

have been made compoundable with the permission of the Court? Personally speaking, I welcome this provision in the Bill. I like this and I have pressed this also in the Select Committee. It is true that some of my friends—who are also Harijans—did not like the idea that the offences under this Bill be made compoundable. On the other hand, I strongly feel that it is in the interests of the Harijans that the offences under this Bill are made compoundable. I have said that it should be made compoundable as it is there, with the permission of the court. Of course in cases of heinous crimes, the court will consider and not grant permission but now under this Bill we have taken all the different kinds of offences coming under the purview of this Act. The offences might be of a petty nature. So if the parties are allowed to compound the offences, it will be better and it will not leave bitterness in any sphere. Personally I had experience of fighting such kind of cases and I have myself seen that in those cases where offences were compounded with the permission of the court, i.e., where there were riots etc. in the exercise of the rights by the untouchables, and where the offences were compounded, I have seen it myself that after compounding of the cases the parties lived amicably, and cordial relations existed between the parties. There have been also cases where there were riots, where the parties were not allowed to march in Dandi and Dolapalki and the cases were challaned. The accused were fined and civil suits for damages were decreed. This happened about 12 years back but still I know that where there were fines and convictions, there existed between the parties discord and animosity and the parties—the Harijans and the Caste Hindus—have not been living well in those parts. So I submit that this section is very important which makes the offences compoundable.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is time, Mr. Tamta.

SHRI R. P. TAMTA: I also welcome the provision by which the burden of proof has been shifted to the accused and for this, I think the Harijan Community will be grateful to our hon. Deputy Minister who was responsible for this change.

I entirely agree with those hon. Members who suggested that merely passing all this legislation would not do. On the other hand it requires the necessary change of heart. It is only by persuasion and by propaganda that the change of heart can take place. I would request all the hon. Members who are here or who want to bring social reform, who believe in the eradication of untouchability, to set an example before the country. I know of social reformers. With the permission of the Chairman I will take one minute. I know the case of an orthodox Gurkha—Gurkhas are very orthodox people—who was a Doctor by name Dr. Thapa. Once he wanted to do social reform among the Harijans. He called a meeting. He said "Let us take a vow that we will not take meat from today". Gurkhas naturally take meat every day. This man took the vow in their presence to give up meat from that day and the result was that all the other people—the Caste Hindus and all the Harijans—followed the example that was set by him. If we similarly set an example before these people, it will have a very good effect. With these words, I commend the Bill.

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE

REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSES ON THE COMPANIES BILL, 1953.

THE MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW (SHRI H. V. PATASKAR): Sir, on behalf of my colleague, Shri M. C. Shah, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report of the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to companies and certain other associations