THE BEEDI WORKERS WELFARE CESS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1981

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. VENKATA REDDY): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to amend the Beedi Workers Welfare Cess Act, 1976, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Sir, the House might be aware that the Bill has already been passed by the Lok Sabha and it awaits the recommendations of the Rajya Sabha. There are two main objects in the Bill, one is to provide for the levy and collection of a cess on manufactured beedis and the other is to make a provision in the Act to the effect that the provisions of the Central Excise and Salt Act, 1944 and the rules made thereunder would apply to the levy and collection of cess under the Act.

At present the Beedi Workers Welfare Cess Act, 1976, provides for levy and collection of a cess on tobacco issued from warehouses for manufacture of beedies. Consequent on the decision taken to exempt tobacco from excise duty in 1979 the warehousing arrangements for collection of excise duty has been discontinued and, therefore, it has not been possible to collect the cess on tobacco. It is, therefore, now proposed to substitute a levy on manufactured beedies for the cess on tobacco.

The cess is meant for financing the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund which has been set up under the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1976 for financing measures to promote the welfare of the persons engaged in Beedi industry.

The Fund was set up in February, 1977. The proceeds of the cess on tobacco collected upto February, 1979 were credited to this Fund. The total amount of money collected was about 5.19 crores. Of this, a little over Rs. 2 crores was spent upto March, 1981 and the budget provision for the current year is about Rs. 2.14 crores. Unless this Bill is passed and arrangements are made to collect the cess on beedis immediately the fund will be left with only about Rs. 1 crore at the end of this current year. The Fund Act provides for the following types of welfare measures:

(a) Improvement of public health and sanitation, prevention of diseases and provision of medical care;

(b) Provision and improvement of water supplies and facilities for washing;

(c) Provision and improvement of educational facilities;

(d) Provision and improvement of housing and recreational facilities etc.

Of these, priority has been given to medical care, housing and education. We have so far set up 71 dispensaries at the various places where there is a concentration of beedi workers. We have also given assistance to the State Governments as well as the beedi workers for construction of houses. Scholarships are also being given for education of the children of beedi workers. These schemes will have to be continued and also augmented to meet the growing demand. The balance available in the Fund is not adequate for this purpose. It is therefore, necessary to tap an alternate source of finance for the Fund and Government have come to the conclusion after careful consideration that the levy of a cess on beedi is the best means of financing the welfare measures.

The Bill provides for the levy and collection of a cess on manufactured beedis at a rate which shall not be less than 10 paise and not more than 50 paise per thousand beedis. It is estimated that if the cess is collected at the minimum rate of 10 paise per

thousand beedis, the total amount that can be collected would be between Rs. 2.5 crore to Rs. 3.00 crores. The actual rate of the cess to be levied will be decided by Government after making an assessment of the amount required.

It has been provided in the Beedi Workers Welfare Cess Rules, 1977 framed under section 7 of the Beedi Workers Welfare Cess Act that the provisions of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 and the rules made thereunder would be applicable to the levy and collection of the cess. The Committee on Subordinate Legislation of the Rajya Sabha have observed that since the Act itself does not contain any provision to this effect, an appropriate provision should be made in the Act itself. Accordingly, it has been proposed to amend the Act so as to provide for the application of the provisions of the Central Excises and Salt Act to the collection of the cess under the Beedi Workers Welfare Cess Act.

With these words, I request that this august House may kindly take up the Beedi Workers Welfare Cess Amendment Bill, 1981, as passed by the Lok Sabha, into consideration and to return the same to the Lok Sabha.

The question was proposed.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: One hour is allotted for the discussion of this Bill and I request hon. Members not to take more than 6 minutes each. Mr. Dhabe.

SHRI SHRIDHAR WASUDEO DHABE (Maharashtra): Sir, though every Bill has got its own importance, this is a very important Bill.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: But you should take only five minutes.

[The Vice-Chairman (Dr. Rafiq Zakaria) in the Chair]

SHRI SHRIDHAR WASUDEO DHABE: With the arrival of the Vice-Chairman I think, the time-limit will be enforced more strictly.

Sir, this Bill is a welcome measure. But it is unfortunate that the Government took two years to take a decision to levy the cess. It was in 1979 that tobacco was exempted from the Excise duty and, therefore, this cess could not be recovered. I would like to know from the honourable Minister why so much delay has taken place for more than 1-1/2 years and what steps will be taken to effect retrospectively the recovery of the cess from the employers.

Secondly, Sir, in this beedi industry which is a very important industry in the country—it is an important industry in my State also—there are more than 30 lakh workers and the actual figure is 31.06 lakhs. Sir, the country is divided into different zones like Allahabad, Jabalpur, Bangalore, etc. The Bangalore zone has got 9 lakh workers or so and the Maharashtra, Goa and MP region, that is, the Jabalpur zone, has got 7.5 lakh workers. Sir, the objectives mentioned by the Minister are very laudable, that is, providing for public health, sanitation, educational facilities and housing. These are very laudable and they are very necessary. But one major drawback is there which we have seen in this and it is the administrative expenses. For all the industries together, Sir, there is only one Labour Commission for managing all the industries in the Labour Ministry. But, for each industry, there is a separate Welfare Commissioner. For coal there is one Welfare Commissioner and for manganese there is one Welfare Commissioner and for beedi, there is another Welfare Commissioner and so on. In my area, that is, the Vidharbha region, coal and manganese mines are there side by side and there are two Welfare Commissioners for these two items. But there is no co-ordination between them. On the contrary, there is only duplication of work and expenditure. I would like to suggest to the honourable Minister that such posts are not necessary and there is no need for separate Commissioners for implementing welfare measures. This sort of duplication involves un-

[Shri Shridhar Wasudeo Dhabe]

necessary administrative expenditure which should be cut down.

