

श्री ओम् मेहता : अगर आपके हाथ में आया तो पता नहीं क्या क्या होगा : अभी हमारे पास है । अभी त्यागी जी ने कहा कि जल्दी फॉर्मला कर दीजिए, कहीं ऐसा न हो कि जय प्रकाश जी का मूवमेंट बड़ी तेजी से चल रहा है उसके कारण अपने फॉर्मले को इम्प्लीमेंट न कर सके । किस्मत से अगर आप इस जगह पर आ जाएं तो आप इसको इम्प्लीमेंट करवा सकेंगे । मैं त्यागी जी से कहूंगा कि प्रजातंत्र के खिलाफ आपका जो यह मूवमेंट चल रहा है वह चल नहीं पायेगा । मेरे दोस्त रणबीर सिंह ने ठीक कहा कि 1971 में आपके यहां पर सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी बैठे थे । यहां पर रेजोलूशन लाया गया था एबोलिशन आफ प्रिवी-पर्सिज के खिलाफ । सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी ने उसके हक में बोलते हुए कहा था कि यह गवर्नमेंट एबोलिशन नहीं चाहती । मैं यहां बैठा हुआ था । मैंने उनसे कहा था कि जब हम इस को लाएंगे उस वक्त आप इस को सपोर्ट नहीं करेंगे और जब हम इसको लाए तो आपने और आपकी पार्टी ने हमारा साथ नहीं दिया । हमने एबोलिशन किया प्रिवीपर्स का । आपने कहा था कि स्मगलर्स के खिलाफ आप कोई एक्शन नहीं लेते और जब हमने एक्शन लिया तो आप

श्री ओम् प्रकाश त्यागी : जानबूझ कर आपने कमजोर एक्शन लिया पैसा लेने के ब्याल से ।

श्री ओम् मेहता : हमने एक्शन लिया और हमने देखा कि इसमें कमी है तो हमने उस कमी को दूर करने की कोशिश की तो आपने कहा कि यह क्यों करते हो । जब हम कुछ करते हैं तब भी आप ब्लेम देते हैं और कुछ न करें तब भी आप ब्लेम देते हैं । याद रखिए आपने यह जो बात कही है हम स्मगलर्स को, तस्करों को रोकने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं और आपने इसको अपोज किया है । मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि यह आपको महंगा पड़ेगा । मैं और ज्यादा नहीं कहना चाहता । मैं आप से कहता हूं कि आप इसे पास कर दीजिए ।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Now I will put the motion.

The question is :

"That the Bill to extend the East Punjab Urban Rent Restriction Act, 1949, to the Union Territory of Chandigarh, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : We shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 to 4 and the Schedule were added to the Bill.

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

SHRI OM MEHTA : Sir, I move :

"That the Bill be passed."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

MOTION RE TWENTY-FIRST REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES FOR THE YEARS 1971-72 AND 1972-73.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI OM MEHTA): Sir, I move :

"That the Twenty-first Report of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the years 1971-72 and 1972-73, laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha on the 28th August, 1974, be taken into consideration."

[The Vice-Chairman (Shri V. B. Raju) in the Chair].

SHRI N. H. KUMBHARE (Maharashtra): On a point of order. Sir, it has been

[Shri N. H. Kumbhare.]

the practice to place before the House a statement of action taken on the various recommendations made by the Commissioner. I raised that issue on the last occasion and Shri Mirdhaji, the then Home Minister informed the House that the statements containing the Government's reaction and action taken by the Government on these recommendations are available in the Library. Now I made enquires about a similar statement in respect of action taken by the Government and I have been informed that no such statement is available in the Library. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is such a statement available.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER : On a point of order, he is asking for information, Sir.

SHRI OM MEHTA : Again, I must say, when we do something immediately without further loss of time, we are blamed. Sir, this report was sent by the Commissioner on the 27th of April, 1974 and was received in the Ministry on the 17th May, 1974. After that, Sir, the recommendations of the Commissioner were to be sent to the States. They were sent to the States immediately and we are still awaiting replies from the State Governments.

