

Title: Discussion on the Punjab Municipal Corporation Law (Extension to Chandigarh) Amendment Bill, 2000. (Bill Passed).

15.44 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up Item No.8.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): Mr. Chairman Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to amend the Punjab Municipal Corporation Law (Extension to Chandigarh) Act, 1994, be taken into consideration. "

The Bill seeks to provide for the representation of the Member of the House of the People representing the Union Territory of Chandigarh in the Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh with a right to vote.

It is only a simple amendment. The Punjab Municipal Corporation Act of 1976, as amended by the State Government in May 1994, was extended to the Union Territory of Chandigarh by Punjab Municipal Corporation (Extension to the Chandigarh) Act of 1994.

The Punjab Act does not provide for the representation of the Member of the House of the People in the Municipal Corporation and, accordingly, no provision was made in the Act of 1994 for the representation of the Member of the House of the People representing the Union territory of Chandigarh in the Municipal Corporation of Chandigarh.

Article 243R of the Constitution, *inter alia*, provides that the Legislature of the State may, by law, provide for the representation in a Municipality of the Member of the House of the People and the Members of the Legislative Assembly of the State representing constituencies which comprise wholly or partly the municipal area.

Sir, the matter about the representation of the local Member of Parliament in the Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh, was raised in various meetings of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Home Affairs during consideration of the Demands for Grants of the Ministry. The Committee in its 37th Report had recommended that

"It is hoped that the situation will be rectified and the area Member of Parliament will be deemed as a member of the Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh, as per the provisions of the 73rd Amendment of the Constitution. "

The matter was further taken up by the Committee in the meetings held on 23rd and 24th March, 1999 while examining the Demands for Grants (1999-2000) of the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Committee again recommended that

"The Committee notes the reply furnished by the Ministry and hopes that an early decision on the proposals of the Ministry would be taken by the Government to ensure representation of the local Member of Parliament in the Municipal Corporation of Chandigarh. The Committee also urges upon the Ministry to make the progress of case known to it from time to time. "

It is in pursuance of the above recommendations of the Committee that the Government have moved to provide for the representation of the Member of Parliament from Chandigarh in the Municipal Corporation of Chandigarh with a right to vote. Accordingly, the Punjab Municipal Corporation Law (Extension to Chandigarh) Act, 1994 is being amended.

With these words, Sir, I commend this Bill to this august House for approval.

It is so simple. It is only to provide the opportunity to the local Member of Parliament as a Member of the Municipal Corporation with a right to vote.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved:

"That the Bill to amend the Punjab Municipal Corporation Law (Extension to Chandigarh) Act, 1994, be taken into consideration. "

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (CHANDIGARH): Mr. Chairman, Sir, local self-government institutions are a potent medium for the successful working of democracy at the grass root level and to meet the genuine aspirations, hopes and expectations of the people. When the 74th Constitutional Amendment was before the Parliamentary Committee in 1994, there was an effort to see that the provisions thereof were not extended to the Union Territories. Fortunately, because of the pressure of the Members of Parliament, those provisions were extended to the Union

Territories. We then expected that because of the peculiar situation that the Union Territories enjoy or have to suffer in the country, new specific pieces of legislation would be enacted to translate into action the spirit of the Constitutional Amendment for the benefit of the people of those Union Territories. Somehow, maybe, in haste, it was the Punjab Municipal Corporation Act which was picked up and extended to the Union Territory of Chandigarh with certain modifications which were then considered necessary.

Sir, today when we have an experience of four years of the working of those provisions in Chandigarh, one expected that the Government, taking note of the various shortcomings which have been noticed over the years, would come out with a comprehensive piece of legislation to either replace that enactment or to incorporate in the main Act those essential provisions which are needed for an effective working of the Municipal Corporation in the city. All that we have today before us is this; and the only person, perhaps, who is going to be the beneficiary of that provision is me. But somehow, let me have the permission to say that I am not able to really appreciate this amendment. This was discussed at length, as the Minister has pointed out, and it was left to the Legislatures of the States to decide whether they wanted the Members of Parliament to be members of the respective Corporations, Panchayats, etc., or not.

I am of the firm opinion that the Members of Parliament have a different plank to function. And it is not really necessary for them to become members of the Panchayats, Zilla Parishads and Municipal Corporations. But today I do not rise to oppose this particular amendment. Maybe, the Government has given a thought to it, maybe certain people wanted it and as I said, I am going to be the beneficiary of it unintendedly. Perhaps it was differently intended by the Government when it initiated the move. But I want to seek this opportunity to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister certain shortcomings which the people have noticed over the years and to which I would certainly expect the hon. Minister to give a serious thought and bring those amendments in the relevant law.