Sir, one of the main things so far as the beedi industry is concerned, is that the beedi workers are very poorly paid and 90 per cent of the beedi workers are women. A survey was made by the ILO in 1980 on this matter and it has been found by the survey that of the total wage worth about 450 million dollars in the whole world, about 160 million goes to the beedi workers in South and South-East Asia. Nevertheless beedi-making is an important source of income for the rural households which are engaged in beedi-making which brings about 45.5 per cent of the total income of the household. Therefore, Sir, for the unorganised sector of labour and for the women workers in the rural areas this is a very important additional source of income. One of the reasons why the many industries in Maharashtra have shifted to Madhya Pradesh is the discriminatory way in which the minimum wages are fixed. In my region in Maharashtra, this taking place. The minimum delay wages throughout India vary between Rs. 3 and Rs. 5 and sometimes between Rs. 3 and Rs. 6. But, Sir, in Maharashtra the wages were fixed between Rs. 6 and Rs. 8 with the result that some beedi industry units were shifted from Bhandara district to Madhya Pradesh. A conference of the Labour Ministers was held in July, 1980 and the conference made a recommendation that there should not be any differential in wages of more than 25P between one State and another and they have also stated that there should be uniformity in the minimum wages for the beedi industry if this industry is to prosper. I would like to point out that under the Minimum Wages Act, under section 9 of the Act, Central Advisory Board is to be Constituted and its work is to co-ordinate the work of the Committees and their work is also to see that the work of fixation and revision of wages is properly co-ordinated. I would also like to request the Minister to call a meeting of the Central Advisory Board and see that uniformity in wages is achieved so that there is no problem in the beedi industry.

Lastly, Sir, the most important point which I would like to place before the Minister is that the workers' welfare should have priority as the exploitation which is going on in the beedi industry is very-very large. The workers are exploited by the contractors. They do not get proper wages. Only fifty per cent is paid to them. I will suggest to the Minister that some Beedi corporations should be set up, through which the rural workers and the rural, poor people and peasants, can sell beedis, so that proper income is assured to them and ... (*Time bell rings*). This will ensure that the workers are benefited to a large extent.

Lastly, Sir, . . .

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA): You have already said, "Lastly. . .

SHRI SHRIDHAR WASUDEO DHABE: This was because you were ringing the bell. (*Interruptions*).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA): The Deputy Chairman has already told you that we have to finish this Bill within the time, and there are so many speakers.

SHRI SHRIDHAR WASUDEO DHABE: I would like to say this unorganised sector of the workers requires special consideration, and uniformity of minimum wages is one of the most important matters in this connection, and I will request the Minister to see that welfare measures are taken and every pie is spent for workers' welfare and not for administration.

Thank you.

श्री पी० एन० सुकुल (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं बोड़ी वरकर्स वेलफेयर सेस (अमेंडमेंट) बिल, 1981 का समर्थन करने के लिये खड़ा हुआ हूं। जैसा मंत्री जो ने अभी बताया है इस संशोधन की जरूरत ओरिजिनल बोड़ी वरकर्स वेलफेयर सेस ऐक्ट, 1976 में इस लिये पड़ी क्योंकि 1979 में जनता सरकार के समय में तम्बाकू पर एक्साइज ड्यूटी हटा दी गई थी और उस ड्यूटी के हट जाने से बोड़ी वरकर्स, बोड़ी मजदूरों के लिये जो वैलफेयर फण्ड बनाया गया था, उस फण्ड में इतनी धनराशि पहुंच नहीं रही थी, उपलब्ध नहीं हो रही थी और उनका काम नहीं हो पा रहा था और इस लिये इसको लाया गया है ताकि तैयार बोड़ियों के ऊपर, मैनुफैक्चर्ड बोड़ियों के ऊपर यह कर लगाया जा सके।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, इस संबंध में मैं यह कहना चाहूंगा कि हमारे देश में बोड़ी मजदूरों की संख्या 40--45 लाख है। यह संख्या इतनी है जितनी केन्द्रीय सरकार के संगठित कर्मचारियों की जो संख्या है, वह मिलकर इन बोड़ी मजदूरों की संख्या है बल्कि उससे भी अधिक है। लेकिन ये संगठित नहीं हैं, आर्गनाइज्ड नहीं हैं और इस लिये इनकी स्थिति बहुत खराब है, बहुत दयनीय है। हम इन लोगों के लिये क्या कर रहे हैं इसका पता इससे चल जाता है कि 31 मार्च, 1981 तक इन बोड़ी मजदूरों की दशा को सुधारने के लिये, इनके कल्याण पर कुल 2 करोड़ रुपये खर्च हुआ। 1976 से लेकर 1981 तक टोटल जो हमने खर्च किया है कल्याण निधि से वह 2 करोड़ रुपये खर्च किया है। इससे आप समझ सकते हैं कि 40--45 लाख लोगों के लिए 2 करोड़ रुपया खर्च करना कुछ भी नहीं है। अगर हम इनके पूरे परिवार के लोगों को लें तो कम से कम 10 मिलियन यानी 1 करोड़ लोग सीधे तौर से इस इंडस्ट्री से प्रभावित होते हैं और एक करोड़ लोगों के लिये हमने दो करोड़ रुपया खर्च किया है और वह भी 5 वर्षों में खर्च किया है। तो यह बहुत दयनीय स्थिति है। उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, हमारे देश को आजाद हुए 34 साल हो गये, लेकिन ये बोड़ी मजदूर, जिन में अधिकांश स्त्रियां और बच्चे हैं, इनका बहुत अधिक शोषण हो रहा है, प्रबन्धकों द्वारा, अर्थात् मालिकों द्वारा और बिचौलियों के द्वारा। इस लिये इनकी ओर पूरा ध्यान दिये जाने की आवश्यकता है। सबसे कम मजदूरी पाने वाले ये लोग हैं। इनको 3 रुपया, 3.50 रुपया, 4 रुपया, 5 रुपया मजदूरी मिलती है, जिससे कि आज गुजारा भी नहीं चला सकते हैं। ये लोग इतनी कम मजदूरी पाने वाले मजदूर हैं और इनके रहन-सहन की जो स्थिति है वह यह है कि इनके पास रहने के लिये मकान नहीं हैं, हवा-पानी की उनमें व्यवस्था नहीं है। इनके लिये मकानों की व्यवस्था करने की आवश्यकता है, इनके बच्चों के लिये पढ़ने हेतु स्कूलों की आवश्यकता है और अस्पतालों की आवश्यकता है। हमारे मंत्री महोदय ने दूसरे हाउस में बताया है कि इनके लिये 71 डिस्पेंसरीज हैं और दो अस्पताल हैं। परन्तु इनकी संख्या को देखते हुए यह नाकाफी है। इनके लिये और अस्पताल खुलने चाहिएं। आई० एल० ओ० की रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि हमारे देश के बोड़ी मजदूर सबसे अधिक तपेदिक के मर्ज से प्रभावित हैं। इसलिये इनके लिये टी० बी० सैनिटोरियम और उनमें शैय्याओं को, बेड्स की व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए ताकि उनके अन्दर जो टी० बी० के मरीज हैं उनका समुचित इलाज हो सके। ये मजदूर संगठित नहीं

