

SHRI N. KANUNGO: Sir, I have accepted it.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That at page 5, after line 16, the following new clause be inserted, namely:—

'12A. Power to exempt.—The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, and subject to such conditions as it may think fit to impose, exempt any spirituous preparation from all or any of the provisions of this Act on the ground that the spirituous preparation is ordinarily required for medicinal scientific, industrial or such like purposes.' "

The motion was adopted.

New clause 12A was added to the Bill.

Clauses 13 to 13 were added to the Bill.

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

SHRI N. KANUNGO: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

MOTION RE THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES FOR THE YEAR 1954.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI B. N. DATAR): Mr. Deputy Chairman, I beg to move:

"That the Report of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, for the year 1954 be taken into consideration."

This is fourth report submitted by the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes since his appointment in 1950 under article 338 of the Constitution. Four years have passed and it is the right of this House to find out what is being done or what is not being done so far as the welfare of the Tribal people as also the Harijans amongst others is concerned. And, therefore, the presentation of this report year after year gives an opportunity to this honourable House to find out to what extent the position has been improving in the various States and what are the steps taken by the Central Government as also by the various State Governments to improve the lot of these people, and also to develop these backward areas which are technically called scheduled areas. Therefore, the Commissioner has to travel through a very large portion of the year, and he has to take the help of his six assistants, who are known as Regional Commissioners appointed for different parts of India, and after investigating into the conditions of the Scheduled Tribes and the Scheduled Castes in particular, and also, to a certain extent, of the Anglo-Indians, he has to submit a report to the President every year. The Report, as is natural, is a fairly bulky volume, and it deals with what is being done by him, so far as the investigation and the report side of the work is concerned. It also points out to us what is being done by the State Governments, because ultimately, Sir, you would agree that the responsibility for tribal welfare, as also for Harijan welfare, lies on the States. And, therefore, it is his duty to point out to Parliament what has been done and what further ought to be done, so far as these objectives are concerned.

Now, it is my desire, Sir, to present before this House a picture of

the existing conditions, as also the limits within which the Central Government has to work and the State Governments have to work. You will find in this connection, Sir, that we should have one criterion before us, so far as the conditions of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes is concerned. It is admitted that these Castes and Tribes are in an absolutely backward condition. The areas mostly occupied by them are also backward. And we also know, Sir, that the Constitution has laid down certain safeguards and has also provided a machinery for the purpose of improving the lot of these people. Therefore, the object that we have before us is to improve the educational and economic condition of these people in general, and so far as the Scheduled Castes are concerned, we have also to find out to what extent the social handicaps, from which they had been suffering, have been removed, or are being removed. So, these are the various objects with which we have to scan this Report.

I would point out to this House, during the short time at my disposal, what the Central Government has been doing in this respect, so far as its own activities are concerned, and I might also point out to this House how the State Governments have been trying their best to give all the attention that they can, to give as much amount as they can, towards the improvement or uplift of these poor brethren of ours.

Taking the Central Government's activities first, we have to understand one circumstance, Sir, and that circumstance is the limits within which the Central Government has to work. As just now stated by me, it is the responsibility of the State Governments. But there is the general responsibility which has been placed on all the States in India, including the Centre, to see that the conditions of these people are improved as early as possible. The Constitution makes a reference to the desirability of improving the condition of those weaker sec-

tions of the people which stand in need of help. And, therefore, the Central Government comes into the picture, because it is the duty of the Central Government to help the State Governments, or to supplement what the State Governments have been doing in this behalf. But taking the Central Government's functions as they are, we find that under article 338 of the Constitution, it is open to the Central Government to appoint an officer for the purpose of investigating into the conditions of these people and reporting upon them to the President. Therefore, Sir, you will find that so far as this officer, commonly called the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, is concerned, he is an investigating and a reporting officer. And after this Report has been received, the further work of scanning the Report is naturally to be done by the Central Government, and that is being done by the Home Ministry. But you will find that after scanning the Report, we have also to see that the recommendations contained in that Report are duly implemented. And if he finds it necessary to make certain complaints or criticisms, then these items of criticisms or these suggestions or complaints have also got to be dealt with properly, and all this work naturally has got to be done by the State Governments, because, so far as this particular type of work is concerned, the Central Government has no executive machinery. It can only depend upon the goodwill and the desire to help on the part of the State Governments. And I am very happy to point out that though these are the limits within which the Central Government has got to work, we have the fullest cooperation, as also the co-ordination, of the various State Governments. We have got Ministers in charge of Harijan welfare, Ministers in charge of tribal welfare, and in almost all the States, we have got separate departments which have got to carry on the work, so far as these two items of welfare work are concerned.

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Now, Sir, at the Centre, we have got the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Fortunately, we have a Commissioner who combines in himself the official competence along with the experience and enthusiasm of a social worker. He has been an experienced social worker, and it was very good that his services were available to the Central Government for this particular work. Wherever I go, I have always found that his work has been appreciated. And, therefore, Sir, I would take this opportunity of paying my tribute of praise and appreciation to this officer for the very good Report that he has placed before Parliament as also before the country.

As time went on since 1950, he found that the work that had been assigned to him under the Constitution was of a very stupendous nature, because, Sir, this work concerned five and a half crores of the Scheduled Castes and about one crore and ninety-two lakhs of the Scheduled Tribes, and they, as well as the vast areas occupied by them, were in an absolutely backward condition. Therefore even for the purpose of investigation and report, he requires the labours of a very large staff. Therefore what was done was that the country was divided into six divisions and he has been given six Regional or Assistant Commissioners who carry on within their own purview the work that ultimately he has been responsible for. He has been given a very good staff and the whole work is being carried on by him in a very efficient and satisfactory manner.

So far as the further work after receipt of this report is concerned, the Home Ministry naturally, to the extent to which the Central Government have a responsibility in this respect, are having special sections in the Home Ministry and in view of the importance that naturally attaches

to his report as also to the implementation of the recommendations, two special Divisions in the Home Ministry have been continuously dealing with two aspects of this very important question. We have been making very large grants year after year and I would point out to this House that under the First Five Year Plan which is coming to a close by the end of the present year about Rs. 15 crores would have been granted to the various State Governments including naturally Assam so far as the question of grants or help by the Centre is concerned. Therefore a special section has been opened in the Home Ministry for the purpose of scanning all the schemes which are received from the various States either in respect of Tribal welfare or in respect of Harijan welfare.

There is also another question to which naturally this House will devote considerable time so far as the debate is concerned, viz., the question of the representation of the tribal members and Harijan members in the services—in the Central Government services. It has been found naturally that the process of representation is very slow but that is a question over which Government are extremely anxious. They do desire that this percentage rises as early as possible consistently with the safeguards laid down by the Constitution in article 335 viz., that the maintenance of the standards of efficiency should not be allowed to go down. Subject to these requirements, Government has to understand how the representation in services of these people will go up gradually and also steadily because these people are expected to have a desire to see that they are properly represented in Government services. That is the reason why in one of the articles of the Constitution it has been clearly stated that every member of a community is entitled to expect a proper or a fair share in the administration of the country and the Constitution also has laid down that it would be open to Government to

make special provision for the representation of those classes and communities whose representation in the services is very low. So for that purpose a special section has been opened in the Home Ministry again for finding out to what extent steps are being taken for increasing this representation. We have been constantly in touch with the various Ministries as also with the State Governments, as I shall point out further on when I deal with this particular point. We have been laying down certain quotas for their representation and it is our duty to see that these quotas are duly filled in and if they are not filled in, then the reasons why they have not been or could not be filled in. Therefore you will find so far as the machinery is concerned, this is the machinery that the Government of India has developed and this has been working well mainly because of the fact that the State Governments have been co-operating with us so far as this work is concerned.

