

रकहना चाहता हूँ। श्री भोला पा
 शास्त्री जो विरोध-पक्ष के नेता रह चुके
 हैं। हमारे यहाँ मुख्यमंत्री भी रह चुके
 हैं। वे बहुत आर्थिक संकट में रह रहे हैं।
 उनके पास अपना सम्पत्ति और परिवार
 नहीं है। अभी कैंसर रोग से वे पीड़ित
 हो कर अन्तिम हालत में हैं। मुझे पता
 लगा है कि प्रधानमंत्री जी ने पांच हजार
 रुपये दिया था उनके इलाज के लिए।
 बिहार सरकार हो या भारत का सरकार
 हो; वे कैंसर रोग से पीड़ित हैं मरेंगे हों,
 जिन्दगी तो उनको दे नहीं सकते, लेकिन
 उनका आर्थिक हालत इतना कमजोर नहीं है
 और इतना ईमानदारों से उन्होंने अपना
 सार्वजनिक जिन्दगी का निर्वाह लिया है कि
 वह सब के लिए एक उदाहरण बन सकती
 हैं। सरकार कोई न कोई रास्ता निकाले
 ताकि उनका इलाज ठीक ढंग से हो सके।
 क्योंकि उनका परिवार नहीं है इसलिए
 उनके लिए किसी विशेष नर्सिंग होम को
 सुविधा देने की व्यवस्था की जाये।

THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE (SHRI
 PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): Sir, I
 fully appreciate the point. Shri Bhola Fas-
 wan Shastri" is a senior, respected leader of
 our country and definitely I will keep in
 mind the suggestion made by Shri
 Hukumdeo Narayan Yadav and see
 whatever has to be done on behalf of the
 Government for his treatment.

SHRI VIS|HVAJIT FR1THV1JIT
 SINGH (Maharashtra): Sir, I
 request the Government of Maharashtra to
 provide all aid to him at the Tata Memorial
 Hospital which is the premier hospital for
 cancer research in the country.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI (Maha-
 rashtra): But he is in the All-India
 Institute of Medical Sciences

(Interruptions)

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Engagement of children as bonded labour in
 various factories and small scale units in the
 country

SHRI S.W.DHABE (Maharash-
 tra): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of
 Labour and Rehabilitation to the reported
 engagement of children as bonded labour in
 factories and various manufacturing and small-
 scale industrial units in the country and the
 miserable plight of such children and the action
 taken by Government in this regard.

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND
 REHABILITATION (SHRI VEEREN
 DRA PATIL): Sir, the bonded labour
 system has been abolished by law
 throughout the country with effect
 from 25th October, 1975 under the
 Bonded Labour System (Abolition)
 Act, 1976. with effect from this date all
 bonded labourers stood freed and dis-
 charged from any obligation to render
 bonded labour and their debts liqui-
 dated. The Act defines 'bonded debt',
 'bonded labour', 'bonded Labourer' and
 bonded labour system'. Any person,
 including a child labourer, who fulfils
 the ingredients of the Bonded Labour
 System as defined in the Act will come
 in the category of bonded labour.
 Under the Act identification and release of bonded
 labour and rehabilitation of freed bonded
 labourers be the direct
 responsibility of the State Govern-
 ments concerned. According to
 the reports received from the
 State Governments, the total number of
 bonded labourers identified and freed as on 29-2-
 1984 was 1,62,637 out of which 1,23,194 have been
 rehabilitated. The number of child bonded labourers
 in this number is, however, not available. As and
 when the complaints relating to existence of bonded
 labour system in any particular area are received by
 Government, immediate action is taken by
 Government to set the matter

[Shri Veerendra Patil]

investigated through the State Government concerned, for securing release and rehabilitation of such bonded labourers.

Government have taken note of the reports which have appeared in the press recently about the exploitation of children hailing from Palamau district of Bihar who are being made to work as bonded labourers in the carpet factories in Mirzapur district of Uttar Pradesh. Immediately on receipt of these reports, the Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar were requested to get the matter investigated and take necessary action for releasing these children and restoring them to their parents. The gist of the report received from the District Magistrate, Mirzapur (Uttar Pradesh) is as under:—

On 13-4-1984, four police parties along with Magistrates were sent to nine villages in Mirzapur District for investigating the matter and releasing the children employed in the carpet weaving units. On these dates, 5 children from Village Belwaria could be released from the carpet factory of Shri Panna Lal.

Earlier, on a F.I.R. lodged under Section 363 Indian Penal Code on 27-3-1984 in Police Station Patan in Palamau District, the Bihar Police came to Mirzapur and with the help of the police station Chilh Mirzapur they released and took away 27 children with them to Palamau on 1-4-1984..

Subsequently, as a result of extensive raids conducted by the Magistrates of Mirzapur and by the Inspectors of Labour Department with the help of Police in Village Balua, Pur-jagir and Belwaria, 114 children ranging between ages 8 to 22 were collected from 22 carpet weavers on 16-4-84. Nine out of the 114 children so released on 16-4-1984 were more than 18 years of age and 14 of them were above 14 years of age. This leaves 91 children of and below 14 years of age. It was found that all except

one child were from the District of Palamau in Bihar and the one exception was from District of Mirzapur. After due medical examination and after recording of the statements of these children, both by the Magistrates- as well as the officers of the Labour Department, they have been sent back, to District Palamau.

From the statements recorded, instances of violation of Minimum Wages Act, 1948, Employment of Children Act, 1938, Children Act, 1960, Factories Act 1948 and Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, and certain provisions of I.P.C. like Sections 341 and 374 have come to notice. No case could, however, be made of these children being treated as bonded labourers as per the definition given in the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976;

The District Magistrate, Mirzapur has further reported that a team of officers comprising of one Executive Magistrate and one Area Police Officer was deputed to Palamau on 13-4-1984 for an on-the-spot investigation into the follow-up action taken by the District Administration of Palamau, consequent on the repatriation of 27 child labourers from Mirzapur on 1-4-1984. The Executive Magistrate of Mirzapur, who took the statements of the children and 5 parents in Palamau has reported on his return that 32 children from Chhichhori village of Patan of District Palamau were taken to Shri Panna Lal Carpet Weaver of village Belwari on 4 occasions by Shri Siva Kjmar Thakur and Shri Sudama Thakur of the same Police Station. Most of the children were taken to Belwari against their wishes on some pretext or the other. From the Statements of the children recorded by the Executive Magistrate, it appears that the children were forced to hard and incessant labour under inhuman conditions for 16 to 18 hours a day. From these statements, the

District Magistrate of Mirzapur is of the view that this may be construed to be a case of forced confinement but not a case of bondage as according to him there was no element of loan/ debt/advance given by the employer to the children or their parents against which the children were required to render their labour/service. Necessary legal and penal action has been initiated against the offenders.

