

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, I just take a minute because I am very much involved in this issue. I have already said that the traditional fishermen are opposing the Acquaculture. This would be coming in conflict with their interests. So, in order to see that the conflict should not be there, a Committee of the House will be better to go into this problem. Otherwise, they have already started agitation led by Shri Thomas Kochery. The National Fisherme's Forum have already started the agitation. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN (Quilon) : That is not the point. There is no problem. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, my point is this. Kindly appoint a Committee. Let us go through the problem.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : I will take you in a Committee, if I form it. But I am not in favour of the House Committee because then the question of procedure, notification etc. will arise. All these take time. . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Minister says that he would call a meeting of the Members of Parliament for an informal discussion. In case any Member of Parliament feels that some changes are needed, he can give the suggestions. I would even go further to say that you can send your suggestions in writing. Shri Ram Naik, for everything we need not go for a Select Committee. I have some other problems in having so many Committees like accommodation and so on and so forth.

Mr. Minister, if the hon. Members of Parliament want to give some suggestions, you can invite them for a discussion.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : They are very much welcome. I have already said about it.

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, we have two Bills to be passed. I know some hon. Members of Parliament have booked their tickets to catch the evening flight. I think these are not very controversial Bills also. Everybody has unanimity of opinion on this. We have discussed them sufficiently. We can put the Bill to the vote of the House.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : Sir, Shri Ramoowalia has not requested us. . . (Interruptions)

18.13 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE : DISAPPROVAL
OF PORT LAWS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE

AND

PORT LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL – CONTD.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, you can reply now. Please be very short.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED (Lakshadweep) : Sir, amendments are there.

MR. SPEAKER : I will take up the amendments later as we go step by step.

(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Sir, I thought that you were giving a direction to Members to take the flight. . . (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : Sir, only three Members have spoken so far.

MR. SPEAKER : You reply. Give a short reply.

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN : Sir, at the outset, I would like to state that though I want to give the reply point by point, I will be brief as you desired. I have already submitted that it is not a controversial Bill. All the hon. Members who have spoken on it have supported it. But they said that they are not amenable to the practice of issuing Ordinances. Apart from that, there is no other legal implication or any objection in this regard. Therefore, request the hon. Members to withdraw the Statutory Resolution and pass the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Nitish Kumar—not present.

Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Sir, Shri Nitish Kumar has already spoken on this subject.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

“That this House disapproves of the Port Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 1997 (No. 1 of 1997) promulgated by the President on January 9, 1997.

The motion was negatived

MR. SPEAKER : The question is

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Ports Act, 1908 and the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted

MR. SPEAKER : The House shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is :

"That clauses 2 to 13 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 13 were added to the Bill.

Clause 14

SHRI ANADI CHARAN SAHU (Cuttack) I beg to move :

Page 3, line 37,-

after "Central Government" insert-

"or has been a Vice Admiral of the Navy or Chairman-cum-Managing Director of a Shipyard".(1)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is rather a good opportunity for me to speak in front of a towering personality like you in the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER : Do not think that only when I sit on this Chair, you are speaking in front of me. I listen to everyone of you there is my Chamber.

SHRI ANADI CHARAN SAHU : As I said earlier, this Bill is trying to steam-roll. It has not taken into consideration many things.

According to Section 3 of the Major Ports Act, a Board has been constituted, where persons from all walks of life are taken, persons coming from different vocations, with different attitudes and aptitudes have been taken. Now this Bill is trying to take away many of the powers of that Board. The Boards of the major ports have different types of actions and activities. There are different types of major ports also. Some minor ports have been elevated to major ports like the Port Blair. It is not a major port. But it has been given the status of a major port by a Cabinet decision. If powers are taken away from different ports, it will create a problem. I would not go into the details. There are a number of things that I have indicated.

If you kindly see part (k) of the Clause 3 on page 2, it is written :

"for licensing and regulating catamarans plying for hire."

It indicates about timing also. Once the timing is given, the Board that is there would not be able to control the working. We may take the case of Kochi Port. Catamarans are very important in that port. when we say "by regulating", it means, "fixing the time for the authority". It will create lots of operational problems. I would not go into the details because there is no time left for it.

I would like to say about Section 47A which is being introduced in this amendment where lots of powers have been given to the authority and the authority will consist of one person as the Chairman who should be of the rank of the Secretary or equivalent and two other members. My intention of bringing this amendment is that a person who has been a member of the Navy or a person who is associated with the construction of ship—Chairman and Managing Director of Shipyards—should be the Chairman and not any other person. Another person may become the Chairman who may not be knowing anything about ballast or draft and he may become the Chairman because of this amendment. So kindly keep this in mind that a person from the Navy be appointed as the Chairman.

According to Section 3 of the Major Ports Act where it has been clearly indicated that a person from the Defence services should be a member of the Board. Here also, I would suggest that the Chairman should be also from the Navy. That is all I want to say.

MR. SPEAKER : Are you withdrawing ?

SHRI ANADI CHARAN SAHU : Yes, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : Has the hon. Member leave of the House to withdraw his amendment ?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

The amendment was, by leave, withdrawn

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 14 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was adopted.

Clause 14 was added to the Bill

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 15 to 31 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was adopted.

[Shri Anadi Charan Sahu]

Clause 15 to 31 were added to the Bill

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

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

The motion was adopted.

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

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN : I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed.

The motion was adopted

18.20 hrs.

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SAFAI
KARAMCHARIS (AMENDMENT) BILL*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Item no. 21, Shri Ramoowalia may kindly move the motion for consideration of the Bill.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : Sir, we are sitting from morning to evening. Shri T.G. Venkatraman is only smiling and not saying anything to us. . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Shri Ramoowalia will compensate it

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill to amend the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Act, 1993, as passed by Rajya Sabha be taken into consideration."

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That the Bill to amend the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Act, 1993, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part-II, Section-2 dated 21.3.97

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, please allow Shri Mangat Ram to speak. He will take just one minute. . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA (Jammu) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say something about the National Commission for Safai Karamchari (Amendment) Bill, 1997. . . (Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would also like to say something on it. . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the way.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is not a controversial thing. Everybody has agreed. I have discussed with the leaders.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Is it fair for a Government which proclaims to deliver social justice that harsh action is taken by it against the commission engaged in working for the welfare of the neglected class of our society. A meeting was held in November 1996 and a decision was taken for extending its tenure. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : All right. You have made your point

(Interruptions)

SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that the Chairpersons of all the three commission i.e. Minority Commission, Commission for Backward Classes and Commission for SC/ST are accorded the Status of cabinet Minister and delegated adequate administrative, financial and judicial powers. But I am very sorry to say that the National Commission for Safai Karamchari has not been given any power. All the other three commissions are permanent whereas it is temporary. The class to which safai Karamchari belong serves the society. These people are very poor and victims of untouchability. Therefore, I request the hon. Ministers to accord the Status of cabinet Minister and all the due rights and power to the Chairperson of commission for Safai Karamchari like the Chairpersons of all the other three commissions. This is my submission. I support this Bill.