

The House reassembled after lunch at thirty minutes past two of the clock. The Vice-Chairman (Shrimati Kanak Mukherjee) in the Chair.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE): The Leader of the House will now make a statement.

**STATEMENT BY MINISTER RE.
SCHEMES TO AMELIORATE THE
LOT OF WEAKER SECTION IN THE
CONTEXT OF SURPLUS FOOD
STOCKS**

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): Madam, the House is aware of the commitment of this Government to the amelioration of the lot of the weaker and the vulnerable sections of the Society. The Annual Plan for 1985-86 and the Seventh Five-Year Plan as approved recently by the National Development Council fully reflect our concern for the Welfare of these sections.

Honourable Members would recall that in May last I had announced, a special scheme for the construction of two lakh houses every year in this Five Year Plan period for scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and bonded labour. This scheme sought to combine the objective of provision of increased employment opportunities to these sections, with utilisation of local materials in these construction programmes so as to fillip to the local economy.

Government have now decided on three more measures for the improvement of the level of living of those below the poverty line. Incidentally, they also seek to take advantage of our comfortable stocks of food for the benefit of the weaker sections.

First among these is a programme for distribution of foodgrains at a concessional price to the people in the integrated tribal development pro-

jects. There are 181 integrated tribal development projects in the country which cover 633 community development blocks fully and 280 blocks partially, spread over 17 States and two Union Territories. There are over 50 million people in these project areas, nearly two thirds being tribals. It has now been decided that wheat would be made available to these 50 million people in these project areas at a subsidized rate i.e. the same rate at which foodgrains are being made available under the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme and the National Rural Employment Programmes. The issue price to the beneficiaries will be Rs. 1.50 per kg. for wheat and Rs. 1.85 per kg. for rice. While the distribution will be mostly in the form of wheat, in those areas where rice is preferred, rice would also be given in addition to wheat. This programme will be implemented through the State Governments and the Union Territories. Allowing for the fact that in many areas the infrastructural arrangements will have to be augmented, and various agencies pressed into action, it is expected that the implementation of this scheme will be initiated by the different States and Union Territories in all tribal development project areas before the 1st January, 1986. The entire expenditure on the subsidy involved will be borne by the Centre.

The second measure pertains to, the nutrition programme for young children, pregnant women and nursing mothers. This programme is being implemented by the various States and Union Territories in the tribal areas, urban slums and backward rural areas covering 11 million beneficiaries. It has now been decided to provide necessary additional support to the States with effect from 1st January, 1986, so as to enable them to increase the coverage to 14 million even in 1986-87. The Central Government will meet in full the entire cost of wheat as well as all supportive costs corresponding to the higher coverage

to be achieved over and above what the State Governments have already programmed to achieve every year in their Seventh Five Year Plan. The additional outlay on this account to the Centre is estimated at Rs. 45 crores in 1986-87.

The third measure relates to the expansion of the coverage of the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme and the National Rural Employment Programme. An allocation of one million tonnes of foodgrains, with full cost being borne by the Centre has been authorised last month so as to enable the States to provide an additional 50 million mandays of work under these programmes in the current year. It has now been decided to further enlarge these programmes so as to step up the coverage in 1986-87 by an additional 100 million mandays. It is expected that with this expansion, the off-take of food-grains under these programmes would increase to, about 2 million tonnes in that year apart from creating permanent assets.

Hon'ble Members would be happy to know that in addition to these measures, it has been decided that the ration card holders will not have any restriction on the quantities of wheat they can draw from Fair Price Shops from now till 31st March, 1986.

DR. R. K. PODDAR (West Ben-gall: I think at present between 30 to 40 million tonnes of foodgrains are being stored in our various silos. How much of these surplus foodgrains is expected to be distributed through this programme?

My second question is this. Has the Government received any concrete uronosol from the West Bengal Government to utilise these surplus food-grains to create many more additional nandavs in the rural sector on the line of now discontinued 'Food for Work Programme'?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: West Bengal will be as much s beneficiary as any other State in this general scheme. If there are any specific proposals of the West Bengal Government, we will certainly go into them and consider them. As far as the quantum of the PLEGP and NREP Programmes is concerned, by next year we expect about 2 million tonnes to be pumped through this system. The success of other programmes will depend on how these will pick up and what efforts the States will make in the various areas?