While drawing the attention of the Government of Bihar and Uttar Pra-desh to the above incident, they have been specifically requested to (a) have a thorough investigation into the matter and to report full facts of the case, (b) to take most deterrent action against the offenders, (c) to take necessary departmental action against the officers of the State Government who might be found to be responsible for dereliction of duty (d) to take preventive measures so that such incidents do not recur. Simultaneously a long term perspective plan for ameliorating the plight of the child labourers has been drawn up and sent to the Planning Commission and the concerned Ministries of Government of India for their consideration.

SHRI S. W. DHABE: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, it is a very serious question and also a tragedy which our country is facing, that a large number of children—this is a case referring to children—are being exploited engaged in many occupations for their livelihood right from the Sivakasi Fire Works Factory in Tamil N to many other places brick kilns in Delhi and carpet weaving factories not only in U.P but also in some parts of Jammu and Kashmir. The tragedy is that they have been asked to work as forced labour. And the statement of the Minister in this connection is not a happy one, to say that they are not governed by the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act. The matter required investigation.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: That is not my statement.

SHRI S. W. DHABE: I am saying about the statement which is here. I am not saying it is your personal statement. We have abolished bonded labour in 1976. The Act is very clear about the position when advance or debt or money is given and when an agreement is there for having forced labour. Certainly, he must have taken the boys with the consent of their parents by giving some money to the parents. Otherwise, how could such a large number of boys be taken from one district of Bihar to U.P.? And, therefore, to say that the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act does not apply, is not correct. I would like the Minister to clarify the position about the measure. The words used are "agreement in advance."

SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM (Tamil Nadu): Sir the hon. Member was speaking about the Sivakasi Factory in Tamil Nadu. In Tamil Nadu there is no bonded labour.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY (Tamil Nadu): Exploitation of child labour is there. That is why he said that.

MISS JAYALALITHA (Tamil Nadu): I must want to make it clear that there is no bonded labour in the Sivakasi Factories. There the parents willingly send their children to work. The Tamil Nadu Government wants to put an end to that. But the parents say the livelihood of their families will be affected because they depend on the salary brought by the children. There is a difference between bonded labour and child labour. That is what I want to point out.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Child labour is exploited in the name of poverty by factory owners. Will the Government justify that? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: We do not stoutly oppose it. We are, telling the reason for that.

SHRI K. MOHANAN (Kerala): Child labour is against our Constitution

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We have a different Act.

SHRI S. W. DHABE: The distinction made and as stated by hon. lady Member by the Tamil Nadu Government is without difference. The child labour being exploited under article 23 of Constitution termed as forced labour or the 'bonded labour system' is the same. Therefore, we have to consider the total picture of the child labour which is being exploited in our country and the in-human treatment given to the children is to have a very serious effect on "them who are going to be the future citizens of India.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Sir, even the Supreme Court has given directions to the Tamil Nadu Government to impose a total ban on child labour. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI S. W. DHABE: Sir, I am not in controversy with Tamil Nadu Government (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Tamil Nadu is a part of India. That is why Shri Dhabhe is mentioning.

MR. DEPUTY- CHAIRMAN: Please don't mention about Tamil Nadu. Shri Dhabhe.

SHRI S. W. DHABE: The Bonded Labour Abolition Act is based on two articles of the Constitution which not yet implemented in full letter and spirit. Whereas Articles 23 of the Constitution says: "Prohibition of traffic in human beings and forced labour—(1) Traffic in human beings and begar and other similar forms of forced labour are prohibited and any contravention of this provision shall be an offence punishable in accordance with law.

Secondly, Article 24 of the Constitution says: "Prohibition of employment of children in factories, etc. No child below the age of fourteen years shall be employed to work in any factory or mine or engaged in any other hazardous employment".

Articles 23 and 24 of the Constitution have been our cardinal principles.

We have passed two legislations. The first in 1938 known as the Employment ' Children Act, 1938, the second in 1976 known as the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976. The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act is a very important social legislation which we want to create equality in our country and that the human dignity should be restored and declaration of human rights are given affect to. Sir, in this connection, I would like to know from the Minister, of this question, whether in the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, the District Magistrate has to perform certain duties under the Act. Under the Act, it has been provided under Section 13 that there must be a Vigilance Committee in each district. The Vigilance Committee consists of a number of persons. Not only that, under Section 13, there must be vigilance committee at this district as well as Sub-Division levels. The Committee also consists of social workers, persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes and not more than three persons to represent the official or non-official agencies in the district connected with rural development, to be nominated by the State Government. The functions of each Vigilance Committee shall be to advise the District Magistrate, from time to time, about the bonded labour and also give directions to provide for the economic and social rehabilitation of the freed bonded labourers.

Therefore, my first question is whether any of the State Governments have implemented or set up Vigilance Committees in view of the direction of the Supreme Court; and whether any guidelines have been issued to the State Governments for setting up Vigilance Committees?

The second question is about the Employment of the Children Act, 1938. When the Janata Government was in power a committee was constituted to investigate on child labour and also suggest amendments to the said Act. My colleague, Shri M .S. Gurupadaswamy was the Chairman and I happened to be a Member of that Committee. The report was sent long back. Instead of accepting the report, the Government when it came to power in 1980 again appointed a Committee. I do not know what has happened to that report the report which has been submitted by the Committee on the Child Labour.

Now, as regards the Child Labour Act or the Employment of Children Act. I invite the attention of the Minister to two things which are engaging in our minds, that is the direct Infringement of the Employment of Children" Act in the carpet weaving units. Under sub-section (8) of section 3 of the Employment of Children Act 1938, it is stated:

"No child who has not completed his fourteenth year shall be employed, or permitted to work, in any workshop wherein any of the processes set forth in the Schedule is carried on."