[श्री पी० एन सुकुल]

हैं, इनके ऊपर मिनिमम वेजेज ऐक्ट लागू होता है, न फैक्टरी ऐक्ट लागू होता है, न इनके ऊपर बोनस ऐक्ट लागू होता है और न प्रोविडेंट फण्ड ऐक्ट लागू होता है। इन सब सुविधाओं से वंचित रह कर आज 34 साल के बाद इस देश में यह मजदूर काम कर रहे हैं और हमारे देश के आर्थिक रूप से जो नीचे के तबके के लोग हैं वे सिगरेट नहीं पीते, अधिकांश बीड़ी ही पीते हैं, उनकी आवश्यकताओं की पूर्ति यह गरीब मजदूर किया करते हैं इसीलिये इनके लिये अधिक कल्याण के काम होने चाहिएं। इसमें प्रस्ताव है कि 10 पैसे से लेकर 50 पैसे प्रति एक हजार तैयार बीड़ियों पर उपकर लगाया जायेगा और उससे मिलने वाली राशि को इनके वैलफेयर फण्ड में जमा किया जायेगा। लेकिन मैं यह कहना चाहूंगा कि यह बहुत कम राशि है। इसके लगाने से ढाई से तीन करोड़ रुपये तक की आमदनी सरकार समझती है होगी। इस ढाई से तीन करोड़ रुपये से काम चलने वाला नहीं है। कम से कम 50 पैसे तो यह होना ही चाहिए। मैं तो चाहूंगा कि यह सेस एक रुपये तक बढ़ाया जाये अर्थात 10 गुना किया जाये तब जा कर हम इन मजदूरों का कल्याण कर पायेंगे। इनके घर बनाने की योजना है जिसमें कहा जाता है कि इनको 900 रुपये तक ब्याज रहित ऋण दिया जाता है और 6 हजार रुपये सबसिडी दी जाती है। मैं नहीं जानता कि 6,900 रुपये में आज हिन्दुस्तान में कहीं भी कोई घर बन सकता है। यह जो धनराशि दी जाती है यह राशि बढ़ाई जानी चाहिए। इनके मनोरंजन के केन्द्र अधिक खोले जाने चाहिएं, कम्युनिटी हाल और अधिक बनाये जाने चाहिएं। सबसे अधिक जरूरत है इनके बच्चों के लिये और अधिक स्कूल खोले जायें और जो बच्चे छोटी उम्र में इस रोजगार में लगे हुए हैं उनको रोका जाना चाहिए, उन पर नियंत्रण लगाया जाय ताकि ये बच्चे यह काम न करें और उच्च शिक्षा प्राप्त कर सकें। इसके साथ साथ मैं यह भी कहना चाहता हूं कि **(समय की घंटी)** बीड़ी रोजगार तेंदु पत्तों के बिना नहीं चल सकता। यह हमारे दक्षिण उत्तर प्रदेश, दक्षिण बिहार, मध्य प्रदेश, उड़ीसा तथा आन्ध्र प्रदेश में पैदा होती हैं। इन पत्तियों को इकट्ठा करने वाले जो मजदूर हैं उनको भी इस एक्ट की परिधि में लाया जाये। इन चन्द शब्दों के साथ मैं इस बिल का समर्थन करता हूं।

SHRI SURENDRA MOHAN (Uttar Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I welcome this Bill and I think it was long overdue. The hon. Member Mr. Dhabe, has already raised this question as to why there was this delay. However, even if late, this Bill has come. But, I find, Sir, whether in the amending Bill or in the earlier Act there is no provision at all for the representations in the Advisory Committees of the Fund at any level of the representatives of the beedi workers. There is a provision that a woman member must be there in the Advisory Committee at various levels of the Fund. That is a welcome proposal. However, I would submit that unless the representatives of the beedi workers are associated with the Fund with its working, with its functioning, not much will be achieved because the beedi workers will not know what they are getting, and the Fund Adsory Committees also will not know what really are the genuine demands, genuine grievances, genuine needs of the beedi workers.

Apart from this, Sir, I believe that there is need now for a comprehensive legislation relating to the beedi workers. Hon. Mr. Sukul, a well-known trade union leader, just as Mr. Dhabe is, has also pinpointed

this problem by saying that neither the Bonus Act nor the Provident Fund Act nor any other Act applies to the beedi workers. Whatever minimum wages they get, they are also not linked with the dearness allowance and they do not get any dearness allowance. I think, Sir, that a comprehensive legislation must be brought forward, taking into consideration all these issues so that the welfare of the beedi workers can be linked with their security and with some kind of viability in their living standards. If such comprehensive legislation is to be brought forward, it will be necessary, in my view, that some enquiry should be undertaken into the living conditions, into the pay structure and into the working of the various Minimum Wages Acts, as also the working of these Acts relating to the beedi workers. Without such an enquiry, it may not be possible to really bring forward a comprehensive legislation which will really serve the purpose. I am afraid, Sir, that the activities of the contractors who rule over the lives of beedi workers will have to be scrutinised and will have to be checked. Unfortunately the contractors are not only masters over their lives, they are also unscrupulous masters and there is no relief from them. There is no relief, firstly, because there is no law, secondly, because even if there is a law, there is no machinery to implement that law and, thirdly, Sir, because the beedi workers are terribly ill-organised. The five year plan which had been suggested during the time of the Janata Party rule had made a provision for the creation of a roving fund, or revolving fund, which could be used for the organisation of the unorganised rural poor. The standing advisory committee of the organised rural poor also had made this suggestion. However, no such revolving fund has been created and the result is that wherever workers are not organised they really do not get any relief in terms of setting up their organisation. That is why I think it is necessary that such a fund should be created.

Finally, Sir, I would say that the workers education machinery created by the Central Education Board does not help them at all in training their leaders and in preparing their organisers. That is a big lacuna again. Therefore, I suggest that that also may be given some attention. Thank you very much.