So far as the Central Government's work is concerned, there are two points on which I would like to say something because they are the points or items on which the Central Government has been doing its best and one point is the educational grants by way of stipends or studentships so far as the post-matriculation course is concerned. When I shall be dealing with what the State Governments have been doing, I would be pointing out to this House that in almost all the States except one or two, education has been made absolutely free at all stages so far as the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are concerned. But there are certain difficulties and help is naturally required especially for these boys and girls of these classes and tribes who desire to prosecute further studies in higher education and therefore the Ministry of Education in the Government of India have established a special Advisory Board with the advice of which they are distributing

scholarships every year to three classes of people. One is the Scheduled Castes, the other is the Scheduled Tribes and the third is the backward classes, the word 'backward' having been defined according to the interpretation given to it by the various States. We need not go into the question of this class of backward classes in this connection because that will come into prominence when this House will consider the report of the Backward Classes Commission which has already been received but so far as the first two classes are concerned, it is very interesting to note how the Central Government has been bearing a very large responsibility so far as the grants for scholarships in this respect are concerned. You will find that in the year 1950-51—I am taking the figures only for four years—in fact I should have pointed out to this House that the question of awarding scholarships was first taken up by the then British Government and in the year 1942, they made a grant for the award of scholarships of a sum of only Rs. 2 lakhs. Now the figures grew very slowly till the achievement of Independence and thereafter the figure in this respect has been rising by leaps and bounds—I would not say even in geometrical progression. You will find that, if the figures for the five years are taken so far as Scheduled Castes and Tribes are concerned, the House will be satisfied that the Central Government has been making a very huge effort for the purpose of removing not only illiteracy among these people but of giving them the benefits of higher education in all stages. In 1950-51, Rs. 7 lakhs were granted for the award of scholarships so far as the scheduled castes were concerned.....

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA (Uttar Pradesh): For the whole of India?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: Yes, for the whole of India, and Scheduled Tribes got Rs. 1,85,000. In the next year from Rs. 7 lakhs, we came to Rs. 8 lakhs in the case of Scheduled Castes and Rs. 2 lakhs in the case

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of Scheduled Tribes. In 1952-53, the amount was increased to Rs. 14 lakhs—that means double of what was done for Scheduled Castes in the previous year and Rs. 5 lakhs for Scheduled Tribes. In 1953-54 from Rs. 14 lakhs you will find the amount leapt up to Rs. 26 lakhs for Scheduled Castes and Rs. 8 lakhs for Scheduled Tribes and in the last year which has just closed viz., 1954-55, Rs. 48 lakhs have been spent on the award of scholarships to all Scheduled Caste students and I would point out here that so far as the grants to Scheduled Caste students were concerned, there is no student who was eligible under the rules, which are very liberal, who has not been given a scholarship. All the applications have been duly granted and therefore in the last year you would have found that Rs. 48 lakhs were given. From Rs. 7 lakhs in 1950-51, we have come to Rs. 48 lakhs in 1954 for the Scheduled Castes. And it comes almost to seven times so far as the Scheduled Tribes are concerned. From Rs. 1,85,000 in 1950-51, it has come up to Rs. 12 lakhs, so far as the Scheduled Tribes are concerned. In other words, you will find that we have increased the total amount under all these three heads from Rs. 61 lakhs in the year 1953-54 to Rs. 107 lakhs in the year 1954-55. And in view of the fact that a very large number of applications are being received every year, the amount has been further increased for the current financial year from Rs. 107 lakhs to Rs. 130 lakhs. Out of this sum of Rs. 130 lakhs I am quite confident that about Rs. 55 lakhs would go towards scholarships for the Scheduled Castes and at least Rs. 50 lakhs would go for the Scheduled Tribes. And after all, spread of education is the major item of work. It is true that there ought to be proper representation. But so far as their general uplift is concerned, there ought to be greater and greater spread of education, elementary education, middle-school education and also higher education, among the boys

and girls of all these communities. Therefore, the best constructive effort that can be put forward in this respect is naturally by way of encouraging the spread of education. Therefore, you would agree that the Government of India have been doing their best so far as the award of scholarships for the post-matric courses is concerned.

There are also two other items in respect of which the Government of India in the Ministry of Education have been making grants. It was complained of that the Government were not giving grants for foreign scholarships to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes or other backward class members. Therefore, since last year, we have introduced the practice of awarding every year six foreign scholarships or scholarships for the purpose of prosecuting higher education in other countries, other than India. And these six scholarships have been divided as two for Scheduled Castes, two for Scheduled Tribes and two for other backward classes. In addition to these, with a view to seeing that even the best and the highest or the most expensive type of education is received by these boys and girls, it has been found necessary to give them stipends for their studies in the public schools also. After all, they are entitled to the education received in the public schools in spite of their poverty. Also, we are anxious that in their minds there should remain no grievance that certain types of education are beyond their reach solely on account of their financial difficulties. Therefore, in these three respects, the State Governments have been doing their best by way of giving new opportunities so far as these people are concerned.

Then I come to the next subject which naturally is a very important subject and on which a number of suggestions are likely to be made or criticism offered, and that is the question of the representation in the services. Now, the Central Government, naturally, is a very huge machinery and, broadly speaking, you will find,

apart from the Army whose figures I cannot give, that about 9 lakhs of government servants are employed in the Railways and about 7 lakhs in the various other departments of the Government of India, including the Posts and Telegraphs. Thus it will be seen that about 15 lakhs of people are engaged in the various classes of government service. They are under the Government of India in different parts of India. Now, the question arises to what extent there has been representation of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in the various classes of services. I would at once admit that their representation is extremely low and in some cases, so far as the higher services are concerned, their representation is so low that it cannot be taken into account. But we have to bear in mind certain difficulties which we had to contend against in this regard. So far as reservation of quotas for them is concerned, it was about the year 1950 that the Government of India for the first time decided to make reservations of certain percentages for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. Under the Constitution, as hon. Members will be aware, reservations can be made only for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and for none else. Therefore, when in 1950 this reservation was made, we had to take into account the fact that till then their representation was almost nil. Therefore, the great disparity or inequality that existed when the reservation was made continues even now, to a large extent. Therefore when considering the low percentage, you have to take into account the fact that till the year 1950 there was absolutely no representation for them. Only the efforts that Government have made since 1950 are yielding the results and hence the slow progress. That is the first point. Secondly, on account of certain difficulties associated with the War, we could not hold certain examinations which ordinarily the Government has been in the practice of holding. They were ordinarily hold-

ing examinations for the purpose of making direct recruitments to the services. But that could not be done because during the War a very large number of persons had to be appointed and, naturally, the number of temporary employees swelled up and Government had to stay their recruitment through examinations and had to make room for the confirmation of as large a number of temporary employees as possible out of this very large overgrowth in the number of employments during the War. That also is a reason on account of which there has been only this slow progress.

I would, however, point out at this stage that the figures of percentages that we have are more or less based on the census figures of 1941. The reservation that was fixed so far as recruitment on an all-India basis through competitive examinations is concerned, was $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for the Scheduled Castes. And so far as recruitment through other channels, that is to say, not through all-India competitive examinations is concerned, the reservation was raised up to $16\frac{2}{3}$ per cent. That is so far as the Scheduled Castes are concerned. In respect of the Scheduled Tribes, we put down a common percentage of 5 per cent. in all cases.

These percentages that we have laid down have been accepted by almost all the State Governments. Now the question is: What are the special steps that the Governments have taken to see that the particular quota is filled in. Naturally there are certain difficulties, but I shall point out by and by what steps Government are taking and what measures they are introducing for giving certain benefits, consistently with, as I said, the maintenance of standards of efficiency. We are anxious that a minimum qualification ought to be fixed, because ultimately the huge machinery of Government has to be carried on in a proper way and in an efficient way. But, subject to this overall condition, Government have introduced

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a number of benefits, the advantages of which are always open to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in particular

Another question over which often controversy rages is in regard to reservation so far as promotions are concerned. You would find, Sir, that reservation has been and can be introduced only at the recruitment stage. That is a very important question on which we shall consider the advice of the Backward Classes Commission. I would not, at this stage, disclose what the Members of the Backward Classes Commission have stated but this is a question on which we have to consider the whole bearing of the efficiency of administration.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA (Mysore):
When is that Report likely to see the light of day?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: As early as possible; perhaps in the course of a few weeks. We are printing the Report and the moment copies are available, it will be placed on the Table of the House.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: I hope it will be supplied to us.

SHRI B. N. DATAR: Yes; it will be supplied to all.