Now if you see the Schedule to this Act, It includes ten industries which are very vital. One is bidi-making the second is carpet-weaving—it is directly mentioned in the schedule. Then we have cement manufacture; cloth-printing, manufacture of matches, explosives and fireworks, as is done in Tamil Nadu; mica-cutting and splitting; shellac manufacture; soap manufacture; tanning; and wool and cleaning.

Now the penalty for infringement is very meagre penalty. It is only simple imprisonment for one month or a fine of Rs. 500. Now the committee was of the view that for social offences like these, the punishment was so meagre that the enforcement of the Act would not make any effect.

Therefore, they suggested that it was high time that the employment of Children Act, 1938 was amended, particularly section 4 of the Act, to provide for stringent penalties. This Act also provide for the appointment of Inspectors. Under section 6 of the Act the States have to appoint Inspectors to see that the Act is properly implemented. I would like to know whether, to implement the provisions of the Employment of Children Act, 1938, any Inspectors have been appointed in any state and specially, whether Inspectors have been appointed in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar where this question has been raised, or it has been only left to the magistrates and the law and order machinery to find out and release such boys.

The third question which I want to raise is about the statement given by the Minister in connection with the reports in the press regarding a carpet factory. I will only read one paragraph from the report which appeared in the "Hindustan Times" on the 11th April, 1934:

"Suresh was branded with a hot iron rod in his left hand ring finger for not getting up early to resume the day's work. They had only tattered clothes to wear in the cold wave sweeping the entire area, Suresh said."

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN
Where?

SHRI S. W. DHABE: I am reading the statement of those boys, which has appeared in the "Hindustan Times" of the 11th April.

"Munni Manjhi, a class for student, recalled that some of them who once tried to escape from there, were caught by" the owner's mus-clemen and hung upside down from a tree and beat with iron rods.

The severe beating resulted in the illness of Jai Mochi, who was bedridden with high fever and writhed in pain for four days.

[Shri S. W. Dhabe]

With tears in his eyes, nine-year-old Bachhacha Bbuiyan said that all of them would sleep in a single room with guards keeping ceaseless vigil round-the-clock".

This inhuman treatment given to the children has appeared in the international press and has tarnished the image of the country. I would like to know from the Minister whether, apart from the statement of the magistrate which he has mentioned, he will try to find out what truth is there in the report which has come in the press, whether any investigation will be made into the reported torture that they were hung upside down, that they were required to work for 18 hours a day, that they were locked up in rooms after the work, that they were beaten if they did not work and that they were required to work in spite of their illness. The problem is very serious and inhuman treatment is given to child labour. The problem of child labour is a very vast one. I would only like to quote this from the ILO report:

•"There are at present over 25 crores children in our country. According to the 1971 census, out of 230 million children, more than 10.7 million were workers. In 1978 there were 257 million children and the total number of child workers was estimated to have risen to 16.5 million. Today India is said to account for a share of more than 33 per cent of around 55 million strong child labour force in the world."

In view of the Constitutional guarantee and the provisions of the Act, may I know from the Minister whether he will take steps to see that employment of child labour is banned? Why is it coming up? Because, there are no educational or employment opportunities in rural areas. Even compulsory education is not there. I want to know from the Minister why follow-up action is not being taken or whether any follow-up action will be taken in view of this serious situation, in view

of the plight of the children that has come to light. I must thank the press in this connection. It is because of the press that the matter has come to light. I want the Minister to tell us about the implementation of these two Acts.

SHRI K. MOHANAN: Mr. Deputy Chairman, according to our Constitution child labour itself is an offence. Bonded labour of children is a much more serious crime. Already my esteemed friend, Mr. Dhabe, has quoted the constitutional provision in this regard. So I would not like to, go into that detail. Even after almost half a century of the inception of our Constitution, unfortunately India still has the largest child labour force in the world. According to the estimates in 1971 there were over 10 million child labourers in India. Since then the number has increased. In 1972-73 the figure was 16.3 million. The Rural Labour Inquiry Committee calculated that on an average a child is employed in the countryside for 280 days in a year and the child earns roughly half the adult wages.

Not only in the traditional industries but even in the organised sector this system is prevailing. For example, in tea gardens and in mines this child labour system is prevailing in a big way- Hotel industry is another avenue for the exploiters of child labour. When compared to the organised sector, the bonded labour system is more strong in traditional industries, in carpet, in fireworks in Sivakasi, in brickkiln, everywhere. There are almost twelve pieces of legislation in existence that deal with child labour. The major statutes governing child labour are: the Children (Pledging of Labour) Act 1933, the Employment of Children Act 1938, the Minimum Wages Act 1948, and so on. In addition to these, Article 39 of the Directive Principles of State Policy states that the tender age of children should not be abused and citizens should not be forced by economic necessity to enter an avocation unsuited to their age and strength and that children should be given opportunity and facility to, develop in a healthier manner and in conditions of

freedom and dignity. But with utter disrespect to our own Constitution, after 34 years of the inception of our Constitution child labour system and child bonded labour system is still prevailing.

This is a social evil. It is part of the existing capitalist system of society in this country. Unemployment and poverty on one side and inhuman exploitation in this particular system on the other, are the main causes for the perpetuation of the child labour system in this country. Law alone cannot contain or control this social evil. A social awareness on the part of every section of this country is necessary to abolish this system from our social set-up.

But we have failed to implement even the existing laws. Why? Because of the inaction of the Government. In 1981 the Committee on Child Labour recommended that the minimum age for employment of children should be 15, but the Government rejected that recommendation, if I am correct, on the ground that the time was not ripe. I would like to know from the Minister why the Government had rejected that recommendation on the ground that time was not ripe. It was utter failure on the part of the Government to rehabilitate the children under the age of 15 with proper education and food. After rejecting that recommendation, a child labour cell has been instituted under the Labour Ministry, if I am correct, in 1981. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister what was the job done by this cell all these years. Not only that, an Advisory Board, with the Labour Minister as Chairman, has also been working in this regard. Its intention was to review the implementation of existing legislation and to suggest legislative and other measures in order to discourage the child labour system. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister what was the job done by this cell in the Labour Ministry and the Advisory Board under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Labour Minister.