SHRI DEBA PRASAD RAY (West Bengal): Will you continue to give support to these States who have never furnished the utilisation report?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: It is not a question of the State. It is a question of the people and we are concerned with the people.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA (Andhra Pradesh): I am very happy that the Government of India has thought it fit to have these three programmes for the upliftment of the weaker sections. I am doubly happy because we in our State have been having these types of programmes for the last 2J years to or so and for which we have been very often ridiculed, accused and sometimes laughed at saying that the Government has been indulging in populism. I am glad that the Government of India has got over that stage and realised the importance of so-called populism as a measure for the improvement of weaker sections. To that extent, I am glad that the Finance Minister has made a good beginning on the lines on which we have been functioning all the way.

Now, one question arises. As the Government of India are aware, we have been covering the Rs. 2 per kilo programme, in about 94.5 lakh households which obviously include all the tribal areas and in these areas we have been supplying rice at the rate

[Prof. C. Lakshmanna]

of Rs. 2 per kilogram to the tune of 25 kgs. per household. Now, since the entire programme under this has to be met by the Central Government, I do hope that the Government of Indj'a will not—as it is already stated in those areas where, rice will be the staple food, rice will be supplied—, therefore if we substitute rice in those areas, I do hope that we will not be penalised by way of cutting the quantity and that we will be able to get to that extent the subsidy as far as our programme is concerned. I, therefore, request the Finance Minister to kindly consider this possibility especially for a State like Andhra Pradesh, which is already implementing the programme.

Then, coming to the third programme, namely, the measures that have to be undertaken under RLEGP and NREP, we have not been clear as to what will be the ratio in which the different States will get this particular assistance. If we have to raise 100 million additional mandays of work under this programme, what will be the proportion in which a State like Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh or Madhya Pradesh will get the assistance? Have the details been worked out in this regard or not yet or is there any other way by which the work is to be distributed over the different States in the country, because that is very important? Will it be on a prorata basis on the basis of population or will it be on a prorata basis on the basis of something also like the development process or on a pro rata basis of those who are below the poverty line? These are some of the questions that have to be considered if we have to augment this programme in different States because once the programme is launched there is bound to be great demand from different States Unless we are very clear as to what will be the distribution pattern of these

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million mandays of work which has to be generated through this programme, it will be difficult for the Government of India to have these things properly implemented. Therefore, I would like to ask the Finance Minister to have the details worked out or is it only a broad frame which has been given new and upon which the details will be worked out subsequently.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI-MATI KANAK MUKHERJEE): Please be brief and ask only the clarifications and no speeches.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Madam, I am very brief. I think I would have completed the third point if...

The second major programme pertains to the nutritive programme for young children, working women and nursing mothers programme and do I understand that this programme will be in continuation of the programme under MCH, mother and child health care? If that is the case, if such programme is already launched in a particular State and if this programme has now to be implemented, will it be adding to the funds that are already available to the States concerned which have been meeting the needs in terms of the programme for pregnant women, young children and nursing mothers and so forth? I do hope that if there is already a programme on, this money could be used for further strengthening such similar programmes in those States. Therefore, I do hope that the Government of India would not be imposing a restriction on such States which have been already having these programmes saying that "you are already having it and therefore there is no need to draw from this". I would like to have a clarification from the Finance Minister that such States which have been having this programme will continue to have additional benefits accruing as a result of these three measures which have been announced by the Finance Minister. Thank you.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE (Gujarat): I would like to know from the Finance Minister only on a small point. It is said here under measure 2 that you will require additional Rs. 45 crores. What is the exact quantum of Subsidy for the first measure?

SHRI SUSHIL CHAND MOHUNTA (Haryana): I am happy that the hon. Minister has come out with these concessions and I should say that decidedly there is a tilt of the Government in favour of the poor classes, classes who have no means of making a reasonable subsistence for themselves. But all the same, I would like to put a question and seek a clarification. He has replied to a question by one hon. Member that these schemes are meant for the people and not for the States. I am happy over that. But the question arises, the implementing agencies are with the State Government and, therefore- if this benefit is to percolate down to the level to which it is intended, this must be through the agencies of the State Government and if it is to be through the agencies of the State Government, then the various State Governments will have to be reimbursed in this respect. Has the Central Government any infrastructure for evaluating and for having a check on the activities of each State Government? This is my first question.