Coming back to the question of promotions, reservation can be introduced only at the stage of recruitment where we can lay down the minimum standards and minimum educational and other qualifications but when once there has been a recruitment and when certain persons have got in through the reservation, the next question that arises is whether at every stage—whenever there is a promotion from grade to grade or from a class to class—certain members of the employees of the Government of India should further seek promotion through a particular channel other than their performance

as Government servants. In other words, Sir, the principle that is generally accepted is that we can have reservation at the recruitment stage but when once there has been a reservation, then all the Government servants, belonging to any category—formerly there was the War Reserve category, Muslims and others—should be on a par. Even during the British regime, you will kindly note, so far as promotion was concerned, they never introduced any reservation because ultimately, every Government servant, whether he is a Postal Runner in a village or he is a Secretary in the Centre, has to seek his onward march or promotion only through work

PROF. G. RANGA (Andhra):
Through friends and relatives also.

SHRI R. U. AGNIBHOJ (Madhya Pradesh): Sometimes whims also.

SHRI B. N. DATAR: Let me explain the position.

This House itself would come down upon us if, in a moment of weakness, we agreed that even for promotions there should be reservation introduced. What Government has done so far as this question is concerned is that two or three points have been taken into consideration in mitigating the so-called hardship of this particular class, namely, that there ought to be no reservation quota so far as promotion is concerned. We have introduced a principle and method of recruitment not only at the lower stage but at the highest stages as well excepting, of course, in Grades I and II which are the highest grades. In these higher grades we have introduced a quota for direct recruitment. In these categories ordinarily the position would be by promotion on the ground of good work and seniority. One point that we have introduced is that this direct recruitment has been introduced at higher stages so that very good candidates belonging to all communities, including even the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled

Tribes, will have an opportunity of passing the examination, and naturally claiming the promotion as a matter of right.

We have also laid down certain rules regarding suitability. My hon. friend Mr. Agnibhoj said that there are sometimes whims.

SHRI R. U. AGNIBHOJ: Not sometimes but generally.

SHRI B. N. DATAR: Does not matter; I have paraphrased his words. So long as human institutions are there, there are bound to be such errors but human ingenuity lies in getting over such foibles or weaknesses. What we have done is—even in respect of promotions—we have pointed out to all the authorities in whose hands the question of promotion lies to see that they do not carry on their work—they do not assess suitability—in a very rigid manner. They are to take the ordinary standards so far as these persons are concerned; they are to take into account the minimum educational qualifications and ordinary performance only, not extraordinary performance. The rigidity of insistence upon higher standards of performance in this respect has been purposely given the go-by with a view to enabling ordinary people, fairly good people with minimum educational qualifications, to have a chance for promotion.

The third method that we have devised in this respect is that if the confidential records, so far as his suitability for promotion or otherwise is concerned, are not properly appreciated and if there has been supersession I would put it in the other way, 'non-promotion'—we have laid down that the matter is to go to the highest stage, the Minister or the person at the top and he has personally to satisfy himself that so far as this non-promotion or supersession is concerned, that was proper in the circumstances of the case and in the light of the work that the man has done.

After all, we have to devise certain methods with a view to mitigating the rigour of this rule. You will find, Sir, that all the complaints that are made will have been fairly met if we follow these three safeguards so far as promotion is concerned.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: I want to know whether the hon. Minister would keep his mind open while considering the Report of the Backward Classes Commission or whether he has already made up his mind with regard to this question regardless of the recommendations of the Backward Classes Commission.

SHRI B. N. DATAR: The Backward Classes Commission is always here and we are always in your hands. There is nothing like finality so far as this is concerned. If, in the wisdom of both the Houses, you come to the conclusion that we should follow a particular way then, as your humble representatives, it is our duty to follow it.

There are certain other things that we have introduced. For instance, if a quota is not filled up in a year, which unfortunately happens almost every year, we have provided that that quota shall be carried forward to the next two years. There are also certain additional opportunities so far as the Scheduled Class and Scheduled Tribe candidates are concerned. We have allowed them an age relaxation of five years so far as the Central Services are concerned. Whatever be the age fixed for ordinary candidates, five more years have to be added in the case of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates. This has already been effected by rules. We are going to have similar rules, with the co-operation of the State Governments so far as the All-India Services are concerned. Even there at present a relaxation of three years is allowed and it is our desire to increase it to five years. Oftentimes, what happens is that these people generally do not attend schools early due to a number of difficulties. There are certain

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handicaps and they do not start on their educational career early. To meet that, five years is a fairly reasonable period in respect of which relaxation should be granted as a matter of course. Sometimes complaints are received that the announcements in regard to certain posts are not known throughout the length and breadth of India. Government have selected about twenty papers representing different States and announcements are made in these papers by the U. P. S. C. or by other 4 P.M. appointing authorities through the columns of these newspapers. And then, secondly, Sir, sometimes, assuming that they do not reach a particular candidate who would like to apply or seek admission, what we have done is we have recognised certain associations, for example, the Harijan Sevak Sangh, and the Adimjati Sevak Sangh so far as the Tribals are concerned. Now we have recognised these associations and wherever certain vacancies occur or appointments have to be made, we intimate to these associations also and we receive applications through them. So that is also a step that we have taken with a view to see that all announcements are duly known to the persons who are interested in seeking admission amongst the members of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

Then, Sir, I forgot to point out one more circumstance so far as the competitive examinations or other examinations are concerned. The rule was—and we have changed that rule so far as the All-India Service examinations were concerned—that the best of the whole lot would be taken. Suppose for a competitive examination like the I.A.S. and I.P.S. in a particular area about 4,000 candidates have appeared, now out of these 4,000 persons a limit has been laid down, namely, that if they obtain a certain percentage of marks then they are declared as qualified. Now in this respect if, for example, the candidates

from the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have to stand competition with others, with the more educated and more enlightened members of the Indian society, then sometimes they would fall low and they might not come within the number of qualified persons. Therefore we have made a rule and according to this rule the examining authority like the Union Public Service Commission can consider their suitability or otherwise subject to the minimum standards which I have already pointed out. They can consider; it is open to the members of the Union Public Service Commission to suggest the best of the lot not from among all the candidates concerned but from amongst the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. That you will appreciate is a fairly liberal measure. Now the Union Public Service Commission is an expert body in this respect and all that we have suggested is that the minimum standards should not be departed from. Subject to the maintenance of these minimum standards they should give us the best of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes candidates provided they come within the 'qualified' class, and then naturally we choose them. We select them provided they have passed these two tests, not in the order of merit. So far as the others are concerned, so far as the other candidates are concerned, we only select in the order of merit; but so far as the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are concerned, provided they are within the 'qualified' limit, then in that case, even if they are very low in the order of merit, we pick them up, because according to the opinion of the U.P.S.C. they are qualified and though they are not the best of the whole lot they are the best of their own lot. So that also has been the rule which we have introduced though, as I stated, it is for the U.P.S.C. A greater responsibility has been placed on the U.P.S.C. not to lower the standards but also not to be very rigid so far as picking out or selecting the best

among the whole lot is concerned. That also is an additional benefit which may help the Scheduled Caste candidates.

Then, so far as confirmation is concerned, we have introduced certain facilities now. Those who have joined the service before a certain year, they are taken in. They need not appear for the examination as others have to. Similarly we have also introduced the rule that once they are there, that once their performance is fairly satisfactory—not the best, not ideally satisfactory—ordinarily they are all confirmed. Now recently, Sir, we had an examination. We found that so far as the increase in their representation is concerned, the best course was to begin from the bottom. Therefore in Grade IV, that is in the Assistant's grade, we took a decision that as their number was very low, about 100 people should be appointed from the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes so far as the Assistant's post was concerned, and recently, in July 1955, a special examination was held by the U P S C at various centres. It was an all-India examination. The result of that examination is not yet known, but the figures of the persons who applied, were admitted and ultimately who appeared would show that possibly they are educated well and here in these cases they are graduates. Then there is no question of that great unemployment amongst them that we find in the case of other graduates. Now I would give certain figures to this House. 564 candidates had applied for this examination. On account of their not satisfying certain admission rules, the names of some persons had naturally to be taken away and 480 candidates were admitted to the examination. Out of the 480 candidates that were admitted to this special examination for Assistants in July 1955, you will be surprised to find that actually only 333 appeared for the examination. Now all the candidates were naturally from the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The special examination was held by the U. P. S. C. but

you will find that even out of the persons admitted, about 150 did not consider it necessary to appear at the examination at all.

