

happened. I think it is time the elephant heard, the Parliament heard. We should correct this thing and simply make enabling provisions, and the Government, after great and thorough examination, satisfies itself. This is not a party matter. I don't see too many matters as party matters; I see them as India matters, as development matters, as improvement and running-the-country matters. I, therefore, think this is a matter which the Government of India, Parliament, and the President, as advised by the Government, must look into carefully, must study, and satisfy themselves. They should look into all these reports, at least now, and then if it is so, make legal corrections, constitutionally or otherwise, to empower the President to make these corrections in Assam. There may be some other little ones, because I have read the two clauses, which he has proposed. This will give power, which will enable the Government, to correct some other mistakes, which nobody has brought forward. All these things should be done. I think it is necessary to look at this thing seriously. I would appeal to the Minister to look into these things. I know the fate of these Bills/Resolutions. After hearing all of us, whatever views the House gives, the Minister will request him to say that, "Well, we have heard you. Don't worry, we will take care of it." I hope he will really take care of it and that too within a timeframe. They should not be made to wait for ever and ever; 50-60 years have already gone. The constitutional reservations were always there, but they were not heard. I am glad that my friend here has come up with a Bill. I don't know how he has managed to get it through. He must have, Sir, spoken to you sometimes, touched your feet or whatever he has done. But his matter has come up, and the Minister is here to hear it. I hope it will be dealt with in a positive manner as requested by these people of Assam who are still in the tea factories working hard as labourers there, and still not risen to these heights where you and I are sitting. I would request the Minister to take serious note of all this, and redress their grievances in Assam, and if necessary, anywhere else. Thank you.

MESSAGE FROM LOK SABHA

The Delhi laws (Special Provisions) Bill, 2006

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report to the House the following message received from the Lok Sabha, signed by the Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha:

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 96 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to enclose

the Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Bill, 2006, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 12th May, 2006."

Sir, I lay a copy of the Bill on the Table.

**THE CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2004 (AMENDMENT TO
ARTICLES 341 AND 342) -contd.**

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Tamil Nadu): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chairman. Sir, I support this Bill because it has got a wide perspective, taking into consideration the problem which is now facing the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people who have migrated from one State to the other. The hon. Member, Silvius Condpan, has suggested a very good amendment of article 341 so that it provides that the castes, race or tribes or parts or groups within the castes, races or tribes so specified by the President for a particular State or Union Territory shall have the same status throughout the country, that is to say, a Scheduled Caste of one State shall be the Scheduled Caste for the entire country. This is really a very important problem which is now faced throughout India, even though this problem specifically has originated from Assam where the Bihar and the West Bengal people - who were already classified as Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, who spent there part of their lives, or their ancestors' - were taken from those States and they were made to work as plantation workers. Even after being taken from one State to another State, they have got the separate identity of a particular State, by way of their language and also their customs and traditions. Therefore, the people who have migrated from one place to another, that particular State is hesitating to take them as part of their own Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. This problem is being faced throughout India. I can very well cite a particular case from Tamil Nadu. Tamil Nadu people at the grass-root level, Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, were taken from the backward districts and hilly areas of Tamil Nadu to Sri Lanka for the same purpose of plantation workers. They went there and they have been there for many years. But now after an ethnic clash took place between the people of Indian origin and the natives of Sri Lanka, the people were asked to go out of the country and go back to their original country. At that time, there was Shastri-Sirimao Agreement and on that basis, about five lakh people were repatriated to India from Sri Lanka. When they landed in India, there was no change in their attitude or their way of living. They were Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes when they had gone from India to Sri Lanka,