

either direct or indirect and this House can rest assured that the Government will leave no stone unturned to keep up the developmental activities.

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN: My question is simple. The Approach Document says that the additional employment generated would not be sufficient for the additional labour force. It means that the backlog of unemployment will increase. I would like to know whether it is true or not.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: Sir, the Approach Document is the property of the House and everybody can read it.

Problem of drawing water from village wells for harijans

*591. DR. Z. A. AHMAD:

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI :t SHRI
CHANDRA SHEKHAR: SHRI J. S.
TILAK: SHRI KRISHAN KANT:
SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE: SHRI
KOTA PUNNAIAH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are villages in the country where Harijans are not allowed the use of village wells; and

(b) if so, the number of such villages in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a)

and (b) Information regarding the specific offence of not allowing Harijans access to public wells is not available.

tThe question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri A. O. Kulkarni.

Information received from the State Governments so far indicate that offences under the Untouchability (Offences) Act have come to notice and the State Governments have taken necessary legal action in these cases. Steps are also under consideration to make the Untouchability (Offences) Act, 1955, more stringent.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Sir, yesterday it was reported in the Lok Sabha that the Prime Minister has advised the various Chief Ministers to create a cell particularly to implement the stringent provisions under this Act and to remove the hardships of the Harijans and the weaker sections... (Interruptions)... May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is not a fact that even after this advice from the high quarters instances are not wanting to show—I know very recent instances in Bihar, Maharashtra, and so many other places—and in spite of other stringent measures the Government desires to implement—that Harijans will be tortured for ever in this country?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: When I said that more stringent measures are contemplated, what I had meant was that we have under consideration amendment of the Untouchability (Offences) Act in a way as to make the punishment more stringent and to make other provisions more stringent. As regards the establishment of cells as advised by the Prime Minister, we have received information that in many States such cells have been established under the direct supervision of the Chief Ministers, and at other levels also special committees have been formed. District and taluk committees are also being formed and the Inspectors

General of Police are also making special efforts to see that the cases which come to their notice are properly investigated.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: May I know, Sir, whether it is not a fact that the agency of the Commissioner of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and such other agencies have not been working properly in drawing the Government's attention to the various offences under the provisions of the Act and the Government has not taken cognizance of them because there is a failure in the information being monitored to the Government in right time?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : The Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, whose Annual Report is presented before this House and is debated here, has mentioned in his Report, more than once, I should say, that proper information is not forthcoming from the State Governments in the various types of proforma that is provided for them. With the debates in this House as well as the constant prodding that we do from here, the situation is improving considerably.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, may I, know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware of the fact that in spite of all these Acts and proclamations, the reports of excesses on and harassment to Harijans has been increasing in the recent past and, if so, has the Government any information from the State Governments as to why this tendency is growing and what steps have been taken to curb these tendencies in the rural areas?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: It does appear, very frequently now, that

more and more of such instances are reported in the press and come to our notice, but one reason for this is that more and more people from the backward sections are having recourse to the law enforcement machinery. I think it would be not taking a correct view of the whole situation if you conclude that there is an increase in the number of atrocities. Actually the increase is due to measures that we have taken to see that such complaints are properly recorded and the police takes note of the actual instances that come to their notice. That would show that the backward communities are asserting themselves more and more and trying to have their grievances redressed to the full. Well, Sir, as regards the various measures that are being taken by the Central Government and the State Governments many actions at the legislative level and administrative level have been taken and I can confidently say that the Administration at all levels is now more aware of its responsibilities so far as the backward classes are concerned.'

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: The hon. Minister just now said that the Administration is more aware of this but I tell you that they do not know even the number of villages where the public well is not being allowed to be used by Hariians.

SHRI N. G. GORAY: All the villages are like that.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: May I know if the Administration is aware may I know whether any surveys have been done and whether any data has been collected? Even the Commissioner "of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe*

has mentioned that even in Delhi round about 13 miles people are not allowed to go and take water from the public well. Some survey reports have been prepared by social organisations like the Harijan Sevak Sangh in Maharashtra, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh where in 30 to 40 per cent of the villages the Harijans are not allowed to take water from the public wells. May I know in order to tackle the problem at the official and administrative level whether at least the data will be collected so that we have full information? We have many sample surveys done, we do census operations; why cannot they collect this data? May I know whether they will take some steps in this regard? The same is the case with temple entry. There are many temples where the Harijans cannot enter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Krishan Kant, you cannot go on like this.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: Has he got any information about it?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Sir, we have asked for information from the State Governments but most of them have said that untouchability or 'cases' of Harijans not being allowed access to drinking water sources are not much. Only the Government of Haryana has said that there is not a single village out of the 6570 villages in that State which is free from the practice of untouchability. All other States have given varying figures.