PROF. G. RANGA: How can you say that? In many cases they do not receive the information in time.

SHRI B. N. DATAR: There is no question of information. My hon. friend is entirely wrong. Now I pointed out to the hon. Members that 564 candidates from the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes had applied and out of these 480 had been admitted.

PROF. G. RANGA: What is the significance of that word 'admitted'?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: I am pointing out that significance. If for example there was such an unemployment as is often made out then all the 480 candidates would surely have appeared for the examination, but as many as 150 did not appear at all and only 333 had appeared. I would point out to my hon. friend again that this examination was not held only in Delhi; it was held at 9 or 10 places and in spite of that about 150 people who had been admitted to the examination did not appear at that examination.

SHRI R. U. AGNIBHOJ: Was it due to financial difficulties?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: We do not know that. All these questions would have been taken by them into account before applying for the examination. Anyway, Sir, that is one circumstance which is to be noted and I am just drawing a conclusion which is more or less favourable to these people that our people in general are prepared to appoint these people at least to some extent or that they must have got appointments elsewhere which are perhaps better or have better prospects than the prospects under the Government of India. Whatever it is, Sir, this is a circumstance which is to be noted in this case. Now in spite of all these facilities their number is still very small in the various grades.

AN HON. MEMBER: How many would be selected?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: A hundred would be selected. I cannot give the exact figure but it would be about 80 from the Scheduled Castes and about 20 or 22 from the Scheduled Tribes.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: What posts?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: Assistants' post on a pay of Rs. 160 to Rs. 400 and odd; it is a fairly good post.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: Class III?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: Class II but Grade IV.

Now in the I.A.S. and I.P.S. also their representation is not satisfactory but it is growing at a very slow pace; I am not satisfied with it, but I pointed out that at present there are 17 in the I.A.S. and 7 in the I.P.S. from the Scheduled Castes and only 1 in the I.A.S. and 3 in the I.P.S. from among the Scheduled Tribes. This number is extremely small, but I would point out that there are certain difficulties which have to be met. Only the other day I had a discussion with some members of certain all-India associations and I pointed out to them that these candidates required a certain amount of training. There are a number of natural difficulties. They come from extremely poor families and they have got very great difficulties to contend against that are responsible for some intellectual and other deficiencies. They have got to be removed. Before these candidates actually appear at the I. A. S., I. P. S. and other competitive examinations or the examinations held by the Government in this respect, they should undergo a course of coaching. Some previous coaching or training is absolutely essential and I expressed to the members of that all-India associations that the Government might consider the question of giving special scholarships if proper arrangements were made for these candidates to undergo a course of training or

coaching for one year before they appeared at such examinations. That was the suggestion which I made to them and if that suggestion is followed it will be found that in the course of the next few years their number would go up, their equipment would improve and they would be able to stand the written tests and personality tests in a far better manner than is the case at present. These handicaps have got to be removed.

Take for instance the case of stenographers. They are a class of experts. Unfortunately, there are extremely few stenographers from these two castes. In all there are about a thousand stenographers and if I am not mistaken, out of them there are only two stenographers from the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. So I have suggested to the friends who are taking interest in this matter to see that a large number of these young people undergo a course of training in stenography and typing so that they can get more places. We have made reservations so far as they are concerned, but unfortunately qualified candidates are not coming in. This is a task in which the conditions can only be improved at a slow pace and for that we require the cooperation of the various all-India organisations who interest themselves in this affair. If some of the suggestions that I have pointed out are implemented, I am quite confident that in the course of the next few years we shall have a better class of candidates from amongst these people.

SHRI R. U. AGNIBHOJ: By that time the reservations will have been abolished.

SHRI B. N. DATAR: My hon. friend is entirely wrong. Reservations will not be abolished until they come in. Perhaps a number of friends are under a misapprehension. So far as these reservations or the benefits to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are concerned, they are not

governed by the ten-year rule at all. The ten-year rule is only in respect of representation to the Legislatures. Therefore my hon friend need not be under any misunderstanding that all these quotas would be abolished immediately. The Government's desire is that the quotas should be increased as early as possible. These are the two important subjects and I have to point out that the Commissioner also generally agrees with the line of approach that I have mentioned.

Lastly, I would deal with what the State Governments have done and are doing. This is again a subject with which we are only concerned in an indirect manner.

SHRI M GOVINDA REDDY (Mysore) Has the Commissioner been consulted with regard to the various concessions that have been given?

SHRI B N DATAR Every time we consult the Commissioner. Sometimes to a certain extent we may or may not agree with him. We have meetings with him, we hold conferences with him. We invite suggestions in all such cases and we are very happy to note that always he gives us helpful and constructive suggestions.

Coming back to the work of the States, I would point out that there are certain problems which are common between the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on the one hand and other backward classes on the other. So far as educational backwardness is concerned, I have pointed out how we have been making great efforts in that direction, especially so far as higher education was concerned. So far as education at lower stages is concerned, the State Governments are doing their best. They have made education free for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and in a number of States they have got hostels for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. For-

merly the idea was that these hostels should be confined either to Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes but there was some danger there. This principle of segregation should not be carried too far and therefore some of the State Governments are now anxious that so far as these two classes are concerned, there ought to be cosmopolitan hostels. In fact, the Bombay Government and some other Governments have laid down the principle that at least 10 per cent or so of the students must belong either to the Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes when the hostel is mainly for one of the two. That would introduce an element of cosmopolitan outlook and in some cases I found that there were student boarders who belonged to other classes also. Sir, if there were such an intermixture of students of other castes it has a very healthy effect on the Scheduled Caste boys and girls and the Scheduled Tribe boys and girls because an element of competition comes in and a healthy rivalry develops with the result that there is a general rise in the degree of progress of these boys and girls. This principle is now being followed in many places. Sir, it was my privilege to see that far in the interior just in the midst of a hilly area there was a school specially for the Scheduled Tribes and the teachers there were carrying on their work in a missionary spirit. I have found this in Bombay, Orissa, Andhra and other States and I found that this work had caught the imagination of the people. This work is therefore being carried on with the State Governments' help and also with help from the Centre in as good a manner as possible. We found hostels in very outlying parts where it would have been difficult to expect such a thing a few years ago.

Now, in respect of economic conditions, this is a matter which embraces a very large section of the Indian community. Economic backwardness is common to all the backward classes including the Scheduled

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Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. Social handicap is a peculiar feature with which I shall deal afterwards. Economic backwardness, as I said, is common to all the communities though there are certain cases where there are special economic difficulties in the way of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe members.

Take for example the question of land or the question of houses. The State Governments are trying their best to bring various lands under cultivation. That is what the Commissioner has himself found out and loans are being given to the extent it is possible, when the question of housing of these Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes members also is taken into consideration. In respect of the Scheduled Tribes, one point may be noted that, to the extent that they desire to preserve their culture, that has to be preserved. There is no desire to up-root them entirely from the ways, from the moorings that they have. But that does not mean that they ought always to remain in the solitude of the forests, in inaccessible places. They are, as Indian citizens, entitled to all the benefits which a civilized government is bound to give them—education and other facilities of livelihood and various professions or avocations. So, these are the matters on which all the help that is necessary has to be given and will be given. That does not mean that their existence as such or their culture will necessarily be up-rooted. That culture is a very valuable culture and therefore, consistently with their desire to preserve this culture, they will be developed as members of the Indian community and they will have also a sense of oneness instilled into them so far as the rest of India is concerned.

Then, I was referring to housing also. I have myself seen with my own eyes that the condition of housing of these Scheduled Castes in particular

and Scheduled Tribes in other cases is far from satisfactory. Even in big cities like Bombay and Madras; it would present a very horrid picture to find how the members of these castes are living. I would not call them conditions which are good, conditions which are tolerable, but they are almost intolerable conditions. But happily, the Government, the Municipalities and others are taking up this question and we also desire, to the extent it is possible, to reserve some grant for the purpose of housing the Scheduled Castes or the Harijans, because, in this respect, their condition is absolutely bad. In Andhra, for example, I found that they were occupying lands, public lands or lands belonging to certain persons and they always stood in danger of being evicted.

