

subject of urgent public importance.

SHRI MUKUNDA MANDAL (Ma-thurapur): I wish to raise the following points....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The difficulty is that no hon. Member sees the clock. We have only to see the clock. At 3.30 we will have the Private Members' Business. So, Mr. Mandal, make your points. Don't make a speech.

SHRI MUKUNDA MANDAL: Regarding the Metro Railway in Calcutta, the Minister of Railways assured the House that the first phase of the project would be completed in the year 1984-85 and the second phase of the project would be completed by 1986-87. But during the recent visit of the Deputy Railway Minister to Calcutta he made a statement that there is a doubt about the completion of the first phase as well as the second phase of the Metro Railway. I urge upon the Government and urge upon the Minister to clarify the position because confusion has taken place and people are doubtful. That is why I request the Minister through you to include this one in the next weeks business.

The second one I want to raise is the cement crisis in West Bengal. Due to the cement crisis in West Bengal all construction work and all development work has already been stopped and the Sealdah fly-over which is the most important project taken up by the West Bengal Government is facing a tremendous difficulty due to the scarcity of cement and that cement crisis is there throughout West Bengal. My point is that the quota of cement for West Bengal has been decreased and the decreased quota also is not yet supplied by the Government...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You put the question to the Government why it was decreased and how it was decreased. You consult your Professor-friend.

SHRI MUKUNDA MANDAL: This should also be included in the next week's business.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH): Some of the hon. Members have made some suggestions and suggested that their suggestions should be taken up in the next week's business. In the Business Advisory Committee, the consensus was that it may be left to the Speaker to select the subjects that are necessary to be discussed. So now it has been left to the discretion of the Speaker. What we can do is that we will communicate all these suggestions to the Speaker to take whatever action he deems fit in the circumstances.

OIL AND NATURAL GAS COMMISSION (AMENDMENT) BILL—Contd.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now we go to the next item. Clause by clause consideration to be taken up.

Clause 2—(Amendment of section 5)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Giri, are you moving?... You are not in a mood to move. I think... Let us complete this Bill and then go to the Private Members' Business.

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI (Contai): I am moving, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You are moving all the amendments?

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI: Yes, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: All right, very good.

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI: I want to speak, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There is no time... All right. Why should I stand in the way, if you are able to convince the Minister to accept your amendment? You can make it short.

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI: I beg to move;

[Shri Sudhir Giri]

Page 1, line 11,—

after "giving" insert—

"him sufficient opportunities to disprove the charges framed against him and by giving" (1)

Page 1, line 16,—

after "him" insert—

"sufficient opportunities to disprove the charges framed against him and after giving" (2)

Page 1, line 17,—

after "prescribed" insert—

"but not less than three months"
(3)

Page 1, line 18,—

after "(c)" insert "not" (4)

Page 1, line 19,—

after "Government" insert—

"without sufficient justiciable reasons". (5)

I hope all these clauses will be applicable to the employees of the O.N.G.C. also. The hon. Minister has clarified the position that these will not apply to the employees but to the members of the Commission.

So, I do not press my amendments.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You are not withdrawing.

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI: One thing I want to know. They have taken the power to dismiss the Government employees by giving notice to them. What time is necessary for the termination of the service is not clear to me? So, I request the Minister to clarify this position.

Again, Sir, in regard to clause 4, I have an amendment.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We will come to that.

Now, the Minister.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): Sir, with regard to his amendment to sub-section 2(A), I would only like to clarify that, as I said yesterday, this is only meant to give them the benefits with retrospective effect. The Bill further says that no retrospective effect shall be given if their interests are prejudicially affected. This is only with regard to government pay scales which they got since the time of the gazette notification. The Government employees get it much earlier. Therefore, this has been brought.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I shall put all his amendments together.

Amendments Nos. 1 to 5 were put and negatived

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clause 2 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There are no amendments to clause 3.

The question is:

"That Clause 3 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

Clause 4—(Amendment of section 32)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There is one amendment. Shri Giri.

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI: I beg to move:

"Page 2, line 23,—

after "Act", insert—

"only to meet out justice to all employees in so far as the financial benefits are involved". (6)

Sir, I want a categorical assurance from the hon. Minister that if it is a motivated interest of the Government to give some financial benefits to some of their pet employees, I oppose this and, at the same time, I want that the benefits must go to the employees concerned. I want a categorical assurance from him.

SHRI P. C. SETHI: Sir, I have made it very clear yesterday that this provision is with regard to the members of the O.N.G.C. and not with regard to the employees.

As far as members are concerned, when they are appointed, the condition is that they can give three months' notice and then they can go away. We are taking the reciprocal right so that if the Government feels, they can also give three months' notice to the members and terminate their appointment.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I shall now put the amendment moved by Shri Giri to vote.

Amendment No. 6 was put the negative

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clause 4 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 4 was added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

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

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The Minister.

SHRI P. C. SETHI: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed"

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill be passed."