As I began with by saying, we have to experience the working of democracy at the grass-root level through local-self government institutions and if we were to really see that democracy succeeds in our society, if we want to inculcate a spirit of democracy or a democratic temper it is the local-self government institutions which can play a vital role in that direction. But what I find is that the spirit which prevailed upon us to bring about certain amendments in the Constitution of a far-reaching character has not really been followed up in our actions.

I would only confine to a few observations. I would not like to take a long time on this. But I do have a feeling of dismay when I say that the rights, duties and the functions which were supposed to be conferred upon the Municipal Corporation have not been so done. You pass a piece of legislation, but by executive directions, and by executive memoranda you take away all those from the Municipal Corporation. If we were to take the example of Chandigarh, there is utter confusion about the working of the Corporation. The important functions which were supposed to be transferred to the Corporation under the Schedule to the Constitution have not been so done. The Municipal Corporation has not been given the right which should have been conferred on the Municipal Corporation and there is utter confusion about its working.

The main functions have been retained by the Chandigarh Union Territory Administration and it is only the peripheral functions which have been transferred to the Municipal Corporation. And the result is that the interaction of the people with the authorities is not hassle free.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (CONTAI): Can I put a question to the hon. Member? Is he paying house tax?

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, you cannot put a question to the Member.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : I would like to come to that also. An unwary citizen approaches an office, we talk of single window system, provision of all facilities through one single window. He is made to shuttle from one window to another, not just from one window to another, from one office to another, from one sector to another and there is no end to his woes.

Then, the Constitution and the Act provide for the setting up of a Finance Commission. The Finance Commission has been set up, but not once, not even once has that Finance Commission set up for Chandigarh, met to apportion funds of the Union Territory between the Administration and the Corporation. And the result is, the Corporation is starved of funds.

Here I would like to come to that answer. For 40 years Chandigarh – to be precise for 34 years – has been a Union Territory. There has been no shortage of funds as far as Chandigarh is concerned. The Centre did come forward to provide funds in abundance to the Chandigarh Union Territory and today also shortage of funds is not really the problem. It is the intention of the people who happen to control the reins of authority and their mindset. People are willing to pay I would like to make it clear that the people are willing to pay, provided the Government runs the

service commensurate to what it takes from them. It is our experience that Chandigarh people have not been really treated the way they were promised, when they were, in fact, asked or appealed by the erstwhile, the then Chief Minister of the Punjab to come and settle in Chandigarh.

Those assurances have not been honoured over the years. The question is not that the people do not want to pay house tax. The question is what is your approach to the needs of the people. If we find that the services are not commensurate, that the services are not up to the mark, that the services do not justify the grants extended by the Centre, we would certainly object to levy of any new taxes. What have the people gained by that?

Today, we were dealing with the petroleum products. Twenty per cent tax is being levied on the people of Chandigarh whereas in the adjoining towns of Panchkula and Mohali, on the two sides of Chandigarh, and in two different States, people are paying much less than those in Chandigarh. The rates of petroleum products, which the people of Chandigarh have to pay, are much more than those two States.

Then, along with that what we really expected when this piece of legislation was passed six years back was that the planning would come into the hands of the people. This is our feeling and this is everybody's feeling and I am sure they all share that opinion with me that the gentleman sitting in the air-conditioned rooms of the Yojna Bhawan cannot know where a small village or a tiny hamlet of any particular State lies and what are its peculiar problems. For that there is a salutary provision regarding Committees for district planning and metropolitan planning. Nothing of the sort has been done. These are the things which I would want the hon. Minister to take care of and see that something substantial is done so that our talk, its spirit are translated into action.

Now, I come to staff. When the Municipal Corporation was formed, a large chunk of the staff, the employees of the Union Territory of Chandigarh were transferred to the Corporation. Those people have been agitating right from that day because the future of their career today is in jeopardy. They have been

treated as second class citizens, different from others. So, it is imperative that those people should have been given their due. Today, their demand is that they should be treated to be on deemed deputation. It is a very valid demand. I hope the hon. Minister is noting down my points.

I even learn that some time back there was some assurance from the Government side to that effect. I would only wish that the hon. Minister gives us an assurance here that this particular thing would be attended to at the earliest, that all the employees who have come over from the Administration to the Municipal Corporation are treated on deputation so that their future is not put into some sort of jeopardy. The Corporation should be at liberty to recruit new staff under the Act, but definite attention should be paid to their needs.