SHRI N. D. M. PRASADARAO (Andhra): Now, they are being evicted.

SHRI B. N. DATAR: They are being evicted in some cases also. But I must say that the Andhra Government and the Madras Government also—Madras Government including the present Andhra areas—were the first to take up the question of Tribal welfare and particularly Harijan welfare. They have led the way and others have also followed. And we find very good work being carried on not only in these two States, but in other States as well.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: I should think Mysore has done that.

SHRI B. N. DATAR: I am prepared to give compliments to Mysore also, Sir. Now, various State Governments, as you find from the Report, have been establishing co-operative societies for this purpose and when in one district of Bombay State—the West Khandesh District—I went into a forest area occupied mostly by tribal people, it was a pleasure to

find that these tribal people themselves have established a co-operative society. They are having contracts from the Forest Officers of Government and they are making very good profit. That would show that so far as these unfortunate brethren of ours are concerned, what is lacking is only opportunities. And given opportunities, they would come to the fore, they would have the same field, they would show the same amount of intelligence, the same amount of resourcefulness, that other sections of the Indian population show.

Therefore, steps are being taken. But, so far as the Scheduled Tribes are concerned Sir you would find that there is one point which the Government of India have taken up and the State Governments also have taken up namely the question of communications. Want of communications is one of the major handicaps that is found almost everywhere. Now, there are certain districts, Scheduled areas for example where communications are almost nil in certain places. In the States I visited, I found that there were good roads of only two miles so far as the Taluq or the Tehsil was concerned and it is my opinion, after going to various scheduled areas and other backward areas, that civilization and enlightenment would follow, provided we have communications in the first instance. I have heard of cases where sometimes Scheduled Tribes live deep in the interior. I have seen them. There are no medical facilities and a number of deaths occur solely on account of want of necessary medical and maternity facilities. So, these are the matters which we have to take into account and the improvement of communications is the first step that Government have to take.

You will, in this connection, find, so far as Assam is concerned, that it had to contend against this difficulty as a result of partition. What happened was the Scheduled Tribes in

Assam lost their marketing facilities, because their marketing facilities were mostly in the areas that ultimately went under East Pakistan. They were growing fruits and other articles to the tune of two or three crores of rupees. But on account of partition, they found it very difficult to go there. Naturally, it became a foreign country. Therefore, in 1952, Government sent out a Special Officer to find out what the conditions were. There it is very difficult to construct roads, because it is very hilly and other difficulties are there. Government have sanctioned a sum of two crores and fifty lakhs of rupees, specially for the purpose of improvement of communications in that otherwise inaccessible part of Assam, because nothing can proceed. Roads also have to be constructed, bridges have to be constructed at very prohibitive cost. But even that we have allowed and in other cases also you will find, in respect of Tribal people, we had budgeted for fifteen crores of rupees under the First Five Year Plan so far as Scheduled Tribes were concerned. We gave some additional amount to Assam also under article 275. We have to give some amount to Assam as a special case. We have to give some amounts to the various eight or nine States where there is a large Scheduled Tribes population or there is a large Scheduled Tribes area. Now, 15 crores of rupees were given by us. A similar amount must have been spent by the State Governments so far as the special needs of the Scheduled Tribes are concerned.

As far as the Scheduled Castes are concerned, what we did was this. We found that untouchability had not disappeared at all, especially so far as the rural parts were concerned and therefore, it was considered necessary that a sum of Rs 1 crore should be set apart for the purpose of carrying on propaganda in rural areas in respect of eradication of untouchability. Therefore, special grants were made to certain all-India associations and also to the State Governments. They have been carrying

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on the work in a very satisfactory manner. They have published literatures, small pamphlets and others. I have got Marathi, Kannada, Telugu and Hindi and other publications which are distributed in thousands in the various areas. Then *melas* are also arranged. Common messing is also arranged and radio talks are often given. The All-India Depressed Classes Association has got certain films which they take out not only in respect of anti-touchability, but in respect of other conditions that are now existing in India. Propagandists are also sent. Therefore, you will find that, to a small extent, untouchability is disappearing. It has disappeared to a larger extent in respect of urban areas, but in rural areas, the conditions are far from satisfactory. It is not merely that Government machinery can work. After all, we require the co-operation of all classes of people. The Commissioner has pointed out certain instances of how, the Scheduled Tribes and the Scheduled Castes tried to raise themselves or tried to be erect, certain so-called caste Hindus went against them. They were furious and they tried to create very bad conditions for them. All these questions have to be solved in as satisfactory and also as dignified a manner as possible. Merely because some of these people are carrying on in a particular way, it would be very difficult to take too stringent measures. After all, Scheduled Castes and Tribes have to live in villages with the co-operation of other people. The co-operation and harmony of other people are necessary. If, for example, we make our law very stringent, then it will have its other reactions—adverse reactions—over the class of people who are misguided enough, but who have to be converted to the new ways. Therefore, in this connection, I would make a reference to the Untouchability Offences Act which was passed only a few months ago. It has become law and already some States are taking steps to enforce that parti-

cular law. Thus you will find that, in view of these circumstances, in respect of untouchability, we are trying our best to make the condition of Harijans less miserable and more satisfactory, so far as modern conditions are concerned. I have seen in some places that they have.....

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We have only five hours for this debate. You have already taken one hour and ten minutes.

SHRI B. N. DATAR: I will finish in five minutes. I will have to explain the whole position

PROF. G. RANGA: It can only be by excluding the time taken by the official members.

SHRI B. N. DATAR: I will finish it as early as possible.

श्री किशोरी राम (बिहार): पांच घंटे में तीन घंटे का समय तो मंत्री जी को ही चाहिए, इंदू घंटा अभी और इंदू घंटा जवाब देने के लिए।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If the House is prepared to sit beyond five o'clock, I have no objection.

SHRI B. N. DATAR: Only two points remain and I shall finish. I thought that a full presentation would be helpful.

مولانا ایم فاروقی اتر پردیش - میرے

خیال میں چیمز کو صاف کرنے کے

لئے پورا وقت دینا چاہئے۔

†[मौलाना एम० फारूकी (उत्तर प्रदेश) : मेरे ख्याल में चीजों को साफ करने के लिए पूरा वक्त देना चाहिए।]

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have no objection if the House sits longer.

SHRI B. N. DATAR: Now, there is one question on which we have made a departure. We have allowed the State Governments to use the grant ordinarily meant for the eradication of untouchability for the purpose of sinking wells and for the purpose of

†Hindi transliteration.

constructing houses In some cases, the conditions were very bad and they had no wells at all Now, the ordinary rule that was followed in this respect was that all public wells ought to be opened to all the classes of people In some cases, so far as the settlements of these people were concerned, there were no wells at all, and it was very difficult to go to the common well It created some difficulties also and, therefore, what Government did was that they allowed State Governments, especially in certain areas where the problem was very acute, to have special wells Government also allowed some money to be spent on the construction of houses Thus you will find

SHRI H P SAKSENA Now, these wells were segregated wells?

SHRI B N DATAR No question of segregation at all. These are wells which are public wells and they are open to all They are nearer to those Harijans than others Thus you will find that we are carrying on almost a war against the very bad conditions in which these people are living Happily the State Governments are co-operating and if we read the Report of the Commissioner, we shall find that though the progress is not what he and all of us desire, still the progress is steady and I am quite confident that in the next few years as the consciousness grows, the progress would be very fast and conditions would improve earlier than we imagine Thank you

MR DEPUTY CHAIRMAN Motion moved.