As regards surveys, we have made a number of surveys. The Commissioner of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, has made surveys; our, Director-General for Backward Classes Welfare has made sample surveys of the

type mentioned by the hon. Member and our surveys reveal that untouchability is being practised whether in respect of drinking water or eating places or things like that. We are trying to improve our data collection machinery and I hope the State Governments will also co-operate.

SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE: Questions Nos. 591 and 592 deal with more or less the same subject and I think. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: You should have mentioned it earlier.

SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE: The information submitted to the House by the hon. Minister is distressing to say the least. I hope the Minister will agree with me that the atrocious treatment meted out to the Harijans by way of rape, murder, arson, etc. is being brought to the highest forum in the country, the Parliament, almost everyday and it is a shame on the country as a whole.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now kindly put your question.

SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE: I am coming to the question, This evil is no doubt a shame but the Minister answers the question in such a manner that he does not feel the same way. Sir, this is forcing the Harijans to conversion to various other religions because they are treated in such a manner. They are being converted to Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, etc. They are being treated like second class citizens. The Minister must take note of that. And the Harijans constitute more than one-third of the total population.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you going to put a question or not? Otherwise I will call the next Member.

- SHRI KALI MUKHERIEE: May I. under these circumstances, request the Minister concerned to set up a parliamentary committee of all shades of opinion to go into the whole question and to find a solution to the problem without leaving it to the States alone and not to reply to the question in a technical and cursory manner. In this the upper class brahmins are the worst criminals and unfortunately I belong to the brahmin community. I feel that we are the worst criminals in this matter—SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: It is really regrettable that even after so many years of independence such instances do come to our notice. We in the Government feel as much concerned as the hon. Member does. When such instances come to our notice what we should really do is to find ways to prevent such things from happening. That has to be tackled at all levels of administration right from here to the village level where these difficulties exist. Well, Sir, as regards a parliamentary committee we already have a Committee of Parliament which goes into these problems. Its reports have been very revealing in many ways and very helpful and useful. I do not think any more committee or any other committee in the nature of a parliamentary committee is necessary.

SHRI KOTA PUNNAIAH: The hon. Minister has answered that some States have taken legal action against some people. Which are these 'some' States which have taken legal action and against how many people? That is No. 1. No. 2, there is the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. It is submitting its report time

and again. We feel that the recommendations of this Committee have not been implemented. May I know whether this has come to the notice of the Government and, if so, what action has the Government taken?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Well Sir, I have here with me a statement which shows the number of cases registered under the Untouchability Offences Act, 1955 during 1969 and 1970. In 1970 the number of cases registered in all the States were 364 out of which 291 were challaned. Convictions were secured in 50 cases, acquittals, including dismissals, in 59 cases and compromises in 107 cases. As regards the recommendations of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes not being implemented. I do not know to which recommendations the hon. Member is referring. We always try and see that they are properly implemented. If the hon. Member has any particular recommendation in mind, we will go into it in a detailed way.

श्री मानसिंह वर्मा : श्रीमन्, यह बड़े दुर्भाग्य की बात है कि स्वतंत्रता के 25 वर्ष के बाद भी...

श्री सभापति : और साहबान भी यह कह चुके हैं।

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : रोना पड़ रहा है, क्या किया जाय।

(Interruptions)

श्री सभापति : सवाल पूछिए, रोने की जरूरत नहीं है।

श्री मानसिंह वर्मा : श्रीमन्, प्रायः प्रत्येक सत्र में इस प्रकार की घटनाओं का जिक्र होता है और उनके बारे में प्रश्न पूछे जाते

हैं, परन्तु उनका निराकरण नहीं हो पा रहा है। उसका सबसे बड़ा कारण यह है कि आपकी जो इनवेस्टीगेशन अथॉरिटी है, जो जांच-समितियाँ आप बनाते हैं, वहाँ से शायद ही कोई केस ऐसा आया हो जिसमें साबित हो गया हो कि हरिजनों के ऊपर अत्याचार हुए हैं। तो मैंने पहले भी यह पूछा था और आज भी पूछ रहा हूँ कि क्या आप अपनी तरफ से कोई सेल या इस प्रकार की मशीनरी बनाने के लिए तैयार हैं जिसके द्वारा ठीक प्रकार से जांच हो सके और उस जांच के बाद जो अत्याचार करने वाले हैं उनको सजा मिल सके?