Secondly, have the beneficiaries of the schemes been identified State-wise or whatever proposal the State Government would give it would be accepted? I do not know what the Central Government has done and whether any homework has been done to find out the number of tribals in a particular State or the needy children and mothers who would require the assistance and what would be the order of the assistance required by the people in a particular State. If this work has been done, then what are the figures? It has been possible for the Finance Ministry to reach this figure and I would like to know whether this figure has been reached by taking all the above !

information into account or it is just a random figure.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO (Jammu and Kashmir): I have only to ask two or three queries. I would like to know whether this scheme applies to the State of Jammu and Kashmir also. Secondly, in paragraph 4 it has been stated that while distribution will be mostly in the form of wheat in those areas where rice is preferred, rice would also be given in addition. So far as the State of Jammu and Kashmir is concerned, particularly Kashmir area, we only prefer rice. Can rice still be given to us? Because we do not take wheat, shall only rice be given to us? Thirdly, whether this rate of Rs. 1.50 per kg. of wheat and Rs. 1.85 per kg of rice applies to the entire country and in the remotest corner of the country? Lastly, whether withdrawal of quantities of wheat from fair-price shops from now on will also apply to the entire country or only to the Union Territory of Delhi?

SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM (Tamil Nadu): I am very glad that our Finance Minister has come forward with a very fine statement giving benefit to the weaker sections and he has also stated that the entire expenditure involved will be borne by the Central Government.

I would like to ask two or three questions. The first question has been asked by my friend here. On the first page, last four lines, the price has been indicated as Rs. 1.50 per kg. for wheat and Rs. 1.85 for rice per kg. It is a very good price for the weaker sections. But while the distribution will be mostly in the form of wheat in those areas where rice is preferred, rice would also be given in addition.

Madam, I come from an area where they prefer only rice. From the size of my body you can understand that we do not take wheat. We usually take rice. I hope, wherever it is needed, adequate quantities of rice will

[Shri R Meh'anarangam]

be distributed to the weaker sections, in the area from which I come.

My second point is, in the last paragraph, paragraph 7, on the second page, it has been stated 'Hon. Members would be happy to know that in addition to these measures, it has been decided that ration card holders will not have any restrictions on the quantities of wheat they can draw from the fair price shops from now till the 31st March, 1986.' I would only suggest that rice also should be included in this and it should read 'will not have any restrictions on the quantities of wheat and rice....' Thank you.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI (Maharashtra): Madam Vice-Chairman, our Prime Minister had announced some ten days before that a scheme for giving foodgrains at concessional rates to the people who are living below the poverty line will be implemented by the Government. I am very happy that the Finance Minister has come forward with this scheme very soon, just on the second day of the Session.

In this connection, I would like to seek some clarifications. It is not that all the tribal people and those who are living below the poverty line eat only wheat and rice. There are sections of people, specially in Maharashtra, those who are living below the poverty line, who consume jowar. In Panchmahals district, the staple food of the adivasis is makka. As much. I would like the Government to consider the question of modifying the scheme so that these sections of people, weaker sections of people, for whom they want to implement the scheme, are given the food-grains of their choice due to the habit which they have formed over the last several years.

Secondly, I hope, this scheme will be continued as a permanent measure. It should not be that this scheme has been introduced only because we have food-

grains in plenty now. It should not be like that. This should be a permanent measure. The foodgrains should reach those people for whom they are meant. It should be distributed to the people at their places of work. In the remote and hilly areas, in the areas where adivasis live, there should be mobile shops for distribution of food-grains. Only then, the purpose for which the Government is implementing these two or three noble schemes will be served.

I am very happy that the Government is giving all types of concessions to the people who are living below the poverty line. They have started with foodgrains. I would request the Government to examine the possibility of extending this scheme to other items. The poor people cannot afford the luxury of vegetables. They should be given pulses at least twice a week.