"That the Report of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the year 1954 be taken into consideration"

PROF. A R WADIA (Nominated) Mr Deputy Chairman, so far as the policy of the Government with reference to the Scheduled Castes and

Scheduled Tribes is concerned I have nothing but absolute admiration, and I congratulate the Government and especially the Minister who has made himself responsible for the administration of this department I am also very happy to associate myself with the very handsome tribute that he has paid to the Commissioner for the excellent work that he has been doing and for the excellent report that he has produced Sir, I am sorry that he has found it necessary to make a remark against the Members of the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha that they do not make a close study of his excellent report but only use it for reference purposes

SHRI H N KUNZRU (Uttar Pradesh). It is quite correct, Sir

PROF A R WADIA That is the fate of all long reports and therefore, may I venture to make a very humble suggestion to the Commissioner that in future he might produce shorter reports? And if he finds it impossible—and he admits that he found it impossible—in spite of his best efforts to do so this year in future he should at least produce a short synopsis—highlight all the good things that he has to say about his department, and also some of the defects that he has found in administering his department In that case, we shall be in a better position to do justice to his report

Well, Sir, the report makes very encouraging mention of several advances made and I am particularly happy to note that at Chandigarh, untouchability—to use his expression—has been wiped out root and branch

SHRI B N DATAR That is my village in Belgaum district

PROF A R WADIA My congratulations! And that is with reference to temples, wells and hotels We are all yearning for the day when this expression "wiped out root and branch" could be used with regard to untouchability in every nook and corner of India We may have to wait for

[Prof. A. R. Wadia.]
it for some years, but I am confident that with the good intentions of the Government and with the good intentions of the administrators, we shall attain this happy state not so many years hence. I am also happy to note that the barbers and dhobis are not merely keen on pressing their own rights, but they are also improving in their treatment of the Harijans. That is also a very hopeful sign.

Last year, I congratulated the commissioner on the frankness with which he had mentioned very disconcerting facts. I am glad to note that the same frankness is to be found in this report also, especially at pages 105-108, where he has frankly mentioned the difficulties that the Harijans are still experiencing in their villages. Well, frankness is good; it does not permit us to have an air of self-satisfaction. If we are conscious of our defects, it will put us on our mettle. It will be a challenge to us to see that year after year such cases of harassment become minimised.

Well, Sir, I know that there are several Members in this House who seem to imagine that they could create an utopia on earth merely by passing legislation from these comfortable benches. I have noted that tendency in connection with prohibition. I am glad that the Minister is very conscious that by merely passing legislation against untouchability, we are not going to solve the problems of untouchability. It requires a changed attitude in our hearts and that is a matter of a little time; it is a matter of education; it is a matter of propaganda; it is a matter of tact. And when these things are forthcoming, I am sure that the legislation that we pass here will really have effect; otherwise it will be merely a fine little piece of embroidery.

I notice that there is a special chapter devoted to what are called ex-Criminal Tribes. I was under the impression that the Government, and more particularly our Prime Minister,

is absolutely opposed to the use of the word "criminal".....

SHRI N. D. M. PRASADARAO: They are now termed habitual offenders.

PROF. A. R. WADIA: No, I do not think so.

SHRI B. N. DATAR: They are called "Vimukt Jati" or de-notified people.

PROF. A. R. WADIA: I am not one of those people who believe that by coining new words you can change facts. If certain tribes are criminal, they will remain criminal, whether you call them so or not.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No, no.

PROF. A. R. WADIA: But apart from that, I am prepared to admit that the use of this term "criminal" is somewhat offensive and I am afraid even the use of the term "ex-criminal" is not very appropriate, because it practically reminds us that these tribes were criminal not so long ago.

Now, Sir, there is one disconcerting feature I find in this chapter, on page 316. There is reference to the segregation of children. "At some places, experiments are being tried to segregate children of the ex-Criminal Tribes and separate Balwadis are being conducting....." (It should read conducted) "....for them in the proper atmosphere." I really wonder what this segregation means? Does it mean that the children are removed entirely from their homes and are sent to residential schools? Am I correct in that?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: Yes, Sir.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA: They are probably being taught in schools in which other non-Harijans also attend.....

PROF. A. R. WADIA: No, no; it is not a question of Harijans. I wish to be clear. Or, does it mean that they have got special schools for them, but

outside the school hours they will be residing with their parents?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: They are residential schools.

PROF. A. R. WADIA: And what is the period of this segregation? Is it about seven or eight years?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: Yes.

PROF. A. R. WADIA: What happens after that? Do they go back to their families or not?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: They will go back, but by that time they themselves can train their parents and other members properly.

PROF. A. R. WADIA: Is that the idea, Sir? Well, if that is the idea, I welcome it, because it is a claim made by the younger generation nowadays that they are much wiser than the older generation. In this case particularly, I would welcome it, and if parents can become good pupils of their own children for better purposes, it will undoubtedly be a gain for India.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND (Madhya Pradesh): It is a miniature Gurukul.

PROF. A. R. WADIA: Sir, the Report refers to the establishment of the Tribal Advisory Councils, and it is a welcome departure, and especially since the year 1950-51, we have special departments set up in the different States to look after the interests of the Scheduled Castes as well as of the Scheduled Tribes. I am particularly happy to note that there is a marked improvement in the position of that very interesting community, the Todas in the Nilgiris. Sir, it was not so very long ago that there was a real fear that it was a matter of a few decades when this interesting community would be wiped out, partly because of the venereal diseases that had spread among them and partly because of their peculiar marriage

customs, and I am very happy to note that the community is stated now to be healthy and that it is progressing. It is a real gain, because they are an extremely fine and interesting set of people.

Sir, the hon. Minister made a very lengthy statement with reference to the reservation of places for the members of these Tribes and Castes in connection with Services. In the beginning, I thought that he was needlessly apologetic, but perhaps it was his privilege to explain his position as fully as he did. The interests of Administration are supreme, and so far as the highest offices are concerned—Ministers, of course, apart—I should be sorry if people are appointed who are not fit for the particular posts to which they are being appointed. I accept that principle, Sir. At the same time, taking into consideration the fact that these people have been only recently educated—comparatively they have got very few graduates even, and it will take some time for them to come up—special preference will have to be given to them in the lower rungs. Otherwise they will never be able to occupy higher offices. And I have not the slightest reason to doubt that, whether they are members of the Scheduled Castes, or whether they are members of the Scheduled Tribes, God has given them sufficient intelligence. And if we human beings give them sufficient opportunities, they will render a good account of themselves.

Sir, in my own institute, at the present moment, I have got deputed, by the Government of Assam, some tribal students, and I find that they are an extremely fine lot. They speak very good English, Sir, better perhaps than so many better-educated people do. They are so social, so cheerful and so nice in their manners, that it is a pleasure to deal with them. And, I am perfectly certain that there is a good future for them, a good future for these Tribes, a good future for these communities.

[Prof. A. R. Wadia.]

Sir, you will pardon me for referring to one danger that lurks on the horizon, so far as the treatment of the tribal people is concerned. I think the Prime Minister, last year, when he opened the new premises of my institute, gave expression to that sentiment in very fine language, a sentiment which I wholeheartedly reciprocate and accept. And that sentiment is that the self-styled reformers should not venture to tinker with some of the fine habits and institutions of these tribal people. They have inherited them during the last so many centuries. They are fond of songs, they are fond of dance.....

PROF. G. RANGA: They are fond of truth also.

PROF. A. R. WADIA: They are fond of truth, and in spite of the fact that they are fond of drink!

Well, Sir, in this connection, I should like to take this opportunity of removing any possible misapprehension, because my friend, Mr. Saksena, although he did not say it in so many words, almost hinted that I was mixing with very doubtful company. And my friend, Dr. Mookerji, did me worst service by quoting me as being fond of Wincarnis, thus giving an impression that I am a habitual drunkard. Now, as a matter of fact, I want to make it clear to my friends that I do not belong to that category at all. I do not enjoy drinking myself; I do not enjoy this sort of thing. And if I am fond of Wincarnis, I am fond of it exactly in the same way in which I would be fond of a penicillin injection, whenever necessary, or of quinine mixture, whenever necessary. It is only in that light that I look upon it. But it is very dangerous for people, who have never had the good fortune, or the misfortune, of having drunk a single drop of good or bad wine, to preach to others that they should give this up. If they knew about its evil effects in their own experience, I could have appreciated it.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA: We observe it.

PROF. A. R. WADIA: They have even forgotten the Vedas, which never say that liquor should be prohibited. And, therefore, I am very much afraid that our reforming Governments and self-styled saints might try to tinker with the habits of these tribal people and make enemies of them.