As soon as the replies come, the action taken report will be naturally brought before the Members. We never wanted to delay it and before that we wanted to know the views of hon. Members. Last time I was here, though I was not in charge of the Ministry, I still remember the Government was blamed for delaying discussion on this report. This time we never wanted to delay it. We come and place it before you. You should have appreciated the point that we never wanted to delay the report. On the first day we have brought it before the House. Regarding the action taken report we have written to the State Governments. One or two States have replied. We have reminded the others and we are pursuing it. As soon as the replies from the State Governments come and also from the departments here in the

Government of India—we have written to them also and we are collecting information—the action taken report will be kept in the Library where hon. Members could go and see it.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA (West Bengal) : By what time will it come ?

SHRI OM MEHTA : I cannot say definitely because it depends on the States and other departments, but we are pursuing it. I assure you that we will pursue it more vigorously.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. B. RAJU) : It is all right. Let us go on with the discussion.

SHRI N. H. KUMBHARE : One minute. The whole purpose of the discussion will be lost...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. B. RAJU) : Mr. Kumbhare, you have already given your name to participate in the discussion. You can take it up when you actually speak.

SHRI N. H. KUMBHARE : I would like the hon. Minister to clarify the position. We have to consider not only the various recommendations which are made by the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. These recommendations have to be considered in the light of the action taken by the State Governments also. So, without the statements from the State Governments as to what action has been taken, I do not think this discussion will be of any use.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. B. RAJU) : Please hear me. The Minister has already clarified that the discussion on this shall not be delayed.

SHRI N. H. KUMBHARE : We have to discuss not only the recommendations but also the action taken by the Government. If both the reports are before us we will be in a better position to appreciate to what extent the recommendations have been

accepted and not. Otherwise, it would be futile on our part if we discuss only those recommendations which the Government is accepting. Therefore, according to me, the action taken report is a pre-requisite.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. B. RAJU) : It is all right. You have said that.

SHRI N. H. KUMBHARE : I would request that the discussion be postponed for another two months.

SHRI OM MEHTA : A small point I want to bring to the notice of Mr. Kumbhare. One of the functions of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is to consider the reports submitted by the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes under article 338 (2) of the Constitution and report to both Houses the measures that should be taken by the Union Government in respect of matters within the purview of the Union Government, including the administration of the Union territories. Still important recommendations have not been received from the office of the Committee. So, we are waiting for that also from the Committee. Still we wanted to come to the House and we have come to the House. We could have delayed it by three or four months, but then again you would have blamed us saying that we have delayed it. We want to know your views on this report. The report is before you. We want to discuss it thoroughly and we want to have the views of the House.

SHRI DEORAO PATIL (Maharashtra) : You should ask for a report on the previous recommendations of the Commissioner in the previous reports.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. B. RAJU) : When you get your chance to speak, you say all this and he will reply to it.

SHRI OM MEHTA : Sir, I must, at the outset, compliment the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the good work which he and the officers

functioning under him are doing. The Report that we have before us is an important document. It deals with, in detail, the several measures taken by Government for promoting the social, educational and economic progress of a vast section of our community, forming 22 per cent of our total population. It also seeks to highlight, with a critical eye, the many problems that confront us in our efforts to remove certain long-standing and glaring inequalities in our social life. That these matters are brought before Parliament for constant scrutiny is entirely in keeping with the spirit, and the requirement, of our Constitution.

Welfare programmes for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes have been in operation for a period of over two decades. A total of Rs. 450 crores has been spent on these programmes up to the end of the Fourth Plan. This is apart from what the State Governments have spent from their own non-Plan resources. For the Fifth Plan, we have provided for an outlay of Rs. 225 crores. In the past, efforts to raise the educational, economic and social status of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes were made through a variety of developmental programmes. These were undertaken mainly under the Backward Class Sector of the Five Year Plans. The benefits from the general developmental programmes were not flowing to these communities in the desired manner. In the light of the experience gained, a new approach to bring them on par with the rest of the society more rapidly has been evolved. The Approach to the Fifth Plan *inter alia* lays stress on area-based developmental programmes for tribal communities and larger flow of benefits from the general development programmes for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. Under the Minimum Needs Programme, priority will be given to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, and for this purpose the general norms applicable to other areas and classes will be relaxed for meeting special requirements of backward classes and tribal areas in schemes like elementary education,

[Shri Om Mehta.]

health services, allotment of house-sites, provision of drinking water facilities, rural electrification, communications, etc.