अगर सरकार दाल को भी कवर करेगी तो हफ्ते में उनको कम से कम दो दिन दाल के साथ रोटी मिल सकती है। यही मुझे निवेदन करना है।

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव (बिहार) : महोदया, माननीय मंत्री जी का इस प्रकार का वक्तव्य देने की प्रथा प्रचारित करना मैं समझता हूँ कि ठीक नहीं है और मैं समझता हूँ कि सदन की प्रक्रिया यह नहीं रही है। पार्लियामेंटरी प्रोसीजर से काम होना चाहिए, यह नहीं कि जो मन में आए कर लिया। एक तो सफाई चाहूंगा कि इस प्रकार प्रथा क्यों बनाई जा रही है और वह भी सदन के नेता द्वारा हो? फिर प्रक्रिया और प्रोसीजर की बात क्या रह्यो? जहाँ तक जनता पार्टी का अन्तर्द्वय का कार्यक्रम था उस के साथ साथ ग्रामीण सड़कों की एक योजना भी थी। उसको तो आप ने अंतर्ध्यान करा दिया और अब उसे रिप्लेस करने के लिये तरह-तरह की योजनाएँ बनायी जा रही हैं। लेकिन अंत्योदन के स्तर तक पहुँचने के लिये और गांवों में जो सड़कें बनी थीं उनको पक्का करने के लिये अगर इस योजना को आप बैठते तो मैं समझता

हैं कि उससे गरीबों के लाभ के साथ-साथ वहां की समस्याओं का कुछ स्थायी निदान निकलता, अंत्योदय का रास्ता पतनपता और वहां के गरीबों का कल्याण होता।

दूसरी बात मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह ठीक है कि आज देश में बच्चे इल-फेड हैं, इल-एजुकेटेड हैं, इनरिश्ड हैं, लेकिन इस सब को ठीक करने के लिए अगर कोई योजना समाज कल्याण विभाग से मिल कर बनायी जाती तो ठीक होता। यह ठीक है कि आप रुपया खर्च करेंगे इन योजनाओं पर, लेकिन उसकी व्यवस्था किस प्रकार होगी। क्या उससे पीड़ित व्यक्ति को उचित सहायता, बच्चों को दूध और गर्भवती महिलाओं को उचित आहार मिल सकेगा। आप पैसा जरूर देंगे, लेकिन वह पैसा कौन खा जायगा इसका पता नहीं चलेगा। इसी तरह से काम के दिनों को आप बढ़ाने जा रहे हैं। यह स्कीम अच्छी लगती है। लेकिन सचमुच में क्या काम के दिन बढ़ते हैं और अगर बढ़ते हैं तो क्या उनको उसकी पूरी मजदूरी मिलती है या मजदूरी देने वाले ही उनकी उस बढ़ी हुई मजदूरी को खा जाते हैं। इसका मूल्यांकन आप कैसे करेंगे? आप की यह योजना जो बहुत भली लगती है उसका कार्यान्वयन कैसे होगा इसके लिये क्या आपने कोई प्लान रखा है या सिर्फ यह आप का एक स्टैटमेंट ही है?

श्री संयद रहमत अली (आंध्र प्रदेश): मुझे बड़ा खुश है कि आला जनाब मिनिस्टर स हब ने गरबो का राहतकारा के लिए अपने स्टैटमेंट में बड़े अच्छे एकदामात का जिक्र किया है। इस मोर्चे पर मुझ को क्लैरिफिकेशन लेना है मिनिस्टर स हब से तो मैं सिर्फ रेकार्ड को ठीक करने के लिए मिनिस्टर स हब से क्लैरिफिकेशन की खातिर यह बात जानना चाहता हूँ कि श्री प्रोफेसर लक्ष्मण साहब ने यह बात कही कि दो वर्ष पहले से आंध्र प्रदेश में यह स्कीम चल रहा है जहाँ तक मेरा मालूम-मात का ताल्लुक है कि तेलंगु देसम की सरकार के बरसरे इक्तेदार आने से पहले ही वहाँ पर कांग्रेस की सरकार ने एक रूपया 98 पैस फिलोक हिसाब से चावल की सारवरी स्कीम को लागू किया गया था और उस के