Sir, exactly a week ago, there was a very interesting discussion in the local Rotary Club about prohibition, in which one Minister took part, and one ex-Minister took part, and two Members of Parliament, from the other House, also took part. And there was an open challenge thrown out by one of the speakers—I shall not mention any name—that if they try to introduce prohibition in the tribal areas, they will come to difficulties.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA: They will be killed?

PROF. A. R. WADIA: Yes, they might be killed also. I would advise Mr. Saksena, if he ever comes to Bombay, not to go to certain areas with the intention of reforming those people, unless he insures his life very heavily, or he is prepared to face these consequences.

Well, Sir, I do hope that in our treatment of the tribal people we would adopt a generous attitude, and an appreciative attitude. We should try to develop all the good that is in them, and make them exemplary citizens of India, of which they and we could be proud. I do not want this fine spirit of cheerfulness to be destroyed. It was a common remark made by our foreign visitors that our students are very grim, and that there is hardly a smile on their faces. And I am afraid that that is true of many of us, and that we never smile. Smiling is good; laughter is good; it is healthy.

PROF. G. RANGA: But you do not want a drink for that.

PROF. A. R. WADIA: If you can laugh without drinking or with drinking, all the better. But, Sir, that is the spirit which exists among the tribals and I should like to encourage it and see it further developed. I am happy that this Department is in the hands of a gentleman who is very high in his moral standards and yet who has got a real human heart, who can appreciate the difficulties of the people he is dealing with. There is hope for this Department, there is hope for India. With these remarks, I heartily support the motion that has been just moved by the hon Minister.

SHRI N. D. M. PRASADARAO: Sir, I have gone through this Report and have carefully heard the Deputy Minister explaining this Report. Of course I am very grateful for this Report, for the pains that the Commissioner has taken in preparing this Report and to the Government also for giving us this opportunity of discussing but after going through all this voluminous Report, I find the basic thing that concerns these Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is not there. I think the Constitution itself lays down that the Government should promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people and as particular of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. It hardly mentions it. If at all it mentions it, it is in a passing remark. Most of the Scheduled Castes are agricultural labourers. But how they live, how they work, what are their service conditions, what are their wages—they were not at all taken into consideration in this Report. I am not going to discuss about the agricultural wages or the Act that concerns them. But I wish to bring to the notice of the Government how miserable are the agricultural wages and how much more miserable are the Government's attempts in fixing these agricultural labour wages. I take the Agricultural Wages Enquiry Report itself and will show how the Government measures fall far short of the needs. Even the existing rates are not fixed as the

minimum wages. In Punjab we find that the wage rate ranges upto Rs. 4/4 per day for the day labourer but the Government fixes only Rs. 2 or 5 per cent. of the crop as wages. Similarly for other provinces also. If you go through the Agricultural Wages Enquiry Report, you will find that the minimum wages fixed are much lower than the actual wages being paid by the employers. I have got the figures for Orissa, Delhi, U.P. and other places. So the economic condition of these people were not taken into consideration at all. Secondly, about this land question, the Deputy Minister said and he has given praise also to certain Governments especially the Andhra Government for the care that they have taken in allotting lands to the Scheduled Castes and others but Sir, I find from these Reports themselves that what he says are being contradicted by them. They are self-contradictory. For instance, I refer to the Central Government note that was handed out yesterday. It has been said there that the Andhra and Orissa Governments have adopted measures to reclaim waste lands by allotting them to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes but from the Report of the Commissioner this has been contradicted more or less. On page 110 we find it said as follows regarding Andhra:—

"Lands at the disposal of the Government in the Ryotwari areas are assigned to only landless poor persons who directly engage themselves in cultivation including ex-toddy tappers, backward communities and weavers. Members of the Scheduled Castes take their chance along with other landless poor in respect of assignment of the lands."

So no favour has been shown to the Scheduled Castes. In fact what is really happening is this. There may be rules to assign waste lands to them but what actually happens is that in a number of places, in the name of assigning to political prisoners hundreds and thousands of agricultural labourers mainly belonging to the Scheduled Castes are being evicted

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from land today. Many of them are today rotting in jails. Still criminal cases are going on. I can give the names of a number of villages like Karancheedu, Vetapalam and Chirala. In all these places, in order to give lands to the political prisoners, these people who were cultivating the lands for the past 10 or 12 years and who were paying land revenue to the Government have been evicted.

Similarly, regarding the security of tenure, in the Report on page 109 it says (This is regarding Andhra):

"The Government have also promulgated the Andhra Tenants Protection Ordinance, 1954."

This concerns only the tenants of Inam villages and has nothing to do with scheduled areas. There are no Inams in scheduled areas but from this report it gives the idea that even Scheduled Tribes are being given this protection. There is no such tenancy law at all in Andhra. That is what I want to say.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Read the earlier sentence which says:

"The Madras Estates Abolition and Conversion into Ryotwari Act, 1948 and the Amendment Act of 1950 have been made applicable to the Scheduled Areas inhabited by Scheduled Tribes."

5 P.M.

SHRI N. D. M. PRASADARAO: In the next para on the next page it says:

"The assignment of waste lands available in Estate areas to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has been postponed pending completion of the survey and settlement of the Estates taken over under the Madras Estates Abolition and Conversion into Ryotwari Act, 1948."

In last year's report, on page 107 it was said:

"Legal aid is being given to scheduled castes and others in cases."

But today we find that in many of the places, it is not the legal aid that is being provided by the Government. On the other hand we find in many places the Government itself is instituting cases against these people on the pretext of land disputes etc. I can give a number of places where the Scheduled Castes are being prosecuted by the Government itself. On so many pretexts, say, unauthorised cultivation of lands etc. they are prosecuted.....

SHRI GOPIKRISHNA VIJAIVAR-GIYA (Madhya Bharat): I suggest that we sit longer today.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Prasadarao is going away and so let us sit a little longer.

SHRI N. D. M. PRASADARAO: In the report handed over yesterday, on page 162 it has been said about debt redemption as follows:

"The proposal to regulate and control the business of money lending in the State by legislation is under consideration."

I don't know when this consideration will end but for a number of years, this question of debt redemption of the Scheduled Castes who were mainly agricultural labourers has been assuming greater and greater proportions. I do not have the comparative figures for subsequent years and so I give the figures for 1945. In the year 1945, a survey was made in the Madras Province by Dr. Narayanaswamy Naidu and it was found that while the indebtedness of agricultural labour was increasing, that of the landowners, particularly the landlords was going down. For instance, in 1939 whereas the percentage of debt of landlords was 14.4 it came down to 10.8 in 1945. But in respect of the agricultural labour, while it was only 1.4 per cent. in 1939, it went

up to 2.5 per cent. in 1945. Therefore, I say that the question of debt is assuming larger and larger proportions in respect of the Scheduled Castes. So far nothing has been done in this direction and all that is said in this Report is that it is still under contemplation.

I have to say a few words about the question of provision of cheap houses for these people in the Andhra State. It was only the day before yesterday we had an opportunity of discussing this question with the Minister for Labour of the Government of Andhra. He said that there was, of course, the provision for giving Rs. 500 as loan for the construction of a cheap house, this loan to be realised in twenty instalments. But then has come up this question of whether these cheap houses constructed on Rs. 500 and which would be very very small and also very very weak would last these twenty years. So they are re-examining the whole question. That is what has been said. Therefore, there also, nothing has so far been done in connection with the construction of cheap houses for these people.

Sir, the Deputy Minister gave us an explanation regarding recruitment of these people into the services. But I am sorry to submit that what he said is contrary to facts, for at least I know of some cases where discrimination has been shown against the Scheduled Caste candidates. I refer to the selection by the Public Services Commission. Thereby I do not mean any disrespect to the Commission. I am simply putting a few facts before the Government so that they might make enquiries.

Sir, in 1953 the post of a Labour Conciliation Officer became vacant and it had to be filled up by the Public Service Commission. One Harijan who is an M.A. LL.B. applied for the post and another applicant was an Yenadi which is a Scheduled Tribe or what is called an ex-Criminal Tribe, and he was a B.A. B.L. He also

applied and so there were two applications. This Yenadi whose name is Ramamurthy was a student of a hostel run by Mr. V. Raghaviah and while the two applicants were refused the post, the son of Mr. Raghaviah was given this post, even though these two applicants were fully qualified for this post.