I am glad that the Commissioner has noted in his Report the 'conspicuous progress' made by the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in the field of education, employment, more particularly in the higher services, starting of financial development and housing corporation, opening of tribal development blocks and tribal development corporations, etc. I would like to refer here briefly to the problem of housing and provision of house-sites, as this is closely linked up with both economic backwardness and the practice of untouchability. This problem was attempted to be solved piece-meal during the earlier Plan periods, showing special attention to persons engaged in particular types of occupation. Many States have taken both legislative and executive measures to confer proprietary rights on the members of the Scheduled Castes whose huts are standing on land which is not owned by them. House-sites are also allotted free of cost to the Scheduled Castes where land belongs to the Government. In other cases, land is acquired by the Government and allotted at concessional rates. Central assistance is given to the State Governments in the form of block grants and block loans. With a view to ameliorating the housing conditions of the weaker sections of the society on a more substantial basis, the Ministry of Works and Housing introduced in 1972-73 a Central Sector Scheme for the provision of free house-sites to landless workers in the rural areas. Under this scheme, preference is given to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. This scheme has now been transferred from the Central sector to the State sector from the beginning of the Fifth Plan. A provision of Rs. 108.16 crores has been suggested under the Minimum Needs Programme in the Fifth Plan, and it is expected that about four million landless workers in rural areas would be provided with free house-sites. Under this programme, the Scheduled Castes will benefit to a great extent.

I now come to a problem which has been a source of constant distress and anxiety to all of us. I refer to the observation in the Report that untouchability in one form or another continues to be practised in many parts of our country. There are also reports of cases of violence against, and harassment of, members of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, and such incidents have also been brought before Parliament. There are essentially human problems, and should cause the deepest concern to all people who have respect for human dignity.

While Government has the primary duty to see that its laws are properly enforced, and observed in dealing with these evils against society, the need for rousing social consciousness against these evils is equally important. Here, non-official agencies, voluntary organisations, Members of Parliament and State Legislatures have a meaningful role to fulfil.

There is already a Bill pending before Parliament to amend the Untouchability (Offences) Act to provide for more stringent punishment for untouchability offences.

The Central Government is remaining in close touch with the State Governments and have, from time to time, made several suggestions as to how the administrative machinery should be geared to the task of giving full protection to the members of Scheduled Castes and other weaker sections. It has been impressed on all concerned that the discretion available within the legal and constitutional framework should be fully exercised to ensure that the weaker sections, particularly members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, have a fair deal and do not suffer from any disability on account of their position in society. It has also been made clear to all authorities, whether at the district headquarters or at the thana level, that their primary duty is to ensure a sense of security among all the poorer and weaker sections of the community. The following specific suggestions

have been made to the State Governments in this connection :—

1. District officers may be requested to obtain prompt information about all incidents involving Harijans whether or not such incidents have arisen due to any caste considerations. Communication of such information to the State and Central Governments would help in placing these matters in their correct perspective.

2. Investigation of all offences involving Harijans, whether or not caste considerations are suspected, should be prompt, efficient and adequately supervised.

3. Investigation of serious offences involving Harijans, where caste considerations are suspected, should be treated as special report cases and entrusted to selected investigating officers. The suggestion made that such investigation should be undertaken by officers not below the rank of Deputy Superintendents of Police or Inspector of Police may be adopted whether possible.

4. Any failure to undertake prompt and efficient investigation or to exercise adequate supervision should be regarded as a grave dereliction of duty on the part of the officers concerned.

These instructions are intended to impart a new orientation into the official approach to the problem and will, it is expected, bring about prompt administrative response and a steady improvement in the situation. While the Administration is bound to do all that is possible to give full protection to Harijans and other weaker sections, the public at large, particularly, men and women engaged in social work can also assist by intervening boldly and effectively on the side of the members of the weaker sections of the society.

The Prime Minister has herself addressed letters to the Chief Ministers to take preventive measures and prompt action to

tackle these problems. At a discussion with the Chief Ministers of States early last year, she suggested to them the setting up of a cell under the personal supervision of the Chief Minister to look into the grievances of Harijans, tribals and the minorities and also to make special efforts to promote their employment opportunities. Such cells have been constituted in a number of States.