श्री लाखन सिंह (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं बीड़ी कर्मकार कल्याण उपकर संशोधन विधेयक, 1981 का स्वागत करता हूं। महोदय, जैसा कि मंत्री जी ने बताया है पिछले पांच वर्षों में केवल दो करोड़ रुपया कल्याण के लिए खर्च किया गया। 40–45 लाख बीड़ी कर्मचारी हैं और उनके आश्रित मिला करके सब एक करोड़ से ऊपर की संख्या बैठती है तो एक परिवार पर या एक व्यक्ति पर कितना खर्च हुआ और उनका क्या कल्याण हुआ होगा यह मैं नहीं समझ पाता हूं। जैसाकि बताया गया है, उनके कल्याण के लिए 71 डिसपेंसरीज खोली गयी हैं, ये बहुत कम है। क्योंकि बीड़ी मजदूर सारे देश में फैले हुए हैं और जगह-जगह पर उनको दवाईयां नहीं मिलती हैं। जो डिसपेंसरियां खोली गयी हैं उनमें भी दवाइयां नहीं मिलती हैं जैसी कि जानकारी मिली है। तो मैं जानना चाहूंगा कि इनके स्वास्थ्य की रक्षा के लिए क्या आप मोबाईल डिसपेंसरीज भी चालू करना चाहेंगे और साथ ही साथ मैं यह भी कहना चाहूंगा कि जो मजदूर तेंदू के पत्ते तोड़ते हैं उनको भी अगर इस कानून की परिधि में लाया गया होता तो शायद उनका भी भला होता। वहां के ठेकेदार लोग उनसे काम लेते हैं, बेगार लेते हैं, उनका शोषण होता है और वे सारे के सारे पैसे वहां के अधिकारियों से मिल कर हड़प जाते हैं। मेरी समझ में एक बात और नहीं आई कि पिछले कानून में जो उत्पादन शुल्क था उसको हटाकर उपकर लगाने की क्या आवश्यकता पड़ी। मैं समझता हूं कि उपकर लगाने से पूंजीपतियों को नम्बर दो काम करने में मदद मिलेगी। उत्पादन शुल्क लगाने में यह होता था कि वेयर

[श्री लाखन सिंह]

हो उस से तम्बाकू निकालने पर किलो के हिसाब से शुल्क ले लिया जाता था। लेकिन अब दो तरह की बात हो गयी है कि एक ओर तो जिन पर लेबल लगा हुआ है और दूसरे जो बगैर लेबल के हैं, जो लेबल वाली बीड़ी है, यह उपकार या सेस उन्ही पर लगेगा और बिना लेबल वाली पर नहीं। पूंजीपति इतने भोले नहीं है कि इस प्रकार से सरकार को पूरा लेखा जोखा देंगे और उस पर हर हजार बीड़ी पर 10 पैसे के हिसाब से उपकार देंगे। इसलिए मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि उस उत्पादन शुल्क को हटाने की आवश्यकता क्यों पड़ी? पूंजीपति लोग पहले से मालदार हैं और अब उनको और मालदार बनाने के लिए यह कानून मदद करेगा। उसके साथ ही साथ मेरा कहना यह भी है कि तेंदू के पत्ते जो मध्य प्रदेश के क्षेत्र में पैदा होते हैं उनको लाने के लिए वैगन नहीं मिलते हैं। वैगन नहीं मिलते हैं तो बीड़ी बनाने वाले कर्मचारी मजदूर बेकार हो जाते है, बेरोजगारी के शिकार होते हैं। तो मैं आपसे निवेदन करूंगा कि तेंदू के पत्तों को लाने के लिए आप वैगनों की व्यवस्था करें और जो हमारा मिनिमम वेज एक्ट है उसको लागू किया जाय तथा उन सभी प्रकार के मजदूरों के कल्याण के लिए जो पहले से बनाये गये श्रम कानून हैं उन कानूनों को इन पर लागू किया जाय। तो मैं समझता हूं कि इनका कल्याण हो सकेगा। तीसरी एक और बात मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि जितना पैसा निधि में हो, उससे दुगना सरकार अपने फंड से दे ताकि उनको अच्छी रकम मिल सके, वरना अढ़ाई, तीन करोड़ से कोई भी कल्याणकारी काम नहीं हो सकेगा। इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं इसका समर्थन करता हूं।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (डा० रफीक जकरिया): रामानन्द यादव जी, मुख्तसर में।

श्री रामानन्द यादव (बिहार): मैं बहुत दिनों के बाद आया हूं।

एक माननीय सदस्य: पूरी कसर निकालने वाले हैं।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (डा० रफीक जकरिया): नहीं, नहीं, शार्ट बिल है।

श्री रामानन्द यादव: मैं इस बिल का समर्थन करने के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूं। इसमें कुछ शब्द बीड़ी मजदूरों के संबंध में कह देना उचित समझता हूं क्योंकि उनकी वेलफेयर के साथ बिहार राज्य में मैं संबंधित हूं।

ऐसे तो हर प्रांत में बीड़ी मजदूरों की कमेटी प्रांतीय स्तर पर बनी हुई है, लेकिन वह सारी कमेटियां निष्क्रिय सी हैं। मुझे लगता है कि मेरी स्टेट में जैसी हालत है, वैसे ही बीड़ी मजदूरों की हालत दूसरी जगह भी होगी। बीड़ी मजदूर सारे देश में स्कैटर्ड हैं, फैले हुए हैं, अनआर्गेनाइज्ड हैं और उनमें संगठन करने की क्षमता नहीं है क्योंकि उसमें या तो बालक या वृद्ध काम करते हैं और घरों में रहने वाली औरतें काम करती हैं और थोड़े से ही नौजवान लोग काम करते हैं जिन्हें कोई रोजगार नहीं मिल पाता है, क्यों? क्योंकि इसमें मिनिमम वेजेज जो है, आपके पास कोई ऐसी मशीनरी नहीं है जो इनको मिनिमम वेजेज दिलवा सके। इसलिए जो अच्छे लोग हैं, तकड़े हैं, वह तो यह काम नहीं करते, दूसरी जगह जाकर कर लेते हैं।

तो सब से पहली बात तो यह होनी चाहिए कि स्कैटर्ड लोगों की, सारे देश में फैले हुए लोगों का एक संगठन बनाने की आवश्यकता है। इसमें सरकार को भी पहल करनी चाहिए जैसे कि खेत मजदूरों के संबंध में भी सरकार ने पहले की है। बीड़ी बनाने वाले इस देश में कितने मजदूर हैं, इस बारे में सरकार के पास कोई सेन्सस नहीं है, कोई नहीं कह सकता कि कितने हैं, सब लोग अटकलबाजी करते हैं, क्योंकि न तो सरकार के पास कोई ऐसा रिकार्ड है कि देश में बीड़ी बनाने के कितने कारखाने हैं, क्योंकि यह कारखाने प्रांतीय हैडक्वार्टर से लेकर डिस्ट्रिक्ट हैड क्वार्टर, छोटे-छोटे कमर्शियल टाउन्स जो हैं या जो सब डिविजनल हैडक्वार्टर्ज हैं या चले जाइये इंटीरियर में, वहां भी यह लोग