This much about the Public Service Commission. One would think that at least the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes would appoint persons belonging to these communities in the posts which he himself fills. But, Sir, that is not so. That has not happened. In Andhra again, the post of Regional Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes fell vacant and it had to be filled. There also qualified persons from the Scheduled Castes applied for the post. The qualifications laid down were that the candidate should have passed the M.A. Examination in the First or Second Class and he should have had five years' experience in social service. But these applicants were not offered the post, instead, a person fresh from college and who was not of a Scheduled Caste or a Scheduled Tribe, was given this post.

Sir, these are some of the cases which came to my knowledge and the Government can find out how the policy regarding these appointments is working.

Sir, in last year's Report there is mention of a colony in Nellore. As to the progress made there I will deal with it later on. In this Report.....

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA: Does the hon. Member mean the year 1953?

SHRI N. D. M. PRASADARAO: Yes, 1953.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA: What page?

SHRI N. D. M. PRASADARAO: I am referring to page 43 of the Report for the year 1953. This colony is for

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Sidhapuram and it has been described here as an ex-Criminal Tribes colony which is not true. It was intended for the Scheduled Castes as well as for the ex-Criminal tribes. It is intended for both these people and it is called the Sidhapuram Land Colonisation Co-operative Society. This is managed by Mr. V. Raghaviah and in his Report the Commissioner has very mildly stated that this colony is not being properly run. This is what he has said:

"This colony which was started by Shri V. Raghaviah, is not progressing as well as it was expected though a grant of Rs 42,000 was also given to this colony."

I know that the Commissioner has himself visited this colony and he has seen the state of affairs there and he has put it very mildly here. I do not know what progress has been made after that. But even on that occasion there were certain facts which I want to bring to the notice of Government so that some proper check-up could be made at the time of future inspection. When the Commissioner himself visited the colony he visited also the works done there, different types of work—mat weaving, knitting, rattan work, tailoring and all these things. But what actually happened was this. On the day of the Commissioner's visit, this gentleman who is running the whole show, took some Yenadis and put them in a tailoring shop and they were shown. It was a regular tailoring shop and had nothing to do with the colony and the Commissioner was shown that as if tailoring is being done in the colony. Similarly about the rattan work also. He had taken some Yenadi boys to the place in the market where rattan work was going on, kept them there and they were shown to the Commissioner. Similarly about the knitting also. The Commissioner also knows this, that some girl students in a hostel run by the Social Welfare Board had been brought and put in

there and they were shown as some women who in their spare time were being provided with work. Sir, in this way the whole thing had been managed.

Sir, in the same Report it has been said that it was not possible to irrigate the land due to the failure of two monsoons. Thus, Sir, is a strange argument for this same colony is served by the canal from the Kategiri reservoir which irrigates about a lakh acres of land. This has been specially dug for this colony and this is also land which is guaranteed wet land. Still it is said that due to failure of two monsoons the land was not being irrigated. This is not at all true to facts.

Therefore, my request is this. Of course in all inspections, not only of such colonies, but in all inspections, whether it be of educational institutions or other institutions, whenever previous intimation is given, generally what happens is this. Some show will be there and everything will be perfect. Therefore such inspection should be made offhand and how things are going on should be properly found out.

Sir, the Deputy Minister has said that 10 per cent. of the hostels meant for either the Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes should be reserved for the other class. That is the rule. But have you found out in how many cases the Scheduled Caste people have been taken in the hostels of the Scheduled Tribes or vice versa? Generally you do not find and particularly it is the case in Nellore itself.

Then, Sir, here in the Report itself the Commissioner is pleased to tell about the case of a Harijan woman in this so-called ex-Criminal Tribe colony. The fact is this. This Harijan woman was granted land even before the colony was established there. She was a resident there. She was for a long time residing in that area, and after the colony was

established, simply because she does not belong to that Yenadi community she has been driven out of that colony. There are so many other cases. I only hope that the inspection of these things would be properly done and proper steps taken to set matters right.

Now with regard to the Scheduled Tribes I want to say certain things. On page 41 of the 1953 Report it has been suggested by the Commissioner that the Muthadari system prevalent in the Scheduled Tribe areas should be done away with. But what has been done so far? We do not find anything done in that regard. Still the Muthadari system goes on and the Muthadari system is a sort of zamindari system and it still goes on.

Then about the land allotment the Deputy Minister has said something. But what do we find? What are the real facts? In several places in several States you will find the Scheduled Tribe people being driven away from lands, even from the lands of Government. I will tell you what is happening to the Worlis in Nasik district. Hundreds and hundreds of them have been driven away from those lands on some pretext or other. Of course Government will always find some pretext and see that it is unauthorised colony or something like that.

Similarly in Assam wholesale evictions are going on from the Government lands of these Scheduled Tribe people. And what is the argument that the Government makes out? They want to resettle somebody, the refugees, or they want to make regulated assignments of these lands. In this way they say, but first of all, the peasants from the Scheduled Tribes who were cultivating those lands for a number of years are being driven away.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I think you should close now, Mr. Prasadaraao. There is a meeting of the Joint Select Committee, I am told. So some mem-

bers have to go there. You have already taken 25 minutes. Please wind up.

SHRI N. D. M. PRASADARAO: I will finish soon. One thing is about the co-operative societies and about other things also something has been said by the Deputy Minister. Of course it takes time to refer to all these things, but about the Hyderabad State I find one co-operative society in Koida which is in Khamam district and there is another at Marlava. Except these two there are no co-operative societies at all that have been developed for the Scheduled Tribes. These two co-operative societies also were not formed recently, not after this Government has taken over or after the Commissioner has been appointed. They were in existence for a very long time, for ten or twelve years. Apart from these two there is none else for the Scheduled Tribes and everybody knows how the Scheduled Tribes are being exploited in their forest labour, in bamboos, and so many other things, in the trade and commerce there. So this development of co-operative societies must take precedence over other developments for these Scheduled Tribes, but we don't find anything being done for the development of these co-operatives.

As the time is short I will deal only with one more fact. Sir, our Constitution grants some fundamental rights and one fundamental right is to exercise one's vote freely and fairly. But what do we find to-day? Are these Scheduled Caste people and the Scheduled Tribe people free to exercise that right? At least from my experience in Andhra I can say that this political right granted by the Constitution, the right to freely elect a person of their own choice, is being denied to the Scheduled Caste people in a number of places. From the recent elections I can give you a number of instances where undue influence and great pressure had been brought on them so that they could not exercise

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their free choice. Where these Scheduled Caste people did not yield to the pressure of their landlords and voted as per their choice, even today they are being harassed. I can give you a number of places where still cases are going on. Some of these cases have been brought to the notice of the Chief Minister of Andhra State. I will give you only one instance and that is the village of Tallapalam in Nellore district. There out of the 1,400 total voters only 230 of Scheduled Caste people were bold enough to exercise their right according to their choice. And what is the result? Today all the farm servants have been dismissed by the landlords. Their wages for 8 months were in arrears. They were denied and they were not paid those wages.

SHRI R. U. AGNIBHOJ: How much more time is Mr. Prasadaraao likely to take, Sir?

SHRI N. D. M. PRASADRAO: I am finishing. Now, Sir, these Scheduled Caste people are not allowed even to enter the lands of these landlords. A number of security cases have been filed against them and 24 of them

have been arrested without any charge, put in prison for seven days and later on released and all these security cases against them were later on scrapped; they were dismissed by the court.

Not only these, Sir. Fishing in the tanks has been taken on lease by these Scheduled Castes people and because these people voted for one of their choice they are not allowed to exercise their right to catch fish under the lease. This thing is going on in a number of villages and any number can be cited.

So it should be seen that full protection is given to the Scheduled Caste people and the Scheduled Tribe people to exercise their political rights. Thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned till 11 A.M. tomorrow.

The House then adjourned at nineteen minutes past five of the clock till eleven of the clock on Friday, the 2nd September 1955