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव (बिहार)

माननीय उपसभापति जी, जब बंधुआ मजदूरों को बात आती है तो कानून ऐसा लगता है कि सरकार सिर्फ कागज पर रहती है। जो रिपोर्ट होता है उसी रिपोर्ट मात्र पर ही सरकार एक्शन लेती है, इसके सिवाय एक्शन नहीं लेती। बिहार के पलामू जिले का कुछ बच्चा मिर्जापुर में पकड़ा गया। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि बिहार के छोटे बच्चे और बंधुआ लेबर कलकत्ता के हावड़ा और सियालदा स्टेशन पर, पंजाब और हरियाणा के खेतों में लाखों की संख्या में पाये जाते हैं उनके लिये सरकार क्या कर रहा है?

उपसभापति महोदय, मूल सवाल मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि वैसे तो हथकरघा, वागान, खान, होटल, कार्लान कारखाने आदि के कामों में और भिक्षा में बच्चों को अप्रुप करके अधिक काम लिया जाता है, एवं भट्टा ईंटों में बच्चों से काम लिया जाता है? फोर्स लेबर इनको कहा जा सकता है। हो सकता है गरीबों के कारण माँ-बाप के कहने पर स्वयं ही गये हों लेकिन इसका मूल समाधान देश चाहता है मूल समाधान तब तक आप कुछ नहीं निकाल सकते जब तक देश में गरीबी मिटाने का काम न हो और कम से कम सातवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में इतने धन की एलाटमेंट न करें जिससे इन गरीब बच्चों की कुछ न कुछ व्यवस्था कर सकें, जिससे वे अपनी जीविका चला सकें, अपने बड़े माँ-बाप का भरण पोषण कर सकें। जब तक आप इसकी व्यवस्था नहीं करते तब तक वह लोभ में फँसते रहेंगे और उनसे फोर्स लेबर के रूप में काम लिया जाता रहेगा।

दूसरी बात मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो कम्पलसरी एजुकेशन अनिवार्य शिक्षा है 6 वर्ष से 11 वर्ष तक के बच्चे

[श्री जगन्मो प्रसाद यादव]

के लिये, जिसके बारे में संविधान में भी है, इसको लागू करने में सरकार क्यों नहीं कामयाब हो रही है? अगर इसको लागू किया जाता है तो बच्चों को शिक्षा दी जायेगी, देश के बच्चे जो कल के नेता हैं, कल के नागरिक हैं उनको काम मिल जायेगा। दूसरी बात यह है कि कानून को क्रियान्वित करने में आप कौन सा कारगर कदम उठाने जा रहे हैं? इन बच्चों में 99 प्रतिशत बच्चे हरिजन और पिछड़ा जाति के हैं और ये गरीबी की रेखा के नीचे रहने वाले भी हैं। आज सरकार इस ओर सिर्फ नारेबाजी दे रही है लेकिन इसका मूल निदान करने के लिये कोई उपाय नहीं कर रही है। इस लिये मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इसमें सरकार क्या करना चाहता है? ऐसे कितने बच्चे काम कर रहे हैं इस बारे में तरह-तरह की रिपोर्टें हैं। लेकिन मैं कहता हूँ जो रिपोर्ट दो करोड़ के बच्चों की है मैं समझता हूँ यह सिर्फ शहरों की होगी। अगर गांव में जायें, खेतों में जायें तो बहुत से बच्चे फोर्स लेबर के रूप में काम करते हैं या अपने परिवार के साथ इनमें काम करते हैं तो यह 25 करोड़ बच्चों में से 12 या 14 करोड़ के करीब बच्चे हैं। आज इतने बच्चों से काम लिया जा रहा है। सबसे बड़ी बात यह है कि इन बच्चों को शिक्षा न मिलने के कारण देश को घाटा हो रहा है लेकिन वे परिवार या काम लेने वाले यह सोचते हैं कि अगर बच्चे मूर्ख रहेंगे तो फोर्स लेबर के रूप में काम कर सकेंगे। मैं सरकार से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस बात को तय करने के लिये आप क्या करना चाहते हैं? जब इस बारे में नाम आता है तो बिहार का सबसे ऊपर नाम आता है। यद्यपि बिहार में सभी प्राकृतिक सम्पदा है फिर भी सबसे ज्यादा गरीबी वहाँ पर है। आज बिहार से सब से ज्यादा मजदूर

बाहर काम करने जाते हैं। मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि बिहार के बच्चे सब जगह जा रहे हैं—चाहे वह पंजाब हो या हरियाणा हो या कलकत्ता हो। इसलिये मैं सरकार से चाहूँगा कि इसको रोकने के लिए और इन लोगों के पुनर्वास के लिए जिसमें मूल रूप से ये बच्चे इस तरह से काम करने के लिए बाध्य न हों, उसके लिए सरकार क्या व्यवस्था कर रही है?

श्री हुसम देव नारायण यादव (बिहार) :

उपसभापति महोदय, बातें तो बहुत हो गई हैं, लेकिन जो लड़के बंधुआ मजदूर के रूप में काम करते हैं या बंधुआ मजदूर के रूप में काम करने के लिए बाध्य होते हैं उनके सामने असली समस्या उनकी अपनी मजबूरी होती है। अपनी मजबूरी के कारण उन्हें बंधुआ मजदूर बना पड़ता है। ये लोग बहुत गरीब होते हैं और जब भूखे रहते हैं तो मजबूर हो जाते हैं कि किसी न किसी के साथ फंस जाय और आप जानते हैं, इन लोगों को घर से ले जा कर बंधुआ मजदूर बना दिया जाता है। हमारे बिहार से हजारों की संख्या में काम करने के लिए लोग पंजाब में जाते हैं। वे स्टेशन पर उतरते हैं तो उनको खेतों में काम करने के लिए लोग ले जाते हैं। स्वामी अग्निवेश ने पंजाब और हरियाणा में ईंट के भट्टों पर काम करने वाले बंधुआ मजदूरों और आदिवासियों के मामले को उठाया है। आदिवासियों को कई वर्षों तक बंधुआ मजदूर बना कर रोके रखा जाता है। घर में उनको घर कर रखा जाता है। आदिवासियों और अरतों को हालत तो और भी खराब है। ये आदिवासी लोग अनजान होते हैं। इनको दीन दुनिया का कुछ पता नहीं होता है। सीधे-सादे लोग होते हैं। इन ओरतों और मजदूरों के साथ जैसा व्यवहार किया जाता है, वह सब को मालूम है। इन लोगों को

