

1439 hrs.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (KOTTAYAM): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, this is a comprehensive Bill which is going to be passed in this august House. This is a landmark in the history of the working class in India. When we go through the Bill, we find that there are certain apprehensions among the working class, especially in those States which have passed their own resolutions. The hon. Minister was very considerate to call a meeting of different political parties to discuss it in detail. We moved certain amendments. The hon. Minister was kind enough to accept certain amendments moved by the Members.

However, in the days to come, at the implementation level there may be some lacunae and difficulties which can be taken care of by the Ministry at the time of framing the rules.

(kk/1448/ks)

Sir, the unorganised labour in our country will definitely be helped by this legislation.

I once again congratulate the former Labour Minister, Shri Venkata Swamy who originally moved this Bill and now Shri Arunachalam who is fortunate enough to get it passed in this House. In the coming days, this legislation will definitely help the poor and the downtrodden who are in the unorganised sector.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The credit goes to both Shri Venkata Swamy and Shri Arunachalam.

2877

1442 hrs.

SHRI HANMAN MOLLAH (ULUBERIA): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I also join Shri Chennithala in congratulating the hon. Minister who had prepared and the hon. Minister who had piloted it. They have had the opportunity of passing such an important Bill for the first time after Independence. I hope that a large section of the down-trodden people, the construction workers will be able to get the benefit out of this Bill. But, Sir, we know that the construction lobby is very strong and they have been very active in obstructing this Bill for so many years. Even after passage of this Bill, the construction lobby will try to create obstacles.

I would request the Central Government to take necessary care and in consultation with the State Governments try to throttle all such obstacles and see that the construction labourers get the benefits.

Many points have been raised but only some points have been accepted by the Government and we all agreed to pass this Bill. But as far as the points which have not been accepted are concerned, I would request the Government that in coming years, through the experience of this amendment, many more amendments will be brought in future to serve the many more amendments will be brought in future to serve the interests of the construction workers.

(ends)