई है। कोई तफसील जो है, नहीं बताई गई है। सिर्फ जो है, यह बताया गया है कि वह जो कमिशन बैठाया गया था, उसकी रिपोर्ट जो है आई है।

तो अब सवाल यह पैदा होता है कि वाकतन जो रिपोर्ट में है, किस किस की रिकमण्डेशन है? वह जो है हाऊस के सामने आना चाहिए ताकि हमको मायलुम हो सके इस वजह से कि यह जो ररल लेबर है, इसमें ज्यादातर जो है, एग्रीकल्चर जो गांव में काम करती है, वह भी जो है। कवर होती है। इनकी वर्किंग कंडीशन इतिहाई नजुक किस की जो है। वर्किंग कंडीशन है। अभी तीन-चार महीने पहले इस हाऊस में एक प्रोइवेट मम्बर बिल जो है एग्रीकल्चरल लेबर के ताल्लुक से लाई गई थी, उसमें इतिहा अक्छे कीमती सोल्युशन पेश किए गए हैं ये समझता हू कि कमिशन की जो रिपोर्ट आई होगी, यकीनन एग्रीकल्चरल लेबर की ताल्लुक से जो बिल पेश की गई थी, उसमें भी कवर की गई है। तो ये मिनिस्टर साहब से यह कहूंगा जब आप लेजिसलेशन लेबर आए तो उसमें मिनिमम मिनिमम वेजेज के ताल्लुक से जो है, खास ब्याल रखें कि जो मिनिमम वेजेज है उसको कवर किया जाए ताकि अरल लेबर के उजरत जो हैं, वह उससे कम न हों और जल्द से जल्द इसका जो है लेजिस-लेशन लेबर गवर्नमेंट को आना चाहिए। आलरेडी जो है काफी क्लैरिफिकेशन-न्स हो चुकी है, जो ये मिनिस्टर साहब से आपके टक्कुन से दरखास्त करूंगा कि आप जल्द से जल्द जो है इस ताल्लुक से सके। शक्रिया।

† [شری محمد خلیل الرحمن]

(अन्धरा प्रदेश) : جناب وائس چیرمین صاحب یہ جو رپورٹ کمیشن آن رول لیبر کا بھیجا گیا تھا - یہ ۱۹۸۷ میں بھیجا گیا تھا - چار سال کے بعد اسکی رپورٹ آئی ہے - چار سال کے بعد رپورٹ آنے کے بعد جو ہے اب اس اسٹیٹمنٹ کے ذریعہ سے صرف اتنا ہی بتایا گیا ہے ہاؤس کو کہ اسکی جو رپورٹ آئی ہے اس سے شک اور کوئی تفصیل جو ہے نہیں بتائی گئی ہے - صرف جو ہے یہ بتایا گیا ہے کہ وہ جو کمیشن بھیجا گیا تھا اسکی رپورٹ جو ہے آئی ہے -

تو اب سوال یہ پیدا ہوتا ہے کہ راجعاً جو رپورٹ میں ہے کسی قسم کی ریکمڈیشنس ہیں - وہ جو ہے ہاؤس نے سامنے لانا چاہئے تاکہ ہم کو معلوم ہو سکے اس وجہ سے کہ یہ جو رول لیبر ہے اسٹیم زیادہ تر جو ہے ایگریکلچر لیبر کوڑھتی ہے اور یہ جو اس سال اسکیل کاٹیج انڈسٹری کی جو لیبر ہے جو گاؤں میں کم کرتی ہے وہ بھی جو ہے کوڑھتی ہے انکی ورکلنگ کڈیشنس انتہائی نازک قسم کی جو ہیں ورکلنگ کڈیشنس ہیں - ابھی تین چار مہینہ پہلے اس ہاؤس میں ایک پرائیویٹ ممبر بل جو ہے ایگریکلچر لیبر کے تعلق سے لائی

[شری محمد خلیل الرحمن]

گئی تھی اس میں انتہائی اچھے
قیمتی سیلوشن پیش کئے گئے تھے -
میں سمجھتا ہوں کہ کمیشن کی
جو رپورٹ انی ہوگی یقیناً اگر یکساں
لیہو کے تعلق سے جو بل پیش
کی گئی تھی اس میں بھی کور کی گئی
ہے - تو میں مسٹر صاحب سے یہ
کہوں گا جب آپ لیجسلیشن لیٹر آئیں
نو اس میں ہنی سم ویچز کے تعلق سے
جو ہے خاص خیال رکھیں کہ جو
ملی سم ویچز ہیں اسکو کور کیا
کیا جائے تاکہ رول لیٹر کی اجرت
جو ہے وہ اس سے کم نہ ہوں اور
جلد سے جلد اسکا جو ہے لیجسلیشن
لے کر گورنمنٹ کو آنا چاہئے -
ال ریڈی جو ہے، کافی کلہری
فیکشلس ہو چکی ہیں - تو میں
مسٹر صاحب سے ایکے توسط سے
درخواست کروں گا کہ اپ جلد سے جلد
جو ہے اس تعلق سے لیجسلیشن
لے کر آئیں تاکہ جو رول لیٹر ہے
انکی ورکلنگ کلڈیشلس بہتر
ہو سکیں - شکریہ -]

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI
BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR):
Honourable Minister, do you want to
respond to what the honourable
Members have said?