पकड़ कर ले जाया जाता है और कई सालों तक बंधुआ मजदूर बनाये रखा जाता है। वैसे भी ये लोग दूसरे लोगों को दिक्कू कहते हैं और दिक्कूओं से आदिवासियों को डर लगता है। इन मजदूरों का तरह तरह का मजबूरियां हैं। इनको तंग किया जाता है और इन से हो काम लिया जाता है। मैं चाहता हूँ कि सरकार को इस संबंध में कुछ सोचना चाहिए। आज आप इसी दिलों में देखिये, कितने ही छोटे बच्चे बंधुआ मजदूर के रूप में काम कर रहे हैं। आपको दिल्ली में 11-11 और 12-12 साल के बच्चे मजदूरी करते हुए मिल जाएंगे। 11-11 साल और 12-12 साल के बच्चे रिक्शा चलाते हैं। आज के आधुनिक युग में आने-जाने के इतने साधन होते हुए भी छोटे छोटे बच्चे रिक्शा चल कर अपने पेट की भूख को शान्त करते हैं। यहां पर इस न छोड़ा बन कर दूसरे इंसान की गाड़ी को खींचता है। इन लोगों के पास रोजी-रोटी का कोई अन्य साधन नहीं है। मजबूर होकर उनको बंधुआ मजदूर बनना पड़ता है, खेतों में काम करना पड़ता है। दूसरे लोग उनको अकड़ कर ले जाते हैं और खेतों में काम करवाते हैं। दूसरी तरफ यह कहा जाता है कि मानवीय दृष्टिकोण से इन लोगों को काम पर लगाया जाता है। जैसा अभी तमिलनाडु की सदस्य महोदया ने कहा कि इन बच्चों को काम देकर उनके मां-बाप को पैसा मिलता है और वे अपनी भूख मिटाते हैं। पूँजीवादी व्यवस्था में इसी प्रकार से मानवीय दृष्टिकोण अपनाया जाता है। पूँजीवादी व्यवस्था इस प्रकार से यह सबूत देती है कि कितनी उदार है। वे कहते हैं कि हम बच्चों को काम देते हैं जिससे उनके मां-बाप को पैसा मिलता है जिससे वे अपने पेट को भूख मिटाते हैं। पूँजीवादी को इस शोषणवादो नीति पर भी हमें

नजर रखनी चाहिए। इसलिए मैं चाहता हूँ कि हमें इस सभी दृष्टिकोणों से इस संबंध में सोचना चाहिए।

आखिर मैं एक बात और कहना चाहता हूँ। हिन्दुस्तान में पूरे देश का मैंने सर्वे किया है। हमारे देश में ऐसे भी बंधुआ मजदूर हैं जिनकी मुक्ति कौन करेगा, इस पर हमें सोचना है। आप आर्थिक दृष्टिकोण से और सामाजिक दृष्टिकोण से बंधुआ मजदूरों की तो मुक्ति के लिए प्रयास करते हैं, लेकिन राजनैतिक दृष्टिकोण से जो लोग बंधुआ मजदूर हैं, उन लोगों को भी आप बंधुआ मजदूरी से मुक्त कर दीजिये। (बलरघान) रफोक साहब, आप भी उनमें से ही हैं। आज देश में, बिहार प्रान्त से लेकर सारे प्रान्तों में जो दो ढाई हजार कांग्रेस-आई के बंधुआ मजदूर हैं उनको आप मुक्त करा दीजिए तभी सब कुछ ठीक होगा।

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, it is very unfortunate that even after 37 years of independence, we are still grappling with this problem and we have not been able to find a solution to this problem. It is not enough, as the District Magistrate of Mirzapur has done, to satisfy ourselves that it is a case of forced confinement and not bonded labour because no loan was involved. Similarly, we also cannot remain content with the explanation given by the honourable lady Member from Tamil Nadu that parents willingly send their children for job in small establishments and factories like the match factories. Today, in thousands of establishments, in hotels, etc., lakhs of children are employed and they are being exploited. It is the poverty of the families concerned or the greed of the families concerned which is responsible for this problem.

Sir, the honourable Minister has indicated that a long-term perspective plan has been drawn up by the Gov-

[Shri Parvathuneni Upendra] eminent. And it has been sent to the Planning Commission for approval. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether any nation-wide survey has been undertaken or is proposed to be undertaken to know the extent of the "5-problem and how many children are employed like this throughout the country. Unless you know the extent of the problem, unless you have done a survey about the employment of children, you cannot have a perspective plan. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is going to undertake such a survey before the perspective plan is implemented.

MR. .DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gspalsamy.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, the exploitation of child labour in match factories in Sivakasi and Ramanathapuram district of Tamil Nadu is being continued. Their parents are illiterate and they are ignorant of the legislation. Their illiteracy and ignorance are exploited by the rich capitalists. Sir, they are forced to work from dawn to dusk. I came from a village 20 kilometres away from Sivakasi. Every morning buses will be sent to the villages and children will be brought to the factories and from dawn to dusk they have to work. Their salary is rupee or rupees two, a day. This was brought to the notice of the Central Government. Mr. Dharmavir, Minister of State in the Ministry of Labour and Rehabilitation, paid a visit there. He wanted to pay a surprise visit to those factories. But, Sir, he was surprised to see the arches and other arrangements welcoming him here. So the purpose of his visit was not served. The State Labour Commissioner himself was there. It seems he had himself instructed the people to greet him. Therefore, he was not able to know what is happening there in factories. And, then, one lawyer from Pondicherry made some investigations in those factories in Sivakasi and Ramanathapuram districts and he filed a writ petition in the Supreme

Court. And the Supreme Court has noted in its orders the constitution of an Official Committee by the Tamil Nadu Government in March 1984 to go into the unsatisfactory condition of child labour in match and other industries in Sivakasi and other areas of Ramanathapuram district.