श्री रामनिवास मिर्धा : श्रीमन्, यह कहना उचित नहीं होगा कि जो शिकायतें आती हैं उनका जांच नहीं होता, उनका निराकरण नहीं होता। मैंने अभी आंकड़े दिए कि कितने मुकदमे चले और कितनों को सजा हुई। उससे जाहिर है कि राज्य सरकारें इस कानून को कार्यान्वित करने में काफी सचेत है। श्रीमन् जहाँ तक...

श्री मानसिंह वर्मा : कुएं से पानी न भरने देने के ऊपर कितनों को सजा हुई?

श्री जगदम्बा प्रसाद यादव : एका को भी नहीं।

श्री राम निवास मिर्धा : मैंने कानून की जो सारी धाराएं हैं उनके सम्बन्ध में आंकड़े दिए हैं। उनमें कुएं से पानी न भरने देने की बात भी शामिल है।

जहाँ तक केन्द्रीय मशीनरी या सेल स्थापित करने की बात है, उसके बारे में मेरा यह निवेदन है कि शेड्यूल्ड कास्ट्स एंड ट्राईब्स के जो कमिश्नर हैं वे इन सब बातों की जांच करते हैं। अभी वे स्वयं बिहार गए हैं। एक-दो घटनाओं की जांच करने के लिए

और जब कभी जरूरत पड़ती है वहाँ से केन्द्रीय उच्चाधिकारी जाते हैं, राज्य सरकारों से सम्पर्क स्थापित करते हैं, जांच करते हैं और हमारे यहाँ आज भी ऐसी वस्तुस्थिति है कि प्रशासनिक तौर से हम इन बातों की जांच कर सकें, इन घटनाओं को तब में पहचानने की कोशिश कर सकें। इसलिए कोई विशेष सेल स्थापित करने की आवश्यकता प्रतीत नहीं होती।

श्री कमलानाथ झा : आज छुआछूत की समस्या हमारे राष्ट्रीय जीवन के सामने एक गहरी समस्या पैदा कर रही है...

श्री समापति : आप सवाल पूछिये। मैं दो, तीन सदस्यों को और बुलाना चाहता हूँ।

श्री कमलानाथ झा : इसलिए अब तक मैंने देखा कि इस 25 वर्ष में सरकारी प्रयत्न और कानूनी प्रयत्न भी इस छुआछूत को समस्या को खत्म नहीं कर सके इसलिए मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या मंत्री महोदय सदन के माननीय सदस्यों से निवेदन करेंगे कि इस देश में एक एक पंचायत को एक एक माननीय सदस्य लेकर इस बात का वहाँ अमली रूप दें और गांवों में जनता के सहयोग से इस छुआछूत की समस्या का समाधान किया जाय ?

श्री रामनिवास मिर्धा : श्रीमन्, माननीय सदस्य का यह कथन सही है कि केवल प्रशासनिक तरीकों से या कानून बना कर ही इस समस्या का समाधान नहीं हो सकता। यह आवश्यक है कि जन प्रतिनिधि, चाहे वह माननीय संसद् सदस्य हों या विधान सभा सदस्य हों, जब तक सारे सामाजिक कार्यकर्ता इस कार्य में नहीं जुटेंगे तब तक इस समस्या को पूर्ण रूप से हल नहीं किया जा सकता इसलिए माननीय सदस्य का जो सुझाव है कि माननीय संसद् सदस्य पंचायतों में जायें या अन्य किसी स्तर पर मदद करें

बहु ठीक है, लेकिन जनता का और जन प्रतिनिधियों का इस काम में जुटना बहुत आवश्यक है और इस के बिना इस समस्या का निराकरण होना संभव नहीं है।

- SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY: Sir, during the period 1971-72 to 1972-73 the number of atrocities on the Harijans has become too much. The other day the Home Minister placed a statement in the House wherein he referred to a number of cases of atrocities but not a single case of conviction for offences against the Harijans. In view of this, may I know whether they consider that this increased number of atrocities is due to the existing poverty in Indian villages and, if so, what steps they propose to take to stop all these atrocities and also effect a structural re-organisation in the rural areas so that the interests of the downtrodden and the weaker sections are safeguarded?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Sir, I have just given the figures regarding the number of cases registered or challaned and convicted also. So, it is not correct to say that no convictions have taken place. Convictions do take place from time to time and the cases are pursued.