I have mentioned some of these points to draw attention to the steps Government has taken to deal with this most human problem. I am sure Members will discuss this report objectively, and I shall look forward to their constructive suggestions. Whatever more I have to say I shall say when I will be replying to the debate. I hope an objective view will be taken. I again reiterate that whatever good work has been done by the Commissioner we strongly approve of it. The work that he and his officers have done is very good work.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA : Sir, I move :

1. "That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely :—

'and having considered the same, this House is of opinion that the Central Government should have a Minister of Cabinet rank, absolutely in charge of the Department of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, belonging preferably to the community of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes'."

2. "That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely :—

'and having considered the same this House is of opinion that the Central Government should give such guidelines to State Governments as to have a Minister absolutely in charge of the Department of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes'."

[Shri Sanat Kumar Raha.]

3. "That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely :—

'and having considered the same, this House is of opinion that a time bound phased annual programme of all round development and upliftment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, be formulated and implemented in time'."

4. "That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely :—

'and having considered the same, this House is of opinion that if the target of achievement is not fulfilled in time, the Minister in charge of the Department should resign'."

5. "That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely :—

'and having considered the same, this House is of opinion that the task for implementation of the targeted annual programme should be specifically assigned to administrative-officers and employees concerned with the Departments'."

6. "That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely :—

'and having considered the same, this House is of opinion that if any employee fails to achieve the specific task assigned to him, steps should be taken against the employee concerned'."

7. "That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely :—

'and having considered the same, this House is of opinion that adequate staff as required at Headquarters and in States by the office of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, should be provided without delay'."

SHRI B. S. SHEKHAWAT (Madhya Pradesh) : Sir, I move :

8. "That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely :—

'and having considered the same, this House is of opinion that the State Governments in general and the Central Government in particular have miserably failed to implement their own decisions regarding uplift of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes'."

The questions were proposed

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. B. RAJU) : Now the Motion and the amendments are open for discussion.

SHRI B. D. BARMAN (Tripura) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, this Report of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes makes a dismal reading. This problem of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has been neglected for nearly three decades. During the regime of the British Government, the British imperialists found this bottleneck in our society and for the convenience of their administration, for the convenience of their exploitation of this country, they kept it in cold storage so that outside atmosphere, light and air could not go to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Because it was convenient for the exploitation of this country, the British kept the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in inhuman and sub-human conditions. We understand the attitude of the British imperialists in keeping the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in sub-human conditions. But what is the attitude of our Government in free and democratic India ? The Report, in its General Review, has given a most dismal picture. As a member of the Scheduled Tribes, I know from my own heart what the condition of the Scheduled Tribes in this country is. The Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and

Scheduled Tribes has said in his General Review :

"During the period of nearly three decades since independence, we have achieved considerable progress in many fields. The question is whether this cool breeze of freedom has given any solace to weaker sections of our society—the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes? Has this political freedom any meaning for such a mass of people who still suffer from social disabilities and economic inequalities?"

And to this the answer is :

"If, therefore, our national leaders have been quite alive all these years to the needs of carrying the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes along with the general population in the enjoyment of civic right, why do we find these two communities still suffering from all possible social ills, so much so that quite an appreciable number amongst them are forced, even to-day, to work as serfs under the yoke of their landlords and have sub-human existence?"

This is the Report of the Commissioner of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. So, what have we done? If we want that our country should advance in a full-fledged way, we must have all our limbs perfect. If half of our limb is paralysed and the other half is unusually fattened, that is not a sign of good health. On the contrary, it is a sign that the whole body will, sooner or later, be paralysed. So the position is that even after nearly three decades, a sizeable section of our population, say one-fifth, is still living in inhuman conditions. It is a sign that our country as a whole is not progressing but it is going in the way this Report has pointed out.

"History is a witness that even the poor however helpless and powerless they may be, cannot go on submitting to the high-handedness and oppression of the upper strata of society for all times to come; and time does come when they themselves wake up to shake off the

shackles of poverty, helplessness and misery in whatever way they find it possible. Such a situation can lead to undesirable consequences, too; and we have to avoid it as far as possible in the interest of the nation, its integrity, is development, is prosperity."