साथ हॉ सडर्स ड ईज्ड स डियों और धोतियों की स्कीम भी चली थी। लेकिन अगर इन रपगई और फलाई कामों को भी पॉलिटिकल अगराज के लिए अपना सिर ऊंचा करने के लिये इस्तेमाल किया जाता है तो यह बहुत नामुनासिब है। इससे तहत इस स्कीम के बंद होने के बारे में आला जनाब फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर साहब कुछ बजाहत करें तो ठीक होगा।

†[شری سہد رحمت علی

(आंध्र प्रदेश): مجھے بڑی خوشی ہے کہ عالی جناب منسٹر صاحب نے غریبوں کی راحت کاری کیلئے اپنے اسٹیٹ منٹ میں بڑے اچھے اقدامات کا ذکر کیا ہے۔ اس موقع پر مجھ کو کلیریفیکیشن لینا ہے منسٹر صاحب سے تو میں صرف ریکارڈ کو ٹھیک کرنے کیلئے منسٹر صاحب سے کلیریفیکیشن کی خاطر یہ بات جاننا چاہتا ہوں کہ ابھی پروویڈر لکسمن صاحب نے یہ بت کہی تھی دو ورکش پہلے سے آندھرا پردیش میں یہ اسکیم چل رہی ہے۔ چھانٹک میڈری معلومات کا تعلق ہے کہ تیلگوویشم کے سرکار نے برسرِ اقدام آنے سے پہلے ہی وہاں پر کانگرس کی سرکار نے ایک روپیہ 98 پیسے کلو کے حساب سے چاول کی سربزائی اسکیم کو لاگو کیا تھا اور اسکے ساتھ ہی سب ڈنڈ سازیوں اور دھوٹیوں کی اسکیم بھی چلائی تھی لیکن اگر ان رہنماہی اور فلاحی کاموں کو بھی پولیٹیکل اغراض کے لئے اپنا سر اونچا کرنے کے لئے استعمال کیا جاتا ہے تو یہ بہت نامناسب ہے۔ اس کے تحت اس اسکیم کے بند ہونے کے بارے میں عالی جناب فائنل منسٹر صاحب کچھ وضاحت کریں تو ٹھیک ہوگا [

SHRI P. N. SUKUL (Uttar Pradesh): Madam Vice-Chairman, I wish to congratulate our Finance Minister and the Government of India for some very welcome measures just announced for the benefit of the weaker sections, children, women etc. However, I would like to have one clarification on the penultimate para pertaining to the removal of restriction on the quantities of wheat drawn from the fair price shops. I would like to know whether this will apply only to the rural areas or to the urban areas including Delhi also. I would also like to know, as Mr. Mohanarangam has just now asked, whether rice will also be covered under it or not. Arising out of this is a point whether this wheat and rice are to be sold at subsidised rates out of the fair price shops and they can be taken in any quantity. If that is so, will there not be any possibility of blackmarketing, as even today things like sugar, rice and other things are being blackmarketed out of the fair price shops? They are misappropriated from there and sold by the bonios and others in the blackmar-ket. So, I would like to have these clarifications.

3 P. M.

श्री चन्द्रिका प्रसाद विपाठी (मध्य प्रदेश) : माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी ने जो घोषणा की है वह कांग्रेस के चुनाव घोषणा पत्र के अनुरूप ही है जिस में पीने के पानी, रहने को मकान और गरीबी की सीमा से नीचे रहने वालों को ऊंचा उठाने के लिये जो प्रयास थे उनके तहत ही यह है। मैं सिर्फ इतना ही निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि माननीय मंत्री जी ने यह जानकारी दी कि सस्ते रेट पर गेहूँ और चावल प्रति यूनिट कितना मिलेगा। यह भी जानकारी दे दें कि गांवों में प्रति यूनिट कितना मिलेगा, प्रति सप्ताह कितना मिलेगा और महीने में कितना मिलेगा।

