

The Carriage of Goods by Sea Bill, 2024 (Introduced)

THE MINISTER OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS (SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL): Respected, Speaker Sir, I rise to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the responsibilities, liabilities, rights and immunities attached to carriers with respect to the carriage of goods by sea and for matters connected therewith or related thereto.

माननीय अध्यक्ष : प्रस्ताव प्रस्तुत हुआ:

?कि समुद्र द्वारा माल वहन की बाबत वाहक से संलग्न उत्तरदायित्व, दायित्व, अधिकार और उन्मुक्तियों के लिए तथा उनसे संसक्त या उनसे संबंधित विषयों के लिए उपबंध करने वाले विधेयक को पुरःस्थापित करने की अनुमति प्रदान की जाए ।?

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: Sir, I have opposed the introduction of this Bill, which is called the Carriage of Goods by Sea Bill, 2024.

The Indian Carriage of Goods by Sea Act, 1925 was enacted to amend the law with respect to carriage of goods by sea. It has stood us in good stead for 100 years. Suddenly, in the 100th year the Minister thinks of coming up with a fresh Bill. The mention of Hague rules, Brussels rules, Visby rules, all these were always there.

So, I would like to know this from the hon. Minister. Is it just to find some work for his Department that does not have enough work that you are bringing in a new Bill? A Bill which has served its purpose for 100 years, suddenly you jump and say that: ?? with rules that are applicable ??, they are all minor amendments. This superfluous legislation should be done away with. It only makes your bureaucrats happy. It does not make the country happy, and it does not help anything. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: Respected Speaker Sir, the hon. Member is a very senior and very respected Member in the House. I believe that, after going through the Act, you have also come to realise it.

I do agree with you that the spirit and the substance of the Act are unchanged. We are bringing this because it is already 100 years old. Now, to comply with the

international conventions; to deal with the changing situation of the global scenario; and also with the modern legislations, simplification and ease of understanding is very necessary. Here, we have made some proposals, which need to be incorporated to empower the Government to issue directions so that the spirit and also the provision is strictly carried out by the concerned.

12.23 hrs (Shrimati Sandhya Ray *in the Chair*)

So, I believe that this particular Bill is very much necessary, and it is imperative to bring certain changes. We are trying to make it simplified for better understanding of the Act by incorporating some definitions. Thank you.

माननीय सभापति : प्रश्न यह है:

?कि समुद्र द्वारा माल वहन की बाबत वाहक से संलग्न उत्तरदायित्व, दायित्व, अधिकार और उन्मुक्तियों के लिए तथा उनसे संसक्त या उनसे संबंधित विषयों के लिए उपबंध करने वाले विधेयक को पुरःस्थापित करने की अनुमति प्रदान की जाए ।?

प्रस्ताव स्वीकृत हुआ ।

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: Madam, I introduce the Bill.

12.24 hrs