So, if the weaker sections do not get any redress in the normal way, they will try to get it in the abnormal way or unnatural way and that will not be conducive for the well-being of this country as a whole. The Commissioner has tried to find out the reasons for their ills. What is the reason why their progress has been deteriorating? He has found out the reason. He says:

As far as one can see, all this is due to vast and distressing gap that exists between what we profess and what we practise.

There is a gap that exists between what we profess and what we practise. There is only lip service and sympathy. This sympathy has not been implemented in the practical field. The Commissioner, however, has put the blame on the leaders of lower strata of our society and not on the top leaders. He says:

It the leadership at the district, taluks and village levels also exhibits the same sense of personal concern for the underprivileged, there is no reason why at the implementation level, the persons in charge do not also become alive to the urgency of the problem.

I say that if the leaders at the top level have concern for these people, the leadership at the lower level will not dare to neglect these people. So lack of sympathy at the level of top leadership of our society is the main reason and they do not practise what they profess. There is a gap between their profession and their practice.

In his report for 1970-71, the Commissioner had given a caution. He had said that a sense of insecurity and economic helplessness appears to be deepening in their minds bringing in its vein a feeling of minority insecurity. He had said that such

[Shri B. D. Barman.] feelings arising in the minds of millions of people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Tribes threatened to cut at the very root of the process of national integration and posed danger to democracy. It is high time that the nation takes notice of this writing on the wall and puts in all possible earnest efforts to win the hearts of these people by assuring them a fair deal so that they have the feeling that they are equal partners of this prosperous nation. This warning was given in 1970-71 report. And the present report repeats this warning and says that unless and until top priority is given to this problem, it is a dangerous sign and this dangerous sign will give a death blow to the so-called democrats. This report has also quoted Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's speech in the Constituent Assembly on the 25th November, 1949, when he said:

On the 26th January, 1950, we are going to enter into a life of contradictions. In politics we will have equality and in social and economic life we will have inequality.

"... In politics, we will be recognising the principle of one man, one vote and one value. In our social and economic life, we shall, by reason of our social and economic structure, continue to deny the principle of one man, one value. How long shall we continue to lead this life of contradictions? How long shall we continue to deny equality in our social and economic life? If we continue to deny it for long, we will do so only by putting our political democracy in peril. We must remove these contradictions at the earliest possible moment or else those who suffer from inequality will blow up the structure of political democracy which this Assembly has so laboriously built up."

So, insofar as the principle on which this Constituent Assembly has based on this Constitution, a note of warning has been given by Dr. Ambedkar. He has spoken of the contradiction in our professions

and in our actions. If we cannot do away with contradictions, they will give a death blow to the so-called democratic system. If you want to deprive one-fifth of our population of their legitimate rights, if you want to keep this section of our population in sub-human conditions, then these very conditions in which they live will destroy the structure of democracy. So, for having a healthy democratic life, top priority should be given to see that these wretched human beings are not denied equality. Sir, this Report has also quoted the late Shri Gopal Krishna Gokhale. He has said at one time:

"All fair-minded persons will have to admit that it is absolutely monstrous that a class of human beings, with bodies similar to our own, with brains that can think, with hearts that can feel, should be perpetually condemned to a low life of utter wretchedness and servitude and mental and moral degradation."

They are all perfect human beings, having the same sort of bodily structure and brain structure. So, why should they be kept in this sort of wretchedness and servitude and mental and moral degradation? The question is that the people in the upper strata of society think, as the British imperialists thought, that they can survive on exploitation of these people and that they can survive by exploiting these people who are kept in sub-human or inhuman conditions. I have previously spoken about this and said that when the British administration was here, those people had kept all social evils in cold storage so that they could exploit the people to their advantage to the best of their ability and this sort of exploitations is still allowed to continue further. People in the upper strata of society do think that by keeping these people in their wretched and inhuman conditions, they can exploit them to their hearts' content and, therefore, they want them to be in this sort of sub-human and inhuman conditions. But the time has now come when we should try to think whether these vested interests in our society should be allowed to go on thriving or we

should try to put our country on a truly democratic footing by bringing these people at par with those in the upper strata of our society.