दस-बीस के ग्रुप में काम करते हैं। तो सरकार के पास कोई सैन्सस नहीं है कि इसमें कितनी बीड़ी की फैक्टरियां हैं तो सैन्सस के माध्यम से फैक्टरियों का पता लगा करके कि कितने लोग इसमें काम करते है यह पता लग सकता है जब फैक्टरियों का पता लग जाएगा कि इतने काम करते हैं। यह काम सरकार को करना चाहिए कि सेन्सस करे

कई लोग तो कहते हैं कि यह काम बड़ा खराब है, इससे टी० बी० होता है। लेकिन शायद इस बात को लोग महसूस नहीं करते कि बहुत से लोग खैनी के माध्यम से—जो खैनी इसमें पड़ती हैं—उसमें आदमी को कैंसर हो जाता है। अधिकांश बीड़ी बनाने वाले लोग कैंसर के रोग से पीड़ित हो जाते हैं, क्योंकि डाक्टर लोगों का कहना है कि इसके बनाने में जो खैनी पड़ती है, उससे कैंसर हो जाता है।

इसमें एक और कंडिशन भी है बीमारियों की—छोटे से घर के अंदर अनहाइजेनिक कंडिशंस हैं, वन्टिलेशन नहीं है, टूटा-फूटा घर है, कहीं कोई खिड़की नहीं है, दरवाजा नहीं है, चारों तरफ से बंद है, उसमें बैठ करके यह लोग काम करते हैं। सरकार को इनकी वर्किंग कंडिशन भी ठीक करने की व्यवस्था करनी चाहिए।

यह वैलफेयर कमिश्नर जो बनाये जायेंगे, मैं सरकार से पूछना चाहता हूं कि यह वेलफेयर कमिश्नर क्या यह काम भी करेंगे कि जो सरकार द्वारा, स्टेट द्वारा मिनिमम वेजेज फिक्स किया गया है, उसको भी लागू करायेंगे? अगर इस कानून के अंदर प्रावधान नहीं है, तो आप व्यवस्था कीजिए कि यही वैलफेयर कमिश्नर उनको मिनिमम वेजेज दिलवाने की भी व्यवस्था करेंगे। तब आप थोड़ा रिलीफ दे सकेंगे। मैं सरकार से जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या यह सैपेरेट वैलफेयर बीड़ी वर्कर्ज के लिए कमिश्नर, इंसपैक्टर और अफसर बहाल किये जायेंगे, या वही लैंडहोल्डर्स या दूसरे लोग हैं ... के वही रखेंगे। वही लोग काम करेंगे, दो-दो ड्यूटी करेंगे तो उन की सेवा नहीं कर सकेंगे। इसका भी विचार कीजिए।

उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मैं सरकार से चाहूंगा, इस बात की व्यवस्था जरूर होनी चाहिए कि बीड़ी मजदूरों की कोआपरेटिव सोसाइटी बने और ये जो कमिश्नर हैं वेलफेयर के, वह काफी संख्या में कोआपरेटिव सोसाइटीज के नेट वर्क्स उन बीड़ी-मजदूरों को बना दें, शहरों से लेकर देहातों तक और जैसा कि धावे साहब ने बताया, एक बीड़ी कारपोरेशन का निर्माण कर दें, स्टेट-वाइज, और उस का काम हो उन कोआपरेटिव सोसाइटीज को तेन्दू लीफ, जो पत्ता होता है बीड़ी को तैयार करने का, वह मोहय्या करें तो शायद उन को कुछ राहत पहुंचा सकेंगे।

उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, आप सेस निर्माण की बात करते हैं। इसके निर्माण में आपको कठिनाई होगी, जब तक कि आप के पास कोई रियल सेन्सस नहीं होगा। आप सेन्ट्रल सेन्सस बोर्ड के आफिसर हैं, उन के साथ बीड़ी मैनुफेक्चरर्स मिल जाते हैं कि कितनी बीड़ी मेनुफेक्चर हुई और कितना सेस मिलना चाहिए। इसकी भी व्यवस्था करें, ब्रेन्डेड बीड़ी और अनब्रेन्डेड बीड़ी। ब्रैन्डेड बीड़ी में सेस मिलता है लेकिन अनब्रैन्डेड बीडी से सेस नहीं मिल पाता है। मैं चाहता हूं आप इस के बारे में भी कोई व्यवस्था करें ताकि कितनी बीड़ी देश में मैनुफेक्चर होती है इस का पता चल सके।

लास्ट में मुझे यह कहना है कि बीड़ी वर्कर्स के लिए एक काम और कर दीजिए। गवर्नमेंट जैसे कंपलसरी इंश्योरेंस कराती है—बहुत से कारखानों में हैं—वैसे ही यहां पर भी हो। आप उस तरह से कंपलसरी इंश्योरेन्स कराने की व्यवस्था करेंगे तो शायद कुछ राहत उनको मिल सकती है।

[श्री रामानन्द यादव]

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं इस बिल का समर्थन करता हूं । इस अनआर्गनाइज्ड और मोस्ट नेगलक्टेड सेक्शन आफ द पीपुल को आप प्रथम बार राहत देने के लिए कुछ करने जा रहे हैं, तो आप निश्चित रुप से जरा हृदय खोल कर कुछ सेस बढ़ाने की कोशिश कीजिए ताकि उनके वेलफेयर के वास्ते जो सेस मिलता है उसकी मात्रा बड़ी हो क्योंकि जो सेस आप लगाने जा रहे हैं उसकी मात्रा इतनी नहीं है जिससे आप उन की सेवा कर सकेंगे । इन शब्दों के साथ मैं समाप्त करता हूं ।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA): Mr. Santosh Mitra please. You have got only two-three minutes.

SHRI SANTOSH MITRA (West Bengal): Sir, every body has been given five minutes.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA): It is according to the strength of each party.

