

बी० जी० में बदलने के लिए समस्तीपुर से बाराबंकी का जो निश्चय किया गया है वह काम क्यों नहीं हो रहा है ये जो शाही जी ने बातें पूछी हैं, सही हैं। ये बातें आपको रेलवे बजट के समय कहनी चाहिए। उस वक्त उनका जवाब भी दे दिया जाएगा। इस बिल से इनका कोई खास सम्बन्ध नहीं है। मुझे क्षमा करें इस बिल में ये चीजें बिल्कुल असंगत हैं और इस विषय पर कुछ कहने की भी आवश्यकता नहीं है। इसके लिए जरा होशियार होना है। बैंगन में कितना रैवेन्यू मिला, टर्न ओवर अच्छा रहा है या नहीं आज मैं इन बातों को नहीं बता सकता हूँ। जब बजट पेश करूँगा तब सारी बातें सामने आ जाएंगी। इस तरह से बहुत संकुचित दायरे में यह बिल सदन के सामने आया है।

मान्यवर, एक बात जो शाही जी ने कही है वह मुझे पसन्द आई और इसकी कोशिश भी होनी चाहिए। माल जो भी भेजता है वह एक हफ्ते के अन्दर पहुँच जाए जिस जगह भेजता है उस जगह। जिस जगह माल भेजता है उस जगह उसका कोई रजिस्टर होना चाहिए जिसमें यह नोट हो माल किस वक्त पहुँचा है और इतने दिन लगे हैं। मैं समझता हूँ यह सुझाव अच्छा है इस पर हम विचार करेंगे।

मेरी प्रार्थना यह है कि यह जो बिल है बहुत आवश्यक बिल है। इसमें बहुत लाभ हुआ है। हमने देखा है आमदनी भी हुई है। टर्न ओवर अच्छा हुआ है। इससे जितना फायदा पहुँचा है उसको देखते हुए माननीय सदन को इसे स्वीकार करना चाहिए।

SHRI SAN AT KUMAR RAH A : If the delivery of the postal letter to the consignee concerned is not made in time, what will be the fate of that businessman ?

उप सभाध्यक्ष (श्री बी० बी० राजू) : सही समय पर पहुँचे यह आपका कहना है ?

श्री कमलापति त्रिपाठी : जो भेजने वाला होता है जो माल भेजता है पाने वाला जगह पर उसका नाम होता है और कौन पाने वाला है उसका नाम भी होता है। हम चाहते हैं कि एक हफ्ते के अन्दर नोटिस पहुँच जानी चाहिए। हमें उम्मीद है कि एक हफ्ते के अन्दर नोटिस पहुँच जाएगी। अगर व्यापारी जिसका माल होता है उसे नहीं उतारता है, माल को हटाता नहीं है तो एक हफ्ते के अन्दर उसकी नीलामी कर दी जाएगी।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. B. RAJU) : The question is :

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Railways Act, 1890, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted. THE VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. B. RAJU) : We shall now take up clause-' by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 and 3 were add&d to the Bill.

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

SHRI KAMLAPATI TRIPATHI : Sir. I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed." The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS FOR EXPEIUDITURE OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT ON RAILWAYS FOR THE YEAR 1975-76

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI "KAMLAPATI TRIPATHI) : Sir. I beg to lay on the Table a Statement (in English and Hindi) showing the Supplementary Demands (January, 1976) for grants for Expenditure of the Central Government on Railways for the year 1975-76.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. B. RAJU) : The House stands adjourned till 2 P.M.

The House then adjourned for lunch at one minute past of ihe clock. /

The House reassembled at one minute past two of the clock, THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (Shri V. B. Raju) in the Chair

THE BONDED LABOUR SYSTEM (ABOLITION) BILL, 1976

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill to provide for the abolition of bonded labour system with a view to preventing the economic and physical exploitation of the weaker sections of the people and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

By emphasising in the 20-point programme the necessity of the immediate abolition of bonded labour, the Prime Minister ! voiced the aspirations of that mute and ¹ toiling minority of our compatriots that had been condemned to live as exiles from our civilisation.

The system of bonded labour is the most anomalous remnant of feudalism still vitiating our society. It is the moral duty of the nation to abolish the system. Freedom can never endure with enclaves of bondage; a civilisation with an army of exiles never lasts.

The mechanics of the system are well known. A poor peasant or an agricultural worker takes a small loan; his dues accumulate very fast under exorbitantly high rates of interest; soon he finds it impossible to extinguish his debts, he disposes of his property but still¹ continues to be in the red; he then begins to work for the creditor at absurdly low wages and hopes to repay the debt by the fruits of his labour; but the cruel logic of usury defeats him. His children and grand-children also begin to work for nominal wages to liquidate the debt. Generation after generation become virtual slaves to the creditor. The entire future of the family becomes mortgaged to a small loan taken in the remote past, the debt becomes the destiny.

That is how this system based on usury and feudal exploitation perpetuates unequal exchange for ages. The bonded labourer has no access to any commodity or capital market; he ceases to be a free economic

agent; he is reduced to an appendage of feudal property. The debt thus dehumanizes him; he lives like a sub-man; he lives like a 'thing'. The system therefore not only dispossesses the labourer and also diverts him of his human essence. The Prime Minister has rightly said that it is a barbarous system.

No civilisation can endure—half-free, half-bonded. Freedom that co-exists with sub-servitude is illusory. So the Prime Minister decided that the system must end.

This House is aware that feudal relations of production coupled with the mercantilism fostered by colonialism gave rise to this mode of exploitation in different parts of the country. The colonies were interested in impeding the development of indigenous market forces in the country. They therefore aided and abetted the perpetuation of pre-feudal economic structures in this country of which the system of bonded labour is one of the glaring examples.

I may take this opportunity to bring to the notice of the House some examples of the system existing in different parts of the country. The practice of bonded labour was found to be prevalent in the scheduled areas of Srikakulam, Visakhapatnam, West Godavari and East Godavari in 1965-66. The Report of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (1971-72 and 1972-73) says—

"It is suggested that a detailed study on the subject may be carried out by the State Tribal Research Institute as it is difficult to believe that the economic condition of bonded labourers has improved to such an extent that during a period of 8 years, this practice has completely disappeared."

The system is prevalent in some areas of Bihar. The Report of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes gives the names of the villages in which this system is prevalent in the State of Bihar. The Report also indicates the socio-economic factors that help the perpetuation of this mode of exploitation. The system of labour called Hali that existed in Gujarat is a type of bonded labour; According to the latest communication re-