दूसरे, आदर्श के रूप में सहकारी संस्थाओं के माध्यम से है यह व्यवस्था कराना सरकार की नीति है। लेकिन सहकारी संस्थाओं के पास पैसा न होने के कारण बनिए उसका फायदा उठाते

हैं। क्या यह जो प्राफिटियरिंग होगा इस पर नियंत्रण आप लगा सकेंगे क्योंकि बाजार भाव से जब गल्ला सस्ता दिया जाएगा तो इसको ब्लैक में बेचा जाएगा क्योंकि यह उन क्षेत्रों में बेचा जाएगा जहाँ पर लोग गरीब हैं। वे लोग ज्यादा जागरूक नहीं हैं, चतुर नहीं हैं कि अपनी सही बात को अधिकारियों के सामने जाकर रख सकें।

इसलिए मेरे इन सवालों का स्पष्टीकरण देने की कृपा करें कि बंटवारे की व्यवस्था किस प्रकार होगी और प्रति यूनिट कितना दिया जाएगा और उसमें सोमा रेखा के अन्दर शहर में रहने वालों के लिए क्या व्यवस्था होगी। इन शब्दों के साथ मैं माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी की घोषणा का स्वागत करता हूँ।

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: First, I thank the hon. Members for the compliments that they have given for the scheme.

As regards the point about additio-nality to the already existing schemes that various States are implementing, this will be an additionality to what they are already doing. That has been made clear in the Statement. Please see para 5; that makes it clear.

As fo the basis on which the distribution would be made, that point was raised, whether on population or what basis. In fact, it is a broad framework. The population will have its weight in distribution of foodgrains.

About the amount of subsidy, Shri Pranab Mukherjee raised this point and he knows where to put the finger. He has run the Finance Ministry and is knowledgeable about finance. The amount is 45 paise per kilogram and on a million tonnes it works out to 45 crores. You can understand; I am not giving the total.

About rice, the point was made. I cannot commit that rice will substitute wheat. It is the wheat stock that we have.

SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: I have not asked for substitution.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH:
 We will give rice in addition to wheat. So when the population cannot take wheat and is on rice, that sensitivity of the population will be taken care of. To say that only it should be done, it is not clear for me to give that hope.

About the point made about Maharashtra about jowar and makka. I am aware that in many areas people prefer that. In some areas of Rajasthan also and some areas of Madhya Pradesh too. But this is confined to wheat and at some places alongwith rice.

Now whether we will continue it or not, and not only when there is plenty. We are planning for plenty; not scarcity. We hope that alongwith plenty, we will continue it.

About reaching of mobile shops etc. in other places, the point was made. Of course, that is a question of distribution and strengthening the public distribution system. We will be making our best efforts in consultation • with the State agencies. About the point made that where States are the agency of implementation, what is the check on beneficiaries. All those points have been made. Well, for those which are under the various I schemes of RLEGP, NREP etc. the norms are there. And also for nutrition programme for women and children, the norms are there. So, already there are the existing norms to guide the programme. Certainly, apart from State agencies, other agencies can be contemplated like the NCC and others to be pressed into action for distribution purposes in very remote areas where there is insufficient infrastructure.

I think, I cannot agree about pulses also. The idea, I do not reject. But we do not have the possibility at the moment because, you know, we are short of pulses.

The point was made that black-marketing will occur and whether it will be only for the rural areas or the urban areas and what amount can be picked from the ration shops. It is applicable to the whole of India, including the urban area also. There are labourers working in the rural areas. They will be beneficiaries of the scheme.

About black-marketing, I think black-marketing is not a problem; and wheat marketing is the problem.

About how much will be given, it is open. The quantum is not there, so far as the ration card holders are concerned.

I thank again the hon. Members for their comments.

INTRODUCTION OF MINISTER

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE): Leader of the House will introduce the hon. Minister.

THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): Madam, I have the pleasure to introduce to you and, through you, to the House Shri B. R. Bhagat, Minister of External Affairs.

THE BONDED LABOUR SYSTEM (ABOLITION) AMENDMENT BILL, 1984—(contd.)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE): Now we resume our discussion on the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Amendment Bill. Shrimati Usha Malhotra.

J SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA:
 j Madam Vice-Chairman, first of all, I would like to congratulate our hon.