Sir, this Report has also mentioned that by mere legislation these evils cannot be done away with. Likewise, when we brought forward legislation in respect of untouchability, land acquisition and indebtedness, bonded labour and so on, we took for granted that these laws, passed unanimously with the co-operation and support of the ruling party and the opposition parties, would automatically be implemented with due seriousness. But these laws will not be implemented unless and until there is the heart, there is the real mind, to implement them in the proper spirit.

Sir, the Report has also quoted Mr. Gajendragadkar.

"After we became free, we have begun to entertain another superstition and that is, that all problems can be solved with the help of governmental power and by law. That is why we enacted Article 17, in Part III of our Constitution, as a Fundamental Right, under which it was declared that 'Untouchability' was abolished and its practice in any form was forbidden. The Article further provided that the enforcement of any disability arising out of 'Untouchability' shall be an offence punishable in accordance with law. Laws have been passed to give effect to this solemn declaration. Gandhiji, however, had foreseen that, though law is a powerful instrument in bringing about socio-economic changes, by itself it cannot bring about a social revolution. Social revolution postulates change of heart on the part of the community as a whole and change of heart cannot be effected merely by the enforcement of law...". (*Time bell rings*).

So there must be a change of heart. Until and unless there is a change of heart, this enactment of law will be of no

avail. Merely by enacting law, we cannot change the heart of human beings. And if there is no change, it has to be made by events and circumstances in which the country will compel them to change their mind.

In this connection, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I will be failing in my duty if I do not refer to something about my State, Tripura.

Tripura was a princely State with tribal majority before independence. Its population was only five lakhs or so. After our independence, there was a serious influx of refugees from Pakistan. The tribals of Tripura are hospitable by nature. Refugees from East Bengal came to Tripura and took shelter there. This problem has caused an upsurge in the life of tribals there. By this influx of refugees, the population has risen up. According to the 1961 census, it was 11 lakhs and the percentage of tribal population was 31 point and something. According to the 1971 census, the population has risen to nearly 17 lakhs. The percentage of the tribal population has come down to 29 per cent or so. So the tribals in Tripura are going to be in a minority day by day because of the influx of population there.

In Maharaja's time there was reservation for tribals; there was reservation of land. The area of the State was about 4,000 sq miles, of which 2,000 sq. miles or so had been reserved for tribals. Now, the tribal reservation has been done away with by the State Government, by making it a free zone for everyone. The State Government of Tripura has sought permission of the Central Government to do away with this reserved area. The Central Government stated that it would create a vacuum because other persons may come and make the life of the tribal people miserable. The State Government by an ordinance has de-reserved the whole tribal area, thereby making the tribal areas open to all sections of people, where land-grabbers can have access and where moneylenders also will have access.

[Shri B. D. Sarman.]

The position has been made very serious.

Then, the Tripura Land Reforms and Land Revenue Act passed in 1960 made a provision that the lands of tribals should not be transferred to non-tribals without the permission of the Collector. But there are hundreds of cases of transfer of lands from tribals to non-tribals by unregistered sale deeds because such transfers could not be registered. (*Time bell rings*). Now the State Government had passed a legislation whereby they want to legalise all these unregistered sale deeds from 1960 to 1969. If there is any unregistered sale deed after 1969, then they will take action to give it to the tribal people. Therefore, the State Government is not doing anything for the benefit of the tribals. On the other hand, they are trying their best to exterminate all these tribals. First of all, they have done away with the reservation that had been made by the Maharaja. The Central Government has advised that this dereservation should not be done until and unless some alternative arrangement has been made for the tribal people. But they did not pay any heed to this recommendation they dereserved the whole area, thereby making it open for the non-tribals also. (*Time bell rings*). The Government is making the transfers from tribals to non-tribals by unregistered deeds legal by saying that they would legalise the transfers up to 1969 and that they would try to see if any action can be taken regarding the unregistered sale deeds after 1969. I want to put before this House that they are not only doing anything for the uplift of the tribals, but they are doing everything for the extermination of the tribals. The State Government is depriving the tribals of their meagre lands and allowing the transfers from tribals to non-tribals.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. B. RAJU): Please complete.

SHRI B. D. BARMAN : They are exterminating the tribal population. There is a report in the Hindustan Times of today

saying, "Hungry tribals gherao MLAs". It further says:

"Members of the Public Accounts Committee and the Estimates Committee of the Tripura Assembly were gheraoed a few days back by the hungry tribals of Jatanbari colony where they had been rehabilitated after being evicted from the Gumti Thidal project site.