SHRI SANTOSH MITRA: Mr. Vice Chairman, Sir, I support this Bill. But I would like to make some observations in regard to this Bill. The beedi industry is one of the biggest cottage industries in our country, providing employment to about three million people. It also contributes crores of rupees to the national exchequer. But the living conditions of the beedi workers are quite horrible. They are paid law rates of wages. The rate of wages varies from Rs. 4 to Rs. 10. In some States, it is in the range of Rs. 2—4, for thousand pieces. The manufacturers appoint contractors to give materials to the workers. Because of this, a share of the wages is taken away by the intermediaries. In this way, the workers are exploited. Until and unless suitable wages are paid to the workers, their welfare cannot be ensured. The manufacturers appoint contractors. In this way they avaoid the responsibility in regard to the rate of wages to be paid to the workers. Most of the production centres are in the rural areas. In the absence if alternative employment opportunities, the workers are forced to work at such low rates. The beedi workers are working under conditions of below poverty line.

Another question I would like to ask is, how much has been collected under the parent Act of 1976 and how much has been spent on the welfare of the beedi workers? Unless the Ministry formulates plans and programmes to utilise the Cess which has been collected for the purpose of the welfare of the beedi workers, the object of this Act will be defeated.

In the end, I would like to make some suggestions for ameliorating the miserable conditions of the beedi workers and to free them

4 P.M. from poverty. Minimum national wage rate is to be fixed and it must be made effective. The intermediaries must be eliminated. The manufacturers of beedies must be compelled to provide factory sheds for workers. Cooperative societies are to be formed. Manufacturers must take licences from the local authorities and the local authorities should look after those manufacturers to see if they are providing suitable conditions for the workers or not. And lastly, the beedi workers' representatives are to be associated in the management of the Welfare Fund. Thank you.

श्री सदाशिव बागाईतकर (महाराष्ट्र): श्रीमन जो विधेयक, सदन के सामने मंत्री जी लाये हैं उस का मैं समर्थन और स्वागत करना चाहता हूं । लेकिन एक चीज के बारे में वह सदन को आश्वासन दें कि जो सेस आप लगा रहे हैं वह कस्टमर्स से वसूल करने का

जो इन्तजाम हमेशा होता है वैसा न हो। इस के लिए आप कुछ उपाय करना चाहेंगे उस बारे में आप ने कुछ सोचा है? अव्वल तो मैं कहना चाहूंगा कि 10 और 50 पैसा बहुत नाकाफी चीज है और मिनिमम 1 रुपया अगर सेस रखते — बीड़ी मजदूरों की स्थिति का सारा वर्णन आप ने सुना उसको मैं दोहराना नहीं चाहता— तो उन के लिए आप कुछ ज्यादा कर सकते। इसलिए मैं चाहूंगा कि इस सेस का रेट आप बढ़ा दें। साथ-साथ इसका भी उपाय करें कि सेस कस्टमर्स से वसूल न किया जाये।

दूसरी बात मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि इस उद्योग में जो आज स्थिति है उस से लगता है कि इसके बारे में सरकार बिल्कुल अन्धेरे में है। मेरे राज्य में सिन्नर और संगमनेर में नासिक के इलाके में बड़े पैमाने पर यह रोजगार है। हम लोगों का यह तजुरबा है, हमारे यह मालूमात है कि इस धन्धे में बड़े पूंजीपति लगे हुए हैं।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (डा० रफीक जकरिया): औरंगाबाद, नान्देड़ में भी है।

श्री सदाशिव बागाईतकर: वह तो प्राइम सैन्टर है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (डा० रफीक जकरिया): आप का और मेरा राज्य एक ही है, इस लिए बता रहा हूं।

श्री सदाशिव बागाईतकर: गोंदिया भंडारा सारा इलाका है। नासिक का जिक्र मैंने इस लिए किया कि इस उद्योग मे ऊंट छाप बीड़ी, साबळे जैसे इजारेदार हैं। इस उद्योग में जिस तरह का काम चल रहा है उसके बारे में सरकार शायद जानकारी नहीं रखती। फैक्ट्री एक्ट से लेकर सारे कानूनों से दूर रहने के लिए यह लोग बड़े-बड़े शेड बनाकर हजारों मजदूरों को काम नहीं देते बल्कि छोटे-छोटे कस्बों में उनके एजेन्ट जाते हैं, काम देते है, वापस लाते हैं ताकि फैक्ट्री इंस्पेक्शन जैसी चीज का असर न हो सके। कहीं फेक्ट्री एक्ट लागू नहीं हो रहा है। इस तरह के धन्धे ये लोग कर रहे हैं।

इस का एक नतीजा यह भी हो रहा है कि किसी तरह का प्रोटेक्शन भी मजदूरों को नहीं होता। बीड़ी बच्चे भी बनाते हैं जैसा शिवकाशी में हम ने देखा, चाइल्ड लेबर का एक्सप्लाइटेशन बीड़ी उद्योग में जितना होता है उतना शायद ही किसी उद्योग में होता होगा। भारी संख्या में महिलाएं और छोटे बच्चे भी काम करते हैं। उन को कोई कानून का प्रोटेक्शन इस लिए नहीं मिल रहा है क्यों कि बड़े उद्योगपति इसमें शामिल हैं। आप को इस की जानकारी होनी चाहिए। श्रम करने वाले मजदूर से ज्यादा तेंदू पत्ती से बड़े लोग ज्यादा कमाई करते हैं (समय की घंटी) एक सुझाव दे कर मैं खत्म करता हूं। वेलफेयर एक्टिविटीज के लिए अलग-अलग एस्टेब्लिशमेंट का ढांचा आप बनाते हैं उस मे एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन पर 40 से 50 फीसदी खर्चा हो जाता है। कई जगह डिस्ट्रिक्ट लेवल पर ई० एस० आई० अस्पताल है। सरकार क्यों नहीं ई० एस० आई० अस्पतालों में इन लोगों के लिए इन्तजाम करती। भले ही ये लोग ई० एस० आई० के नीचे नहीं आते होंगे लेकिन अस्पतालों की सुविधाओं का फायदा इन लोगों को मिल जाये, इस तरह का उपाय आप करेंगे तो एडिमिनिस्ट्रेशन पर जो ज्यादा खर्च होगा उस से बच जायेंगे। और इस तरह का अरेंजमेंट एल० आई० सी० का है, ई० एस० आई० का है, और अगर ऐसा अरेंजमेंट उन लोगों के लिए करेंगे तो जो सबसे गरीब वर्ग है उसको कुछ ज्यादा इमदाद आप कर सकेंगे। इन दो चीजों के बारे में आप सोचिए और पहली बात तो यही है कि इसका जो सेस है वह कंज्यूमर से वसूल न किया जाये इसके लिए आप कोई उपाय करें। यही कह कर मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूं।

SHRI U. R. KRISHANAN (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I rise to support this Bill. This Beedi Workers Welfare Cess (Amendment) Bill ought to have been brought much earlier. I do not know why the present Government took such a long time for bringing this amendment.