So I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is considering to bring any comprehensive legislation to ban child labour and take effective steps. I would like to have from the hon. Minister a categorical reply.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Dr

डा० महाबीर प्रसाद (बिहार) : उप-सभापति महोदय, लोक कल्याणकारी सरकार के मंत्री से यह हम कहना चाहेंगे कि बन्धुआ मजदूर जो बच्चे हैं जिनकी उम्र काम करने की नहीं होती है फिर भी उनसे काम लिया जाता है। कुछ ऐसे भी पिता हैं जो स्वयं अपने बच्चों को काम करने के लिए भेजते हैं। वे ऐसा करते हैं कि अगर वे छोटे से बच्चे काम नहीं करें तो उनके परिवार की रोजी कैसे चलेगी ? वे बच्चे कैसे खाएंगे और उनके परिवार का भरण-पोषण कैसे होगा ? गांव से ले कर कर फैक्टरियों तक और दूसरे हर ऐसे काम में बहुत से बच्चे लगाए जाते हैं बच्चों से काम लिया जाता है। हिन्दुस्तान की सरकार ने डाइरेक्टव प्रिंसिपल्स के माध्यम से यह कहा था कि 10 वर्ष के भीतर हिन्दुस्तान के सभी लोगों को जिनकी उम्र 8 वर्ष से 14 वर्ष होगी उनको शिक्षित करेंगे, साक्षर बना देंगे, एक तरफ हिन्दुस्तान की सरकार अपने उस वायदे से मुकर गई है और जहां इन बच्चों को स्कूल में होना चाहिये था शिक्षा प्राप्त करनी चाहिये थी, ज्ञान अर्जित करना चाहिये था अपने भविष्य को बमाने का काम करना चाहिये आज वहाँ नहीं हो कर के काम कर रहे हैं। जिनका उम्र काम करने की नहीं होती वे काम कर

हैं। इस ढंग से जब हम हिन्दुस्तान की नीति को देखते हैं तो यह लगता है निश्चित तौर पर हिन्दुस्तान की सरकार इस ओर काफी ध्यान नहीं दे रही है। इस तरफ ध्यान देना उसका कर्तव्य भी है और आवश्यक भी है। यह जो बच्चे बन्धुआ मजदूरों की तरह से काम कर रहे हैं निश्चित तौर पर हिन्दुस्तान के लिये कलंक की बात है। हिन्दुस्तान की सरकार के लिये शर्म की बात है और इस ढंग से मुझे देश प्रगति करता हुआ दिखाई नहीं देता है बल्कि देश पीछे की ओर जा रहा है। देश के लोगों का विकास नहीं हो रहा, है। अभी बहुत से आंकड़े दिये गये, बहुत से कानून बनाये गये फिर भी सभी ज्यों का त्यों है, बच्चे बिल्कुल बन्धुआ मजदूरों की तरह से काम करते हैं जिनकी संख्या 20 मिलियन के लगभग हो जाती है। जनता सरकार में एक कमेटी बनाई गई थी जिसके चेयरमैन श्री गुरुपद स्वामी थे। उन्होंने कुछ रिक्मेंडेशन दिये थे लेकिन तीन चार वर्षों के बाद भी उन रिक्मेंडेशन को सरकार ने आज तक कार्यान्वित नहीं किया। इसका फल यह होता है कि कमेटियां बनती रहती हैं, रिक्मेंडेशन होते रहते हैं और वे बेकार हो जाते हैं। सारा परिश्रम बेकार हो जाता है और जिनके लिये कमेटी बनाई जाती है। जिनको जो कुछ लाभ मिलना चाहिये वह लाभ उनको नहीं मिलता। मैं दो तीन सुझावों का जिक्र करना चाहूंगा कि जो रिक्मेंडेशन उन्होंने दी थी :

"(1) There should be an Advisory Committee on Child Labour at each State Government level. (2) Children below 15 years of age should not be employed in hazardous occupations. (3) Education should be imparted to working children. (4) There should be a comprehensive legislation on child labour."

लेकिन महोदय ये तमाम सिफारिशें बेकार रह गयीं। उसमें किसी का पालन नहीं किया गया। तो मैं सरकार से यह कहना चाहूंगा कि वह निश्चित तौर पर कोई ऐसी नीति बनाये जिसके माध्यम से देश के बच्चों का विकास हो सके और राष्ट्र निर्माता बच्चों को जैसा बनाना चाहते हैं, देखना चाहते हैं, तो वे बच्चे अपना समय बरबाद न करें और वे बन्धुआ मजदूरी से मुक्त होकर निश्चित तौर पर शिक्षा ग्रहण करें और देश के निर्माण में योगदान दे सकें।

MISS JAYALALITHA: Mr. Deputy Chairman, sir, I share the anguish of the other Members who have called attention to the very sorry plight of children who are being forced to work as slaves, as bonded labour in the carpet factories of Bihar. Some of the other hon. Members in this House have misinterpreted some remarks I made earlier and tried to imply that the Government of Tamil Nadu justifies the exploitation of child labour in the factories of Sivakashi. In this connection I wish to make a request or put a question to the Minister of Labour and Rehabilitation. I wish to make it very clear that the Government of Tamil Nadu is not in any way

[Miss Jayalalitha] encouraging the exploitation of child labour. Also, I wish to point out that there is a difference between children being abducted and forced to work as slaves in the factories of Bihar and children being sent to work by their own families in Tamil Nadu. Tamil Nadu is the only State in the whole of India which has introduced a free nutritious noon meal scheme to attract children to school. Today, about 80 lakh families in Tamil Nadu have been benefited by this schema. At present, 65 lakh children between the ages of 2 and 10 are being given a free meal every day. From September of this year, all children up to the age of 15 years are going to be fed. It means that nearly 80 lakh children in the State will be benefited. This scheme is to attract children to schools and to enable them not to go to work by guaranteeing at least one good meal a day. In spite of the State Government's sincere efforts to wipe out the incidence of child labour, in the area of Sivakashi parents insist on sending their children to work because of their economic necessity—their grinding poverty. But there is a difference between abduction Without the parent's knowledge or concurrence—and parent willingly sending their children to work. Children are taken every morning from their homes and are brought back to their homes after work. I would be very happy if the Minister of Labour and Rehabilitation brings about a formal legislation and steps to enforce it so that the scourge of child labour is wiped out. It will help the Government of Tamil Nadu in its efforts to wipe out the scourge.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: Mr, Deputy Chairman, Sir, I fully share the concern and anxiety expressed by the hon. Members with regard to the exploitation of child labour in the country and their being made to work as bonded labour under inhuman conditions. I want to reiterate that the Government of India is fully committed to the total abolition of bonded labour. Whether adults are working as bonded labour or children are working as bonded labour, the Government of India wants to see that bonded labour is totally eliminated by 1 P.M. and abolished in this country. In that direction, several steps have been taken and are being taken. Similarly, Sir, the Government of India is committed to prohibit exploitation of child labour.

