

15.03 hrs.

[English]

BROADCASTING BILL*

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of an independent authority to be known as the Broadcasting Authority of India, for the purposes of facilitating and regulating broadcasting services in India and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of an independent authority to be known as the Broadcasting Authority of India, for the purpose of facilitating and regulating broadcasting services in India and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

Shri Rupchand Pal. He has an objection. Please be pointed.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : Sir, I am very much concerned about the time constraint. I shall not only be brief but also very very relevant.

MR. SPEAKER : I do not know about it.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Always in the past, interdependent Bills had been passed together. I am not going into the contents of the Broadcasting Bill. But the Prasar Bharati Bill was passed in 1990. This Government, in its Common Minimum Programme, had committed that it would implement the Bill without further delay. One year had already passed. I am referring to one debate in the other House when you were the Minister. The hon. Prime Minister at that time said . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : He was not the Prime Minister at that time.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Yes, he was not the Prime Minister at that time. But the present Prime Minister, at that time as a Member of the House, said one thing. I just quote one line. He said : "We will meet the challenge when it comes back." The challenge, that is the Prasar Bharati Bill, which has been lying for all these months

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without being implemented, is proposed to be diluted. So, without even going into the contents of it, I have got very serious objection to the introduction on three grounds.

In spite of the repeated assurances given in the last seven years, it has not been implemented. In spite of the directives of the Calcutta High Court, this Government had appealed for extension of the period. Sir, you were there at that time. The provisions of the Act are being diluted in the proposed Bill.

Thirdly, the Act has been kept in hibernation. It has not been implemented and even without implementation of this Act, it is not only being diluted but it is also being given a decent burial. So, I object to the very introduction of this Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : With my utmost due respect, I do not think that at this stage, anything can be done. The only question that you can raise is whether the Parliament is constitutionally competent or not. I do not think there is any need for the Minister to reply.

The question is :

"The leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of an independent authority to be known as the Broadcasting Authority of India, for the purposes of facilitating and regulating broadcasting services in India and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : I introduce* the Bill

15.07 hrs.

*[English]*MOTION RE: REFERENCE OF BROADCASTING
BILL TO JOINT COMMITTEE

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, do you have any other Motion to move ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : In view of the fact that this is a very sensitive and complex piece of legislation being enacted in an original area, I propose that the Bill be referred to a Joint Committee. I will read out my Motion.

* Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

I beg to move :

"That the Bill to provide for the establishment of an independent authority to be known as the Broadcasting Authority of India for the purposes of facilitating and regulating broadcasting services in India and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be referred to a Joint Committee of the Houses consisting of 30 Members, 20 from this House, namely:-

1. Shri Nitish Bharadwaj
2. Dr. Amrit Lai Bharti
3. Shri K.P. Singh Deo
4. Prof. Ajit Kumar Mehta
5. Shri Rupchand Pal
6. Shri Sriballav Panigrahi
7. Shri Jung Bahadur Patel
8. Shri Sharad Pawar
9. Shri Suresh Prabhu
10. Shri P.V. Rajendran
11. Shri Kashi Ram Rana
12. Shri K. Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy
13. Shri K.L. Sharma
14. Shri Nawal Kishore Sharma
15. Shri Jaswant Singh
16. Shri P.N. Siva
17. Shri K. S. Rayudu
18. Shri C. Narayan Swamy
19. Shrimati Sushma Swaraj
20. Shri Ramakant D. Khalap

and 10 from Rajya Sabha;

that in order to constitute a sitting of the Joint Committee the quorum shall be one-third of the total number of members of the Joint Committee;

that the Committee shall make a report to this House by the last date of the first week of the next session;

that in other respects the Rules of Procedure of this House relating to Parliamentary Committees shall

apply with such variations and modifications as the Speaker may make; and

that this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do join the said Joint Committee and communicate to this House the names of 10 members to be appointed by Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee".

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill to provide for the establishment of an independent authority to be known as the Broadcasting Authority of India for the purposes of facilitating and regulating broadcasting services in India and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be referred to a Joint Committee of the Houses consisting of 30 Members, 20 from this House, namely :-

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and 10 from Rajya Sabha;

[Shri S. Jaipal Reddy]

that in order to constitute a sitting of the Joint Committee the quorum shall be one-third of the total number of members of the Joint Committee;

that the Committee shall make a report to this House by the last date of the first week of the next session;

that in other respects the Rules of Procedure of this House relating to Parliamentary Committees shall apply with such variations and modifications as the Speaker may make; and

that this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do join the said Joint Committee and communicate to this House the names of 10 members to be appointed by Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee".

The motion was adopted.

15.09 hrs.

[English]

SICK INDUSTRIAL COMPANIES (SPECIAL PROVISIONS) BILL*

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to make, in the public interest, special provisions with a view of securing the timely detection of sick companies owning industrial undertakings, the speedy determination of the remedial and other measures which needed to be taken with respect to such companies and the expeditious enforcement of the measures so determined and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto and also to repeal the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to make, in the public interest, special provisions with a view to securing the timely detection of sick companies owning industrial undertakings, the speedy determination of the remedial and other measure which need to be taken with respect of such companies and the expeditious enforcement of the measures so deter-

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mined and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto and also to repeal the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I introduce* the Bill

15.10 hrs.

[English]

CONSTITUTION (EIGHTY-FIRST AMENDMENT) BILL

MR. SPEAKER : Now, we have only 21 minutes left with us before we start the Private Member's Bills and Resolution.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Sir, what about Matters under Rule 377 ?

MR. SPEAKER : Matters under Rule 377 will be taken up later on because the leaders had met me in my Chamber and it was decided that the debate on Reservation for Women's Bill should start now, in this Session. We will take up the Matters Under Rule 377 a little later, after 6 o' clock.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : What will be done within just 20 minutes ?

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi) : This whole house would like to know that what will be done about O.B.C. and Minority . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panškura) : Let there be a discussion. . . (Interruptions)

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam) : Sir, what will be done within just 15 to 20 minutes ? . . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : We will seek your protection. What will be done about the women belonging

* Introduced with the recommendation of the President