THE MINISTER OF STATE
(INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE
MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P. A.
SANGMA): Sir, I can respond either
now or I can...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI
BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR):
You have to respond, according to
the practice, to the queries seeking
clarifications. If you want you may.
If you don't want, you say, "I don't
want." ... (Interruptions). The Gov-
ernment should be ready with all the
material.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Mr. Vice-
Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to the
honourable Members who have parti-
cipated in trying to get clarifications
on the statement that I made on
Friday last. I am sorry—and I must
apologize to the House—that the
statement did not contain the salient
features of the recommendations. Had
those been given, perhaps, it would
have been a much more meaningful
discussion—I do admit. I am told the
copies are available in the Library
—not one but three. But I do con-
cede, even three copies are not enough.
However, I would like to remind the
House that on Friday last there was a
Starred Question No. 174—where an
exhaustive reply was given on the
National Commission of Rural
Labour. But I hope that we will have
some more occasions to discuss this
report in full detail.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER:
During the extension of this session?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: I don't think
so.

Sir, in 1985 when the late Prime
Minister Rajiv Gandhi addressed the
ILO at Geneva, he gave a call that
we must pay our attention to the
unorganized labour because, particu-
larly in India, the unorganized labour
constitute about 90 per cent of our
total work force. And it appears
that we are paying more attention to
the organised labour and less atten-
tion to the unorganised labour. When
I took over the Ministry of Labour,
he wanted me to go round the coun-
try and find out the conditions of the
rural labour, which I did. I am
grateful to many of my colleagues,

Members of Parliament, who on many occasions accompanied me to several places. In 1987 when Mr. Rajiv Gandhi was presenting the Budget, he made an announcement that the National Commission on Labour would be constituted. Accordingly, the Commission was constituted in August, 1987. The Report was submitted on 31st July, and I am sorry that from 31st July to 9th September is not yet two months as claimed by my very very good friend, Mr. Das Gupta, who should have been replying to the clarifications because he is practically the author of the Report.

In any case, the Report was submitted on 31st July, 1991, and it is a very voluminous report containing a lot of recommendations. I must thank the Commission for its having done a very good job. Many useful and concrete suggestions and recommendations have been made in the Report. I would like to assure the House that we would put all the efforts under our command to see that the recommendations are studied quickly. Whatever consultations are to be made, we will make them quickly, and wherever possible we will not lag behind in implementing these recommendations. But we have to follow certain procedures.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): But after you study the recommendations and the Government accepts them, will you come back to the House? Will you take the House into confidence? That is one of the questions.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Actually now we have written to the State Governments to study them. We propose that these should be discussed in the Consultative Committee.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): The Members are anxious to know what recommendations the Government is going to accept, in what form

they are likely to be accepted and whether all that material will be available to the House. This is what they want to know.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Certainly it will be available. But before we come to that conclusion, it has to undergo certain stages. We have to call a meeting of the Indian Labour Conference. After all these, we will make up our mind. We will certainly come to the House, and the House can discuss it.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: The main question the hon. Minister has avoided. How long is the Minister....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): How he can say that, tell me.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, there has to be a timeframe. The Government cannot take years to study the Report.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): He has studied it. What about the States?

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: The Minister must tell us how long the Government will take to take a decision.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: We intend to call a meeting of the Indian Labour Conference in November, 1991, where it will be discussed thoroughly.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: The Indian Labour Conference will discuss agricultural labour in the presence of industrialists! It is strange that industrialists will give their opinion on the feasibility and efficacy, whether we should have laws for the agricultural labour. This is a fantastic thing the Minister is saying.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): Mr. Das Gupta, the Government is

[Shri Bhaskar Annaaji Masodkar]

also keen to see that the recommendations should be accepted.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: The Government has never been keen because in this House the Minister categorically stated that it would make a law, but it was all postponed suddenly, and there was the Commission. The Government has never been serious about it. It is at the initiative of this Labour Minister that the things could proceed to such an extent. At least let him say:....

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: I can. Since the House was deciding that it should come back to it again, I thought that it would not be necessary for me to react instantly to some of the points. I can however react to some of the points very instantly. For example, the main point is whether we are going to have a Central legislation for protection of the agricultural labour. That is the main issue which the Commission has recommended. I have personally, when I was the Labour Minister, made it very much known to Mr. Das Gupta that I am in favour of this. I have said so. Now that the Commission has recommended that there should be a Central legislation for the protection and welfare of the agricultural labour, I think, there should be no difficulty on the part of the Government to accept this recommendation. But we will have to go through certain procedures.

Secondly, there was a suggestion that the minimum wages should be raised to Rs. 20 per day. As of now the minimum wage as prescribed is Rs. 15 per day. I do not think there will be any difficulty for the Central Government to accept this recommendation. In fact, we are coming forward or the amendment of Minimum Wages Act, where some major changes will be there. For example, according to the Minimum Wages Act: "The minimum wages will be revised

every five years." Now, we are going to make it "every two years." Li' that there are many things on which I can react but I thought, perhaps, will react to those points while replying to the debate on the working of the Labour Ministry. Then, I will touch some of the points... (Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR) Whatever points, hon. Members have raised, he has replied to them.

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: He said that the States would have their own laws like the Labour laws... (Interruptions)... May know from the Minister whether he is going to consult the States while framing the... (Interruptions)...

SHRI RANJIT SINGH: Mr. Vice Chairman, I will take only half-a-minute. I would like to make one suggestion. The hon. Minister has said that they would raise the minimum wages from Rs. 15 per day to Rs. 20 per day. But in Haryana the minimum wages was fixed at Rs. 10 per day by the previous Government... (Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR) He is aware of it. The matter is over now.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA Sir, I must put on record my appreciation of the very frank statement the Minister has made that the Government is interested in making significant laws for the agricultural workers. I congratulate the Minister for that.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: I join you in congratulating the Minister.