Sir, the beedi industry is one of the oldest industries in our country and it is more or less a cottage industry, wherever this industry exists. This is also one of the unorganised sectors of industry, which engaged more than three to four million workers Mostly the workers engaged in this industry are children and women. According to the ILO Report, 90 per cent of the workers engaged in this industry are women and children. Most of them are affected by TB. Everybody knows that the workers engaged in the industry are not getting any bonus. Neither the Gratuity Act nor the Provident Fund Act is applicable to them. There should be a minimum wage fixed for this industry uniformly throughout the country. In Tamil Nadu there is a minimum wage for this industry. Everybody knows that the workers engaged in this industry get a lesser amount by way of wages, ranging from Rs. 4 to Rs. 10. It is really a meagre amount. Recently all the States' Labour Ministers came to the conclusion that every worker, irrespective of the industry, should get a monthly income of Rs. 240. So the minimum wage. should be fixed in this sector.

Regarding medical facilities, I would urge that wherever a CGHS Dispensary exists, the workers engaged in the beedi industry should be given free medical treatment. The cess of 10 paise is very very inadequate. According to the Minister's statement, the amount of cess likely to be collected is about Rs. 2 to 3 crores. Definitely this is a meagre amount. It cannot be utilised for any other purpose. Even for housing purposes, I was told that only Rs. 6,500 is likely to be given, by which we cannot construct even a small room. The tendu leaf used for the manufacture of beedi should also be brought under the purview of the Act.

Now, beedi has got a very wide market throughout India. I know that beedies from South India are sent to the North. When I enquired about it, they said they are not in a position to manufacture enough beedies to send to the North. They should be given some subsidy and they should be encouraged.

Then the distinction between branded and unbranded beedis should be abolished. The contract system also should be dispensed with immediately in the industry so that the real workers get the benefit of this Act. With these words, I conclude.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA): Mr. Kalyanasundaram. May I appeal to you to be very brief?

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM (Tamil Nadu): Yes, I shall try to be as brief as possible.

While supporting this Bill, I want to state that we will be only exhibiting our token sympathy for the workers. If any meaningful relief is to be given to the beedi workers by means of a welfare scheme, that scheme involve the Government of India and the beedi producers also. Now, by shifting this cess to manufactured beedis, the consumers are going to be taxed. And beedi being the poor man's stimulant, you will be only taxing the poor man for this welfare scheme.

The talk of welfare scheme for beedi workers is very unreal. The beedi worker needs full employment and he wants job security. His job is not safe. Although children and women work, they are at the mercy of the ferocious trade mark owners who are main employers. Under them there

are middlemen who exploit the labour of these people. This is a most exploited industry. There is no question of any minimum wages because they have no power for collective bargaining with the employers. They are unorganised. If they try to be organised, then they are victimised. There is no legal protection for them. So, an All India Act is necessary to provide them with better working conditions, even before any attention is given to their welfare. They have no social security. Till the end of their life they have to work because they do not have retirement benefits. Regarding occupational disease, very often the workers contract dangerous diseases like T.B. as their places of work are highly insanitary. There should be a comprehensive Act to provide for better service conditions, retirement benefits, minimum wages and medical relief. Till then, talk of their welfare has no meaning. Why we insist on national minimum wage for beedi workers is, if a State Government stipulates any wage or if through collective bargaining or pressure the wage is increased in a local area, then the beedi manufacturers shift their place of work to the neighbouring State to avoid payment of increased wage. Therefore, a national minimum wage is very essential for the whole country to protect the workers otherwise welfare schemes are meaningless.

SHRI AMARPROSAD CHAKRABORTY (West Bengal): Though I welcome this Bill, I am afraid, the purpose for which I welcome it will be defeated totally. Secondly, this amount of Rs. 2 crores—most of it will be consumed by the administration and the workers will get only a negligible portion of it. Thirdly, these beedi workers have not been given any attention for long years. Now this is about their Welfare Fund. But it is not real. In some of the High Courts this question was raised and their contention is that they are not workers, they are the middlemen or contractors who supply tobacco and they work on piece system and therefore no minimum wage is applicable to them no bonus is given to them under the Bonus Act. No other beneficial measures is applicable to them. And the Government has not thought about them. That is our grievance. The Government should see that these workers get the real welfare, the actual welfare because they are unorganised. Sir, in the High Courts this point has been mentioned quite often.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA): Don't go into all those details.

SHRI AMARPROSAD CHAKRABORTY: Sir, I will not go into that. But I would earnestly urge upon the Government to bring forward a comprehensive Bill so that the welfare of these beedi workers is assured to some extent. There are more than one crore people in this. Actually, they are forty lakhs. But, Sir, you know, in the trade union movement, we generally take into account the family members also and, therefore, it is about one crore. These people are rotting and they are living below the poverty line and they are starving and nothing is done to improve their welfare although we make some attempts to do something with regard to their welfare. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI P. VENKATA REDDY: Sir, I am very much thankful to the honourable Members for their unanimous support and also for their valuable suggestions for the better administration of the welfare activities.

At the outset, Sir, I want to submit to the House that the Government is aware of the enormous problems that are being faced by the beedi workers and it is the Government's endeavour to do whatever is possible to improve their lot.

Sir, Shri Dhabe and Mr. Krishnan asked why so much delay has taken place and why two years have elapsed before this Bill was brought forward. It is not correct to say that

[Shri P. Venkata Reddy]

two years have passed by. One year has already passed by during the Janata regime. Strictly speaking, Sir, it has taken only one year to bring forward this Bill.

SHRI SHRIDHAR WASUDEO DHABE: But from 1980 onwards you are in power.

SHRI P. VENKATA REDDY: Yes. But, it was introduced in last August and it could not be brought here because there was no time.

Now, Sir, about the implementation of the schemes, Mr. Dhabe, Mr. Bagaitkar and other Members have criticised saying that so much money is being spent on administration and they asked: "Why don't you have common Welfare Commissioners for all these things?". I want to submit that the Welfare Commissioners are not there exclusively for the beedi industry, but they are there for iron ore, for manganese ore, for limestone and dolomite mines, for mica mines, for coal, etc. Except for coal, there is only—one for all the Welfare Funds. There are five Commissioners all over the country. They are common and they are not exclusively for beedi. Therefore, that question does not arise.