As regards the other point that the hon. Member has raised, it is true that there are deep economic causes for this malaise. With the introduction of land reforms, tenancy reforms and other measures like Jamindari abolition the Harijans are asserting themselves and they are asserting to secure their rights under these laws. It is also true that unless the economic position of the backward classes is improved, this problem would be with us. What steps the Government has taken, I cannot fully

describe, but there are a number of steps including the abolition of the zamindari system, the introduction of land reforms and other planning measures to help the backward classes like the crash programme for rural employment. There are a host of economic, social and legislative measures that the Government has taken to see that the backward classes benefit from all points of view.

श्री समापति : श्री गुणानन्द ठाकुर।
छोटा सा सवाल पूछिये।

श्री गुणानन्द ठाकुर : इतनी क्रोशिश के बाद तो मौका दिया और उसमें भी पहले से ही कह दिया।

श्री समापति : अच्छा, सवाल अब पूछ डालिये न।

श्री गुणानन्द ठाकुर : देश में जो हरिजन या अदिवासी या जो कमजोर तबके के लोग बड़ी तादाद में हमारे धर्म को मानने लगते हैं या समाज से छूटते हैं या ऊब जाते हैं उसका असली कारण समापति जी, उनकी आर्थिक मजबूरी है।

श्री समापति : आप प्रश्न पूछिये नहीं तो मैं दूसरे को कहूँ।

श्री गुणानन्द ठाकुर : मैं प्रश्न पर आ रहा हूँ। तो यह आर्थिक मजबूरी है। यहाँ तक कि इस मुल्क में अभी तक हरिजनों को आवास के लिये जमीन नहीं है, जिस घर में वह रहते हैं वह जमीन भी उनकी नहीं हो सकती है। तो मैं सरकार से जानना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार क्या हरिजनों की आर्थिक स्थिति को सुधारने के लिये इस योजना में तत्काल कोई ठोस कार्यक्रम बनाना चाहती है, बना रही है। अगर हाँ, तो क्या उसका व्यौरा है और उसको किस तरह इम्प्लीमेंट करने जा रही है।

श्री रामनिवास मिर्धा : एक क्या कई प्रोग्राम और कार्यक्रम ऐसे योजना आयोग ने बनाये हैं और बना रहे हैं जिसके कि पिछड़े वर्ग के लोगों को राहत मिले। उन सबका उल्लेख समय समय पर सदन में होता है और जहाँ तक घर बनाने के लिये हाउस साइट्स का सवाल है उसके लिये भी एक निश्चित प्रोग्राम है और राज्य सरकारों को उस विषय में अनुदान भी दिया जाता है कि जल्दी से जल्दी घर बनाने के लिये जमीन पिछड़े वर्ग के लोगों को दीजिये ताकि वह उस जमीन के मालिक हो सकें और उस पर कम से कम रहने के लिये मकान बना सकें।

• SHRI K. C. PANDA: May I know, Sir, whether the hon'ble Minister has got any knowledge of the fact that in government departments, usually Central Government departments, low grade Harijan officers are being victimised and are transferred by high level officers to places where their wives and children will be victimised on account of drinking water not being drawn from the wells and similar other things? If he has any knowledge of it, may I know what action have the Government taken and if such actions are reported in future, what action do they envisage against the officers dealing with the Harijans like this?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Sometimes we do receive information that with regard to drinking water in government offices and other things Harijans are being discriminated against. We have enquired into all of them and have tried to set them right. I do not think we can say that Harijan officers as such are discriminated or victimised.

SHRI K. C. PANDA: I will give instances if the hon'ble Chairman permit! its".

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: I shall be happy if the hon'ble Member can give concrete instances. Transfers are a matter of administrative routine. But if the hon'ble Member can give me some instances of victimisation I would certainly go into them.

