

(xx/1548-ah-har)

1540 hours

SRI ANNASIHIB M.K. PATIL (ERNEOL): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, Sir.

The concerned Bill has been brought in haste, though it may be very good for the workers who are involved in building and construction work. Why I have pointed this out is because there are so many lacunae in this. As far as the work is concerned, the workers who are on the work have not been taken care of properly. The workers deal with very massive and heavy materials such as stone, brick and cement. There is no adequate provision in the Bill to protect or to take care of these poor workers who are involved in this type of work. Moreover, these workers, as the hon. Member who spoke earlier has very clearly mentioned, have no age limit. You will find that many workers who are working in this construction industry are below 18 years of age. Therefore, this Bill would not be applicable to them and, moreover, they would be certainly bypassed in this Bill. There will be no benefit as welfare for these workers who are working on the job.

Sir, I also feel that the cess that has been recommended in the Bill is not to that extent by which they would be benefited. I feel that it should be enhanced from one per cent to two per cent. As mentioned earlier, the money should not go to the Consolidated Fund of India. This matter has to be definitely coordinated with the welfare bodies both at the State level and at the Central level. The welfare body at the State must have more say on that account because the money that will be collected by way of cess would certainly be not of the same value in every State. Therefore, the welfare body at the State has to be given weightage according to the amount that has been collected.

Sir, there are no stipulations or rules framed for workers working in the construction industry. There is no provision for taking of the children of the workers. They should get the benefit out of this Bill by making a

provision for education, health and other welfare activities. In Clause No. 35, it has been mentioned that where the number of females involved in the building work is 50, they should be provided with all the amenities and to make adequate arrangements for giving shelter to their children and infants.

(yy/1545/sr)

But to my knowledge and experience, nothing has been done in this regard where such type of work is done by female workers. Therefore, this Bill, under which the various clauses have been mentioned, has not very specifically mentioned about the provisions or amenities that are required by every worker, both male and female, such as drinking water, housing, electricity and other amenities. Moreover, this Bill does not protect the life of the workers to a great extent. When they work so hard with so many other categories of material, their lives should certainly be protected. As it was mentioned by various other Members, there should be some shelter provided to them for working at places of greater heights with different kinds of materials like steel and other things.

With all these few remarks, I conclude my speech. I hope, you will appreciate the same.

(ends)