The MILAs' committees were on their way to investigate the Gumti Thidal project, which was started with an estimate of Rs. 3 crores but so far only 50 per cent of the work has been completed at a cost of Rs. 16 crores.

Over 1,800 tribal families were evicted from their land on the project site last year, though now high officials of the Tripura Government are of the view that the project is to be abandoned because it appears to be unremunerative.

One of the Government spokesmen admitted that the evicted tribals rehabilitated in Government colonies, were starving and living in inhuman conditions."

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. B. RAJU) : Please complete now.

SHRI B. D. BARMAN : This is the report published in the Hindustan Times of today. The tribals are living in inhuman conditions. I have tried to give a picture of the conditions in my State. I want to say that the recommendations in this report should be implemented and there must be a Cabinet Minister in the Central Government to get it implemented. He should be in charge of the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The Commissioner should be given more powers in order to be able to do away with these evils from our social life so that some real benefit may be given to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

So, this recommendation is only a wishful thinking. Until and unless it is implemented, it has no value at all. And

so far as the country is concerned, I have seen from the Report itself that actually nothing has been done for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, which is a sign not proper to the healthy condition of our country as a whole, and it hints that evil days are not far ahead. So, appropriate measures should be taken for the immediate implementation of the recommendations so that these tribals and the Scheduled Castes can be at par with the other higher strata of our society.

SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURAGOHAIN (Assam): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I stand to support the report of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Mr. Barman has given a true picture of the state of minds of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes all over the country. I agree with Mr. Barman so far as the feelings of the Scheduled Tribes and the Scheduled Castes throughout India are concerned. Sir, I stand to make some suggestions for the consideration of the Home Minister.

Sir, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes constitute 22 per cent of the population of India. The problem of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is one of the biggest problems in India. They are not satisfied and they are not happy with the present steps with so big an annual expenditure, being taken by the Government for their all-round development. They feel that they have been neglected since times immemorial. A general feeling of passivism sways the minds of the people of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes throughout the country. A feeling of optimism is nowhere found amongst them. Some sections of the Scheduled Tribes are so much dissatisfied or misled that they are resorting to arms with a purpose of declaring their areas independent. A decade back this agitation of secession was started in Nagaland, and a few years later the same type of movement was started in Mizoram. The Central Government is up and doing something to control the agitations but still, some sections are

at large and are doing havoc to the law-abiding residents and the ruling authorities there. The Government have been taking measures on some accepted policies. It seems that so far as the control of the hostiles in Nagaland and Mizoram is concerned, the Government have not achieved the expected success. So, may I ask the hon. Minister whether the hostiles can do such a havoc for so long a period without the backing or the silent support of the people at large?

Sir, it is found in the Report, in Chapter 20 at page 247 that Tribal Research Institutes had been set up in various States as an essential prerequisite for effective planning. At present, 11 research institutes have been functioning in various States under the Backward Classes sector. In addition, the State Governments of Nagaland and Tripura and the Union Territory of Arunachal Pradesh have also set up research centres to study the various aspects of tribal life. May I ask the hon. Minister whether any survey or study or research on the psychology of the Tribes in those areas of Nagaland and Mizoram was made? And if so, what were the result of the researches made? What were the steps taken after that research by the Home Ministry?

Are the hostiles not exploiting the backwardness of the people and the areas they reside in? Are they not exploiting the want of good communications, education, sanitation and health of the large number of tribes there?

The feeling of passivism is a great danger to the integrity and advancement of India. This feeling has just started. This feeling must be nipped in the bud. It should not be allowed to spread in all the areas where the downtrodden reside. Therefore I suggest to the Government that there should be an honest and sincere survey/study/research in finding out the reasons of the unhappiness of the Scheduled Tribes and Castes and all the necessary steps must be taken as early as possible to remedy the causes.

[Shri Nabin Chandra Buragohain]

The Scheduled Castes and Tribes feel that justice is not being done to them. It is really a very good thing done to them that some percentage of posts and services/opportunities in private and public sectors are reserved for them. But they are incapable of taking the advantages to the full for want of requisite qualifications. I insist that the Government should bear the full responsibility to produce the required number of candidates to fill up all the posts/services reserved for them. The Government should consider it obligatory moral duty to make them capable of benefiting by the provisions. The Government should never be satisfied with the situation that want of qualified candidates is the main cause of not filling up the quota reserved for them. Otherwise the feeling of passivism will continue which will cause considerable erosion in the integrity of the nation.

