

service of the people of the area through Member of Parliament. It is not to be used at the will of D.M. This is not given to dominate over the feelings of the Members of Parliament. This fund is not given to use against the interest of Members. It is for the development, therefore, I would like to request that the Officer who is prejudiced should be transferred from there and the matter should be inquired into. If he has deliberately been entrapped and if people are really facing scarcity of water, it is my request that this District Magistrate should be punished and suspended. . . (Interruption).

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have already directed the Government. I, once again, direct the Government that the issue raised by the hon. Members recently about the drinking water shortage may be attended to and individual replies may be sent to those who have raised this issue.

Now, the statement to be made by Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu regarding Delhi Rent Act, 1995.

14.16 hrs.

[English]

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Delhi Rent Act, 1995

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : Sir, on the other day, some hon. Members including Shri Vijay Goel, have raised this issue and there was also a direction from the Chair.

The Delhi Rent Act, 1995 was assented to by the President on 23.8.1995. A large number of representations were received in this Ministry from the Associations/Organisations and individuals. While some have been demanding changes in certain provisions of the Act, others have been asking for immediate enforcement of the Act. An All Party Committee was also constituted by the then Chief Minister of Delhi immediately after the Delhi Rent Bill was passed by both the Houses of Parliament. The Committee also suggested certain changes in some of the provisions of the Act.

The Government is examining all these representations

from the Individuals/Associations and recommendations of the All Party Committee. Several high level meetings have also been convened by the Government. In the process, several views have also emerged.

On 7.5.97, the hon. Delhi High Court heard a petition filed by Shri H.D. Shourie, Director, Common Cause regarding enforcement of the Delhi Rent Act, 1995 which was assented to by the President on 23.8.95. The hon. Delhi High Court has directed the Union of India to file a detailed affidavit explaining the action taken in the matter so far. The next date of hearing has been fixed for 20.5.97.

As the matter is now under consideration of the Government and the same is also *sub-judice* in the Delhi High Court, it would not be appropriate for me to say more at this stage.

Further, a meeting of the leaders of all parties was convened by the hon. Prime Minister this morning and the members were apprised of the present situation. A consensus has emerged in the all party meeting that we should make an appeal to all those who are agitating in this regard to call off their agitation and restore normalcy, since the Government is examining the issues expeditiously. The Government make an appeal to all concerned to call off their agitation.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL (Chandni Chowk-Delhi) : What could we get out of it . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : There can be no discussion on the statement.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : The standing committee had also said that it should be revised.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : All those details are there in the hon. Minister's statement please take your seat. There can be no discussion now.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : The tenants as well as traders have come out on the roads. What benefit could we get from this statement, what relief could we get ?

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : There can be no further discussion on this.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Sadar-Delhi) : Amendments should be considered so that deliberations on it could be done. Both the tenants and traders are agitating. The Hon. Minister should accept these amendments.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : What is the meaning of subjudice. An individual goes to court, and wants it to be implemented. The direction is not required from the court rather it is required from Govt. It is not subjudice.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : We cannot discuss that matter now.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Government in Delhi is elected Govt. It constituted a committee, consisting of members from all parties and it has suggested some amendments, which should be given due regard. The Hon. Minister should see that after due deliberation on the amendments, it should be enacted. These amendments are not only in favour of tenants but also in favour of traders. Otherwise the conflict will increase between tenant and the landlords.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Goel, no submission is allowed after the Minister's statement.

Now we shall proceed to Item No.24 of today's agenda.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Whatever has been passed in the committee, should be implemented.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please understand the procedure of the House. Please take your seats. The procedure of the House is that we cannot have a discussion after the Minister's statement. Please understand that.

Now, we shall proceed to Item No.24 of today's agenda, that is, Calling Attention.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga):

Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all this Act should be enforced.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is the problem with you ?

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : I would like to say that first of all this Act should come into force and only then amendments should be brought.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Fatmiji, what are you doing ? What is the matter ?

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : I would like to make an appeal. I was the member of committee. The Act should be amended.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Whether you are a Member of that Committee or not is a different matter. After the statement of the Minister, it is the practice of the House that we do not discuss further on it. You can take up in whatever form you like.

Now, let us take up Item No.24, namely, Calling Attention.

14.20½ hrs.

[English]

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Situation arising out of non-revival of the sick
units of IDPL etc.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Chemical and Fertilisers to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon :

"Situation arising out of non-revival of the sick units of the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited, Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation and Fertilizer Corporation of India and the steps taken by the Government in regard thereto."