श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शाही : क्या मंत्री जी को यह ज्ञात है कि हरिजन परिवारों में पुरुष मजदूरी करते हैं और उनके यहाँ पानी भर कर ले आने का काम उनके घर की महिलायें करती हैं और जब ये महिलायें उंची जातियों के लोगों के दरवाजों पर कुएँ से पानी भरने जाती हैं तो पानी भरने देना तो दूर रहा उनके साथ उंची जाति के लोग जिनके दरवाजों पर ही कुएँ होने हैं छेड़छाड़ भी करते हैं और चूँकि पुलिस अधिकारियों में जिनके जिम्मे रिपोर्ट दर्ज करना, जांच करना और मुकदमा चलाना —आधे से ज्यादा राजपूत और ब्राह्मण हैं इसलिए उनके डर के मारे हरिजन अपनी शिकायतें भी थाने में दर्ज कराने नहीं जात हैं।

श्री रामनिवास मिर्धा : श्रीमन्, यह सही नहीं है कि पुलिस में इस प्रकार की शिकायतें आती हैं लेकिन दर्ज नहीं होती हैं। हमारी निश्चित हिदायत है कि इस प्रकार के जो भी मामले आएँ उसके बारे में जांच की जाए, उनको रजिस्टर किया जाए और ये मामले बढ़ने के जो आंकड़े हैं यह बात का प्रमाण है कि ज्यादा से ज्यादा हरिजन अपना हक हासिल करने के लिए पुलिस में जा रहे हैं, सरकार के पास दूरवास्ते कर रहे हैं। जहाँ तक पुलिस विभाग में सुवर्णों का या अन्य लोगों का प्रश्न है, सर-

कारी नौकरी के संबंध में कितने उनके सुरक्षित स्थान हैं, उनके बारे में विचार किया जाता है कि हर स्तर पर, जो भी सरकारी नौकरियों में उनका रिजर्वेशन है, उसको पूरा किया जाए और ये सारी जो प्रक्रिया है उससे हम ऐसा अनुभव करते हैं कि स्थिति में अवश्य सुधार हुआ है।

SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURAGOHAIN : In view of the fact that there are still regions in India like Assam and Kerala which are very liberal so far as treatment of the Harijans is concerned, may I ask the hon. Minister which are the regions in India where there is the most anti-Harijan feeling and what concentrated actions are being taken to ameliorate their condition there ?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Well, it is not possible to say in which areas these difficulties are most encountered. I have figures with me of the cases that have been registered in various States, and if the hon. Member is interested, I would show it to him.

श्रीमता विद्यावती चतुर्वेदी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, क्या मंत्री महोदय यह मानते हैं कि यह सामाजिक कुरीति है और इसको केवल शासन और कानून के दण्ड से नहीं हटाया जा सकता। बल्कि इसको सामाजिक स्तर पर ही बदला जा सकता है और हल किया जा सकता है, और क्या मंत्री महोदय इस बात को महसूस करके ऐसी कुछ व्यवस्था या ऐसी समितियों का गठन चाहते हैं जो हर जिले में सामाजिक संस्थाओं, सामाजिक कार्यकर्ताओं द्वारा निमित्त किया जाए, जो जिले में वातावरण बनाए, गांव गांव में जाकर इस तरह का वातावरण क्रिएट करे और

जो हरिजनों के साथ अत्याचार करते हैं उनको शासन से मिल कर कानूनी दंड दिलवाने में सहायक हो सकें ?

श्री रामनिवास मिर्धा : श्रीमन्, भाननीय सदस्या ने जो बात कही वह बहुत ही उपयुक्त और उचित है कि केवल कानून और प्रशासन के आधार पर ही इस समस्या का हल नहीं हो सकता। और इसलिए सरकार की यह निश्चित नीति है कि जो गैर सरकारी संस्थाएं हरिजनों के उत्थान में काम कर रही हैं उनको ज्यादा से ज्यादा अनुदान दिए जाएं और उनको प्रोत्साहित किया जाए कि वे इस क्षेत्र में आकर काम करें। यह सही बात है कि जब तक सारा समाज इस कुरीति को हटाने में नहीं जुटेगा तब तक केवल प्रशासन और कानून के आधार पर इस समस्या का हल हो जाएगा; यह सोचना उचित नहीं होगा।

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Oa a point of order, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let me have one more question.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Is the Home Minister on a stay-in strike, answering no question?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next question.

Memorandum submitted by Harijans in Akola (Maharashtra)

*592. SHRI J. S. TILAK :

SHRI KOTA PUNNAIAHF

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR:

DR. Z. A. AHMAD :

fThe question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Kota Punnaiah.