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, please excuse me for saying that this is a very important Bill and seeks to take away certain fundamental rights of the citizens of this country. The Bill says in one word that the working of the Commission has shown that it may be necessary in public interest to terminate the appointment of a Member without show-cause notice. The trend is very much clear and this trend has also found expression just yesterday when five officials of the Air India were dismissed summarily without assigning any reason. This trend is not good for the country and the democracy.

Sir, as you will not allow me time, to cut short and convey to the House the feeling I only want to quote certain observation made by Economic and Political Weekly dated 28th February, 1981:

"It is ominous in this context that as the decision to open the doors to foreign oil companies was taken, a concerted campaign was also launched to denigrate the ONGC and its capabilities. The latest outburst of P. C. Sethi against ONGC would appear to be part of a well-rehearsed operation."

SHRI P. C. SETHI: Where is the outburst?

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I am coming to that. If you do not burst out, there will not be any outburst. This Bill has got a background. I presume the background is that there was some difference of opinion between the hon. Minister and the ONGC personnel regarding the capability of ONGC. To cut short I say regarding the production of Bombay High. The ONGC has got a draft plan for stepping up of production from Bombay High to 12 million tonnes annually by 1982. The Government is eager—I share the concern of the Government—to increase

[Shri Chitta Basu]

the production of oil in the country and, therefore, we share the concern of the Government that utmost efforts are to be made to see that the production is stepped up. Government feels that this production in Bombay High Can be stepped up to 17 million tonnes, of course, with external help. The question of external help is of crucial importance. ONGC feels that this stepping up of production can be achieved without own technology, without own know-how and there is no necessity of having any collaboration with CFP which is a French Company.

Then, Sir, I would mention where the Minister bursts out! ONGC feels they have the capability, they have got the know-how, they have got the expertise to raise the production upto the level of 17 million tonnes without any external help or external collaboration. But Government appears to be very much set on the idea of having foreign collaboration anyhow. This is not consistent with the nationally accepted policy of the country, that is, to attain self-reliance and to rely on foreign collaboration only on a selective basis. Therefore, I wish to point out that this is not a nationally accepted policy of the country. We shall have to seek foreign collaboration in an area where there is no indigenous capability or know-how or expertise. Here the ONGC says that they have got the capability and expertise and know-how. So, there is no need for getting any help from any foreign country. Sir, there is also a proposal before the Government for sharing of the petroleum product which is not in the nation's interest. It is injurious to the national interest. I shall come to it later.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I may remind you that this is the Third Reading.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I may remind you, Sir, that what I raise is an important issue.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Not connected with the Bill.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH): On Third Reading, you can deal with only principles. You can't go into details.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Don't go into details. You know the rule.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Yes, I know the rule.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: If you know the rule it is all right.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Government should implement the norm. We can always suggest how the law can be implemented. I am just referring to that thing only. This is in relation to this particular measure which you are going to pass.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Which clause?

SHRI CHITTA BASU: You have already passed the clauses.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Pertaining to which clause of the Bill?

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Sir, you know the rules. You know Members have to be given opportunity to express their opinion.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: In Third Reading you can say whether you are for or against the Bill.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I am entitled to say how the law is to be implemented. Let me conclude. The Minister says many heads will roll for putting obstacles in his way when they make such claims. The report to this effect says:

“ONGC people should be ready to give in writing that they will accomplish the task proposed to be assigned to the CFP and, if they failed, they should be ready to face the consequences.”

ONGC is a premier public sector undertaking of the country and this has played an important role in putting our country on the Oil map of the world. But this is the outburst which the Minister indulged in, against the ONGC.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is 3-30 now. You have concluded. I think.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I will continue next day. I have not concluded. You may see the proceedings.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: All right. You may continue on the next day.

15.30 hrs

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

TWENTY-THIRD REPORT

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, we take up Private Members' Business. Shri Doongar Singh.

SHRI DOONGAR SINGH (Hamirpur): I beg to move the following:—

"That this House do agree with the Twenty-third Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 28th April, 1981."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Twenty-third Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 28th April, 1981."

The motion was adopted.

15-32 hrs

AGRICULTURAL WORKERS (DEBT EXEMPTION AND UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF) BILL*

SHRI MUKUNDA MANDAL (Mathurapur): I beg to move for leave

to introduce a Bill to provide for the exemption of all debts of the agricultural workers and for unemployment relief to the agricultural workers when they are in search of work.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the exemption of all debts of the agricultural workers and for unemployment relief to the agricultural workers when they are in search of work."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI MUKUNDA MANDAL: I introduce the Bill.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Amendment of article 22)

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I introduce the Bill.

URBAN LAND (CEILING AND REGULATION) AMENDMENT BILL*

(Amendment of Section 2)

SHRI DEVINDER SINGH GARCHA (Ludhiana): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act, 1976.

*Published in Gazette of India Extraordinary Part II, section 2, dated 30-4-1981.