I will come to the question of bonded labour. Sir, hon. Members on the other side, particularly, Mr. Dhabe is aware of the fact that though the Bonded Labour (Abolition) Act is a Central legislation—it is an Act passed by the Parliament—the implementation of this Act is the responsibility of the State Governments. Sir, in the Act itself it is mentioned clearly that identification of bonded labour, liberation of bonded labour and rehabilitation of bonded labour is entirely the responsibility of the State Governments.

SHRI S. W. DHABE: You can give the guidelines. W

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: I am coming to that. Sir, simply because it is the responsibility of the State Governments, the Government of India is not keeping silent or idle. On the other hand, we are taking all necessary steps to see whether this work is properly being done in all the States or not. I do not wish to go into the details. Sir, although it is the responsibility of the State Government, I think in the year 1978-79 the Government of India came forward and made an offer to all the State Governments. The ceiling limit of amount that is provided for rehabili-

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tation of a bonded labour is Rs. 4,000. The Government of India on their own came forward and offered 50 per cent of the assistance that is required for rehabilitation. And we have been giving these grants liberally every year. Sir, I have got the figures which show how much amount we have distributed to different State Governments. From 1978-79 upto 1983-84, our share—that is, 50 per cent of the amount required for rehabilitation on the basis of Rs. 4,000 per bonded labour—which we have released, the Government of India has released is Rs. 10,86,06,000.

AN HON. MEMBER: Have you got the State-wise figures?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: I can give State-wise figures also, But I don't think....

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You can lay them on the Table. That will take a long time.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: I have got the figures for the States of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh but I do not have the figures for the remaining States. But I will assure the hon. Members that all the figures of whatever assistance we have given so far to all the States will be made available and placed on the Table.

AN HON. MEMBER: What is the amount of Bihar?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: I have got those figures. But it will take some time. Sir, we are not only releasing 50 per cent of the grants but we have also further simplified the procedure for releasing these grants. Earlier, we used to get the proposals here from the State Governments, and we used to scrutinise the proposals. And after scrutinising and approving those proposals we used to release the grant. Now, we have given all the powers to the State Governments. They can formulate the proposals. They can approve the proposals. And after the approval of the proposals, after releasing their grant, for whatever amount that is due from the Govern-

merit of India, they can approach the Government of India, and we release the grant. Not only that, Sir. Our senior officers are visiting different parts of the States. Periodically our officers are going only to review the progress of the implementation of the? Bonded Labour (Abolition) Act as to how many have been identified, how many have been liberated, and how many have been rehabilitated. For that purpose, periodically our senior officers are going there and they are bringing the reports. Whenever any deficiency is brought to the notice of the Government of India by our senior officers, we immediately bring it to the notice of the State Government. We then request the State Government to remove or rectify the deficiencies and we have in the Government of India a Working Group—an inter-ministerial working group, to oversee the implementation of the bonded labour. And, under my chairmanship in the Labour Ministry we have got a standing committee. We meet periodically. We discuss the problems of rehabilitation and identification and all the other problems connected with the bonded labour, in our standing committees. In addition to that we hold different seminars in order to enlighten the people and in order to enlist the sympathies of the people. An hon. Member wanted to know what steps have been taken to constitute the vigilance committees. Sir, constituting the vigilance committees at the State level is the statutory responsibility or obligation of the State Governments. It is not left to the discretion of the State Government. They are bound to constitute vigilance committees at the district level and also at the sub-division level. I have got certain figures with me. According to the latest report received from the State Governments the vigilance committees have been set "up in all the districts and sub-divisions in Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Arunachal Pradesh and Delhi. The Governments of Orissa, Himachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra Bihar, Meghalaya Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, Rajasthan, West Bengal and

[Shri Veerendra Patil] Pondicherry have also set up such committees except in a few districts and sub-division. The Governments of Karnataka, Gujarat, Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, Sikkim, Assam, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Tripura, Goa, Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli have intimated that they are taking necessary action to constitute such committees/constitute the defunct Committees.

AN HON. MEMBER: What about Bihar?

SHRI VEEKENDRA PATIL: So far as Uttar Pradesh is concerned, a vigilance committee has already been constituted in Mirzapur district and also in the Mirzapur Sadar sub-division of the district. In all, the State Government has set up 27 vigilance committees at the district level and 107 at Sub-divisional levels.

Now I come to Bihar. No intimation has been received whether any vigilance committee has been constituted in Palamau district and any of the sub-divisions of the district, from the State Government.

SHRI S. W. DHABE: What about the other districts?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: Sir, that is the position. I have read out the information with regard to all the districts. Unfortunately, I do not have the information with regard to Bihar because we have not received any report from the Government of Bihar, that is quite obvious.

श्री जगदम्बो प्रसाद यादव : विजिलेंस
कमेटी बना देने तो वहाँ बच्चों को कैसे ले
जाते ।

श्री हुसबदेव नारायण यादव : बंधुवा
मजदूर तो वहाँ सरकार में है ।

श्री जगदम्बो प्रसाद यादव : मुख्य
समस्या जहाँ है उसी को आप छोड़ रहे हैं ।

श्री वीरेन्द्र पाटिल : मैं था रहा हूँ,
मुझे बहुत कुछ बोलना है, आप पेशे से
मुनिये ।