SHRI SHRIDHAR WASUDEO DHABE: Where is the necessity for having 5 Commissioners? Just as there is one for coal, why not have only one?

SHRI P. VENKATA REDDY: In 1978-79, coal was separated from the Labour Department and, therefore, it is with the Department of Coal. Sir, Shri Surendra Mohan also pointed out that...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA): Mr. Minister, please be brief because the time allotted for this Bill is already over.

SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN (Tamil Nadu): Never curtail the time of the Minister, Sir.

SHRI SHRIDHAR WASUDEO DHABE: Let him reply, Sir.

SHRI P. VENKATA REDDY: We are concentrating on three types of welfare activities, that is, medical care, housing and education. So many Members have suggested that medical care should be strengthened and more hospitals should be opened. One honourable Member has suggested that more mobile dispensaries should be opened. There are static dispensaries and mobile dispensaries as well as static-cum-mobile dispensaries. For the TB patients, Sir, we have got beds reserved in the TB hospitals and for each bed we are paying Rs. 3,600 and I think we have got to pay more from next year because they are demanding more. Besides this, Sir, we are giving railway fare and we are giving Rs. 50 as subsistence allowance to the workers. Of course, there is a demand to increase this amount also. The Government is having this question under its consideration. With regard to the housing schemes, the Members have said that the provision is very meagre, that is, the sum of Rs. 900/-. There are two schemes. Under the "Build Your House" scheme, we give Rs. 900/- and the other one is a subsidy scheme and it is only to supplement their expenses. Of course, there is one more scheme for the economically weaker sections. Under this scheme, Rs. 1,500 is being given as subsidy. Of coure, if the funds are available, we can even increase that. Grants-in-aid are being given to the State Governments for the construction of houses because the State Governments are concerned with the construction of houses through its agencies like the State Housing Boards, etc. In the field of education, Sir, scholarships are being given, the amounts ranging from Rs. 10 to Rs. 75.

Sir, Mr. Kalyanasundaram and some other Members also pointed out that social security measures should be properly implemented for the welfare of the workers. Sir, the Provident Fund Scheme has been

made applicable with effect from 31st May 1977. Some employers have gone to the court and we are doing our best through legal methods to vacate that.

About the suggestion that excise duty should be withdrawn, since it is being misused and it led to malpractices, we shall forward the suggestion to the Ministers for their consideration.

Sir, about the question of National minimum wage, it has been discussed at different forums and levels, and it was not considered feasible. Recently, the Standing Committee of State Labour Ministers also came to the same conclusion. (*Interruptions*).

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA): Don't interrupt the Minister, please.

SHRI P. VENKATA REDDY: A meeting of the Labour Ministers of some of the bidi producing States was held on the 11th September, 1981, and some important decisions were taken in that meeting. These decisions are: (1) All the State Governments should revise minimum wages latest by the 1st January 1982, and it should be between Rs. 7 and Rs. 8. (2) Variable D.A. formula should be implemented or once in a year revision should be made. (3) They have recommended guaranteed minimum wage or fall-back wage as not less than 50 per cent of the average daily earning. I shall communicate to them the sentiments expressed in the House.

SHRI SHRIDHAR WASUDEO DHABE: You have fixed ten paise. For one and a half years...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA): Mr. Dhabe, please do not interrupt. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. VENKATA REDDY: Sir, in this connection so many Members have suggested in the Lok Sabha also that some co-operatives should be formed. But then, Sir, the initiative should come from the workers.

SHRI SHRIDHAR WASUDEO DHABE: I have not suggested that...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA): Mr. Dhabe, I cannot allow this kind of cross-examination of the Minister. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI P. VENKATA REDDY: Government would like to give them all assistance they require. Now they are given Rs. 9.50 per thousand bidis and Rs. 5000 as death relief. The bonus this year is 10.7 per cent—Rs. 75 lakhs. It is better to encourage this co-operative sector so that we can relieve these workers from the clutches of the middlemen, that is, contractors.

Some hon. Members suggested enhancement of cess rate. This will be considered by the Government while issuing the Notification. All these suggestions will be considered. To review the implementation of the Act and to suggest the amendments necessary, a compact standing Tripartite Committee has been constituted on 26th August 1981. This Committee is going through the Act and it is going to give suggestions for better implementation and also give suggestions for the amendment of the Act.

With these words, Sir, I request that the Bill be taken into consideration.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA): The question is:

> "That the Bill to amend the Beedi Workers Welfare Cess Act, 1976, as paseed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA): Now, we shall

[Dr. Rafiq Zakaria.]

take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 to 6 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI P. VENKATA REDDY: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be returned."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE CINE-WORKERS AND CINEMA THEATRE WORKERS (REGULATION OF EMPLOYMENT) BILL, 1981

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA): Now, we shall take up the Cine-workers and Cinema Theatre Workers (Regulation of Employment) Bill, 1981. The time allotted by the Business Advisory Committee to this Bill is two hours. So, I hope, everyone of the hon. Members who is to participate in this discussion will co-operate with me.

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर (उत्तर प्रदेश) : श्रीमन, मेरा एक मोशन है जो पांच बजे के लिए शिडयूल्ड है तो क्या यह बीच में ही आयेगा पांच बजे या बाद में लेंगे ।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (डा० रफीक जकरीया): डिप्टी चेयरमैन साहब ने कहा है कि चलाइये इसे ।

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : मैं दूसरी बात कह रहा हूं शिडयूल के अनुसार पांच बजे मेरा एक स्टेट्यूटरी मोडीफिकेशन है और पांच बजे टाईम दिया हुआ है, मिनिस्टर साहब मौजूद हैं।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA): I think, we will take it up after the Bill.

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : मुझे साढ़े पांच बजे कारुन्य की मीटिंग में जाना है ।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (डा रफीक जकरीया) : उसमें तो सबको जाना है ।

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : 10 मिनट का काम है, ज्यादा नहीं लगेगा, पांच बजे का टाईम दिया हुआ है ।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA): Let us see.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): It can be taken up later on.

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : लेटर आन पर मुझे कोई आपत्ति नहीं है लेकिन आज व्हिप की मीटिंग है साढ़े पांच बजे ।

श्री सीता राम केसरी : अच्छा देख लेते है ।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA): Mr. Mathur, we will cross the bridge when we come to the bridge.

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: But I may not be grounded in between.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA): No, no.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VASANT SATHE): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the regulation of the conditions of employment of certain cine-workers and cinema theatre workers and for matters connected therewith, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."