I do not understand why the Government proves to be a passive spectator to hundreds of offences committed on the persons of Schedule Castes and Schedule Tribes as they happen to be born in a caste hated and neglected by the rest. Everyday, including today's paper, we find the commission of these offences on the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes by the so-called advanced Hindus and the so-called advanced society of India. These offences committed on the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have brought a slur to the land of Mahatma Gandhi for the emancipation of whom he had laid his life. May I ask why the Government, even after 27 years of the achievement of independence, have failed to protect them from the exploitation of the so-called high caste people as they occupied the lowest rung of the present society? May I ask how long the Government will take to enlighten the so-called high castes when they will at least honour the fundamental rights of all Indian people, particularly of the Scheduled Caste and Schedule Tribe people?

The Report says—I quote from the Report :

"The problems of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes arise mainly from their socio-economic backwardness whereas in the case of the Scheduled Tribes, the low level of development in the tribal areas and their isolation from the mainstream of national life have retarded their progress, the problem of the Scheduled Castes can be traced to their poverty and social disabilities from which they suffer."

The Government is keen to develop the Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes—there is no doubt. Many provisions are made for their welfare. Enough money is earmarked for the construction of the Tribal Hostels. The Report says :—

"A large number of educated Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe persons holding important positions today are products of these hostels."

The Commissioner takes pride that their hostels erected for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have produced so many people who today occupy big offices in the hierarchy. But have the authorities even studied the mental make-up and the moral effect of these persons filling up the important positions? Are their minds free from the parochial and separatist tendency and feeling of passivism which have been causing enough harm to the advancement of the nation?

5 P.M.

I think they cannot have proper education congenial to the advancement of the nation. They could not have the chance to live and dine with the rest of the society under the same shed and roof when they were educated in schools and universities, segregated from students belonging to the high castes.

Therefore, I oppose the erection of separate hostels for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe boys and girls. A large

number of seats should be reserved for them in the general hostels. The Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students should be accommodated in the hostel rooms with the high caste students. They should dine in the same mess and on the same table. This way of living only will destroy the inferiority complex and separating tendency of their minds.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. B. RAJU): Can you finish in the next five minutes?

SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURAGOHAIN: Yes, Sir, I will finish it.

The high class students will easily adjust to the situations. The Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students—boys and girls—should not be isolated from the mainstream of national life by confining them in the S.C. & S.T. hostels.

Then, there is the question of Coaching-cum-Guidance centres. The Report says that the Commissioner has thought of these centres. I admit that this Coaching-cum-Guidance Centre has done a lot for the welfare of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students. This kind of Coaching-cum-Guidance Centre has been doing a great service to the S.C. & S.T. students. At present there are such centres at Delhi, Jabalpur, Kanpur and Madras. Sir, the North Eastern region is predominantly inhabited by the Scheduled Tribe people. The service of such centres should be very easily accessible to them. Therefore, a Coaching-cum-Guidance Centre in the North Eastern region, preferably either at Shillong or Gauhati, should be set up as early as possible.

Shri Om Mehta, Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs, has stated

about the constitution of cells on the initiative of the Prime Minister to look into the grievances of the S.C. & S.T. under the personal supervision of the Chief Ministers. It is a very praiseworthy deed. Consciousness among the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes for asserting their rights and privileges is born.

This proves the success to a great extent of the provisions made for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

With these words I support the Report.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. B. RAJU): Yes, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance to lay the statement.

**SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR
GRANTS FOR EXPENDITURE OF THE
CENTRAL GOVERNMENT (EXCLUDING
RAILWAYS) FOR THE
YEAR 1974-75**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a statement (in English and Hindi) showing the Supplementary Demands (November, 1974) for Grants for Expenditure of the Central Government (excluding Railways) for the year 1974-75.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. B. RAJU): The House stands adjourned till 11.00 A.M. tomorrow.

The House then adjourned at four minutes past five of the clock till eleven of the clock on Tuesday, the 19th November, 1974.