Sir, hon. Member, Shri Dhabe, referred to the interpretation given by the Supreme Court. Sir, we know the interpretation given by the Supreme Court. It is a liberal interpretation. As soon as we got the reports about exploitation of children, we immediately took up the matter with the U. P. Government and my Secretary has written to the Government of U.P. on 23rd April, 1984, drawing its attention to the Supreme Court decision in the Bandhaukti Morcha versus the Union of India and others and we have asked the State Government of U.P. to give a second look to the stand of the district magistrate, Mirzapur. The stand taken by the district magistrate, Mirzapur, is that although it is a forced labour, but since there is no advance, no debt, therefore it does not come under the definition of bonded labour. That is his definition. That is his interpretation. We are not satisfied with that interpretation. That is why we have now asked the U.P. Government to review this interpretation given by the district magistrate, Mirzapur, in the light of the interpretation given in the judgement delivered by the Supreme Court. We have done our duty and I think they will review the situation and we have already written, not only my Secretary has written, but my colleague, the Minister of State, Shri Dharam-vir, has also written to the Chief Minister in the matter on 28-4-1984. So far as the Government of India is concerned, as soon as the report appeared in the press about the inhuman conditions under which the children are made to work, it took prompt action immediately. We telegraphically requested the Labour Secretary, U.P. and Labour Secretary, Bihar for immediate necessary follow-up action on the very day these reports were received. This was followed by a D.O. letter and telex messages at the level of Director General (Labour Welfare) and the Secretary, Labour has again written to the Chief

Secretary of U.P. about which I just now referred, and also to the Chief Secretary Bihar, drawing their pointed attention to the newspaper reports, requesting them for a thorough investigation of the entire issue. A long-range perspective plan for development of children and socio-economic advancement of their parents, has been drawn up and sent to Secretary, Planning Commission Secretary, Department of Social Welfare and Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs. The Minister of State also has written a letter to the Chief Minister of Bihar in this matter. I have already referred to it.

Some hon. Members wanted to know whether Government is thinking of any comprehensive legislation for child labour. Hon. Member, Shri Dhabe referred to Gurupadaswami Committee Report. I don't know from which source he got the information that after receiving the Gurupadaswami Report, the Government of India has not taken any action, it has been shelved etc. It is not so.

SHRI S. W. DHABE: I have said that some other committee is appointed.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: After receiving the Gurupadaswami Committee Report, out of 23 recommendations that have been made by that Committee in their report, the Government has accepted 22 recommendations, and only one recommendation is still under consideration, that is with regard to age, because they have suggested some age limit under the existing Acts which are meant for children because different age limit is mentioned in different Acts. So they have suggested a uniform age limit. This point was recently discussed in the Labour Ministers' Conference, and I have appointed a sub-committee of different Labour Ministers, Labour Ministers of U.P., West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat are there on that Committee, which will go into this question and make a report with regard to one recommendation which is still under consideration, and as soon as we get their report, certainly

ly to result in a revenue sacrifice of the matter. We have also asked that sub-committee to go into the question as to whether a comprehensive legislation with regard to child labour is necessary or not, they are going into it and will make a report shortly.

Hon. Member, Shri Gopalsamy mentioned about child labour in Siva-kasi. Child labour is prevalent in Tamil Nadu and many reports have been published in the papers about child labour, in Magazines, in newspapers etc. When it was brought to our notice, the Government of India has immediately taken action. We have sent a Central team, we sent this team last year consisting of two senior officers of the Ministry. They visited Sivakasi at my instance and have submitted their report. I have sent a copy of their report along with recommendations that the committee made, to the Government of Tamil Nadu for taking necessary action. I have got the information about action taken by the Government of Tamil Nadu. The Government of Tamil Nadu has taken the following decisions:

(1) Provisions of relevant Act relating to the employment of children may be strictly enforced.

(2)" Action may be taken to shift operations from the factories to the village where the children reside, by setting up work-sheds in villages by employers or by co-operative societies.

(3) Comprehensive scheme be worked out to give the children in that area sufficient incentives to attend schools, and to give them education side by side with their work.

(4) Minimum wages . be revised with a view to increasing the earning capacity of the workers.

These are the decisions taken by the Tamil Nadu Government. We have now to get the report and we will ask Tamil Nadu Government as to what action they have taken on these decisions and what is the result of

[Shri Veerendra Patil]

that. But we have not received any report and as and when we receive it we will go into this question. Not only that I have sent a team of Senior officers. My colleague, Mr. Dharmavir had also visited Sivakasi and other places. He has personally studied the working conditions of children working there. Certainly, it requires improvement. It requires necessary action on the part of the Tamil Nadu Government. Therefore, we have been requesting the Tamil Nadu Government. We feel that Tamil Nadu Government will not lag behind in taking necessary action to safeguard the interests of children. Further, I am told that a Board under the Chairmanship of Collector, Ramnad, with representatives of employers and labour unions as members has been constituted since 1980 to ensure welfare measures for children employed in the factories and to coordinate the activities of various agencies involved in mitigating the problem of child labour. The State Government has also sanctioned 30 non-formal education centres in Sivakasi, to impart education to child workers, to bring them to the level of 8th standard. So many other steps have also been taken.

Finally, I can only say . . .

SHRI S. W. DHABE: Employment below fourteen is prohibited under the Constitution. How can you make regulations for employment then?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: There are so many Acts I can quote them. *These* are: Child (Pledging of Labour) Act, 1933, Employment of Children Act, 1983, Factories Act, 1948, Mines Act, 1952, Plantation Labour Act, 1951, Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966, State Shops and Commercial Establishments. Act and so on. There are so many Act to safeguard the interests of child labour. But children are still working. I am admitting the position Children are still working. But is not correct to say that willingly parents are asking their

children to go and work. No parent would ask his child to work. On the other hand, parents wish that their children should learn, should become -educated and should earn some status in the society. But in spite of that parents are allowing their children to work because of socio-economic compulsions. Otherwise, no parent will allow his child to work. This is because of economic compulsions. This menace of child labour in the country can be erased only by improving the economic condition of the people in the country. I can say that child labour should be completely banned. But what about those parents who cannot live with their minimum earnings, with their meagre- earning? This child is supplementing their income. This child is coming to the rescue of the family in order that they may survive. This is the economic compulsion. Therefore, the remedy lies in improving the economic condition of the people in the country as a whole.

THE DELEGATED LEGISLATION PROVISIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGANNATH KAUSHAL): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend certain Acts to implement the recommendations of the Committees on Subordinate Legislation regarding publication and laying of rules and other delegated legislation.

. . . The question . was . put . and . the motion was adopted.

SHRI JAGANNATH KAUSHAL: Sir, I Introduce the Bill.

श्री उपसभापति: अब सदन की कार्यवाही सवा दो बजे तक के लिए स्थगित की जाती है।

The House then adjourned for lunch at eighteen minutes past one of the clock.