

14.11 hrs.

**BUILDING AND OTHER CONSTRUCTION
WORKERS WELFARE CESS BILL***

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : Sir, on behalf of Shri M. Arunachalam, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the levy and collection of a cess on the cost of construction incurred by employers with a view to augmenting the resources of the Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Boards constituted under the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER The question is

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the levy and collection of a cess on the cost of construction incurred by employers with a view to augmenting the resources of the Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Boards constituted under the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996"

*The motion was adopted ***

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA Sir, I introduce the Bill

14.12 hrs.

**STATEMENT RE: BUILDING AND OTHER
CONSTRUCTION WORKERS' WELFARE CESS
THIRD ORDINANCE, 1996**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) Sir, on behalf of Shri M Arunachalam, I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) giving reasons for immediate legislation by the Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Cess Third Ordinance, 1996

[Placed in Library See No LT. 93/96]

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II Section-2, dated 15 7 96

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President

14.12½ hrs.

**COAL MINES PROVIDENT FUND AND
MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS
(AMENDMENT) BILL***

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : Sir, I beg to move

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Coal Mines Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1948"

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER The question is

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Coal Mines Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1948"

The motions was adopted

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH Sir, I introduce** the Bill

14.13 hrs.

**STATEMENT RE: COAL MINES PROVIDENT
FUND AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS
(AMENDMENT) THIRD ORDINANCE, 1996**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) Sir, I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) giving reasons for immediate legislation by the Coal Mines Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Third Ordinance, 1996

[Placed in Library See No LT. 94/96]

14.13½ hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need to rejuvenate HEC, Ranchi by providing adequate financial assistance**

[Translation]

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY (Ranchi) About 20,000 workers are engaged in HEC Poorva Ranchi

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part-II, Section-2, dated 15 7 96

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President

in my Constituency and it is called mother industry. This industry is now on the verge of closure.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to take it out of BFIR and financial assistance should be provided to it. Supply Orders should be given to it from Bokaro and other places. Pay scales of the workers have not been revised since long. Therefore, their pay scales should be revised. Displaced families should be given employment and the land lying vacant should be returned to the displaced families. The workers of HEC are agitating on these issues.

(ii) Need to clear Bandra-Worli-Nariman Point sea way project of Maharashtra Government.

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA (Mumbai South) Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, the problem of traffic is assuming serious proportions in Mumbai with the rapid increase in population. In order to overcome the problem faced by the people of Mumbai, the Maharashtra Government has formulated a Bandra-Worli-Nariman Point sea way project.

This project will help in saving petrol/diesel worth Rs. 45 crore. The passengers will reach their destination within 12 minutes in place of 30 minutes. Besides, the vehicular pollution would be reduced sharply and the people will be largely facilitated after broadening of roads.

This project is about construction of Bandra-Worli Nariman Point sea way. The Central Government is requested to clear Bandra-Worli-Nariman Point sea way project at the earliest by taking written assurance from the Maharashtra Government.

Therefore, I propose that adequate provision should be made in the Ninth Five Year Plan for this project.

(iii) Need to restrain Karnataka Government from raising the height of Almatti Dam

[English]

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam) Sir, the Andhra Pradesh Government has urged the Union Government for its immediate intervention in the Almatti dam controversy involving the States of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. The Karnataka Government has taken a decision to raise the height of the dam to impound more water on its side, thus depriving the tail-end side of Andhra Pradesh its due share of water. The Karnataka Government has ignored these objections and has decided to go ahead with the raising of height of the dam. Union Government has been urged to restrain Karnataka from proceeding with the dam work pending an amicable solution to the crisis. Almatti dam

constructed by Karnataka on the upper reaches of Krishna river would impound 227 TMC of water as against Karnataka's share of 160 TMC. If Karnataka goes ahead with its plan to increase the height of the dam further, the storage capacity would go up by 400 TMC. In such an eventuality, the flow of water into Andhra Pradesh would drastically decrease which would affect power generation at Srisaïlam, the first dam of Krishna in Andhra Pradesh side and affect irrigation in a large area.

I urge upon the Union Government to restrain Karnataka from going ahead with construction of the dam till an amicable settlement between Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka is reached. Otherwise it will create great resentment in Andhra Pradesh.

[Translation]

(iv) Need for early settlement of boundary dispute between Maharashtra and Karnataka

SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY (Mumbai North-Central) About twenty lakh Marathi speaking people living in Maharashtra-Karnataka Border region are raising their voice in a democratic manner for their justified demand for the last 35 years. Neither the Government of Karnataka is paying any heed to them, nor the Government of Maharashtra is doing anything for them. The Central Government is also not giving any assurance to these countrymen in this regard. This Border Dispute is creating problems in the border States again and again. The linguistic minorities in the region have not been given their due rights. These people have expressed their problems in a democratic manner by staging Hunger-strikes and also making representations. A discussion on the report given by Mahajan Commission in this regard is required to be held in this House.

I would like to urge upon the Central Government to find a way out to solve this Border dispute immediately keeping in view the problems of the people of Maharashtra-Karnataka Border.

(v) Need to take preventive Measures to check recurring floods in Punjab

[English]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala) I wish to draw the attention of Central Government towards devastating floods in Punjab and adjoining States. Large number of houses have collapsed and crops worth crores of rupees damaged due to floods in Punjab for the last three years regularly. No adequate compensation has been given till now to the victims. The Government should inquire into the matter and make arrangements for preventive