Sir, Ward Committees have been provided for under the Act. For four years, such Ward Committees have not been set up. I want that a mandatory provision is made that action is taken against the Municipal Corporation for not doing that. I have always emphasised upon the point that if you really want to have a vibrant and dynamic democracy, then you must ensure that Residents' Welfare Associations are associated with such Ward Committees. Nothing of the sort has been done.

As the things stand today, the Municipal Corporation of Chandigarh has 20 elected members and there are nine nominated members. Let me make it abundantly clear that I am in favour of having nominated members. The members who were nominated in Chandigarh have done a commendable job. But I am on a different point. The proportion is not a very healthy one. I would take this opportunity to emphasise upon the hon. Minister and to request him to urgently make this amendment before the next elections which are due in a year's time to raise the number of the elected members from 20 to 30. Sir, one could feel that if 30 people are elected by the citizens of the city and there are nine nominated members along with the MP or 31 elected members, nine nominated members and the MP, making a total of 41. That would constitute a good House to look after the affairs.

Finally, I would like to say something about the system of working of the Corporation. Such institutions would look good only on paper unless you really vest some powers in them. The Municipal Corporation today has no powers and authority. I would suggest that the minimum you can do is to introduce a system called Mayor-in-Council.

16.00 hrs.

Please look into it. Give some authority to the Corporation so that they are really answerable to the people and they are in a position to meet the promises which they hold out to the people.

I know, the present Corporation has failed to really live up to the expectations of the people. The reasons are many and I would not really like to discuss those here. One of those, I feel, is certainly the lack of will to work. They have not shown the will. People are disenchanted with the working of the Corporation. But as regards some of the observations which I have made, it is because of certain lacunae, certain shortcomings in the act. The other thing is

for the people to decide. In this House, I have to only make a request to the hon. Minister to immediately look into the various aspects. I am sure, he must have been receiving many representations from the Municipal Corporation and from the general public about the shortcomings that have been noticed over the years and I would only request him to take immediate action in meeting those demands and to make this Act really an embodiment of people's aspirations through which they can really say, well, here is a symbol, an example of excellent functioning of local self-government institutions.

Thank you very much, Sir.

1602 hrs.

(Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya in the Chair)

प्रो. रासा सिंह रावत (अजमेर) : माननीय स्भापति महोदय, मैं पंजाब निगर निगम विधि (चंडीगढ़ पर विस्तारण) संशोधन विधेयक, 2000 का पुरजोर समर्थन करता हूँ। आज चंडीगढ़ एक केन्द्र शासित प्रदेश है। लोक तंत्र के अंदर नगर पंचायत, नगर परिषद या नगर निगम, ये सब आधारभूत स्तंभ हैं। प्रजातंत्र की प्रारंभिक इकाइयाँ हैं। प्रजातंत्र में मूलभूत आधार स्तम्भ जितना मजबूत होगा, उतना ही निश्चित रूप से हमारा लोकतंत्र मजबूत होगा। लोकतंत्रीय प्रक्रिया के अनुसार ही चाहे सांसद हों, चाहे विधायक हों, जिस राज्य में जिस प्रकार की स्थिति हो और जो सांसद या विधायक जिस नगर का रहने वाला है, उस नगर की नगर निगम या नगर परिषद का सदस्य अवश्य होना चाहिए। इस प्रकार का अधिकार देने के लिए, लोकतंत्रीय अधिकार प्रदान करने के लिए यह विधेयक लाया गया है और मैं इसका पुरजोर समर्थन करता हूँ।

मान्यवर स्भापति महोदय, जैसा कि आप जानते हैं, चंडीगढ़ इस समय तीन राज्यों की राजधानी है। एक तरफ वह पंजाब की राजधानी है, दूसरी तरफ वह हरियाणा की राजधानी है और तीसरे चूंकि वह केन्द्र शासित प्रदेश है इसलिए केन्द्र शासित प्रदेश चंडीगढ़ की भी राजधानी है। इस दृष्टि से वहाँ की जो नगर निगम है, उसका सांसदों एवं विधायकों को सदस्य बनाना इसलिए आवश्यक है कि वहाँ के जो भी चुने हुए प्रतिनिधि हैं, चाहे वहाँ केन्द्र शासित प्रदेश में नगर ब्लाक के सदस्य हैं, या विधायक हैं, या वहाँ के चुने हुए सांसद हैं, वे निश्चित रूप से वहाँ की नगर निगम के सदस्य होने चाहिए ताकि वहाँ का सही प्रतिनिधित्व हो सके।

स्भापति महोदय, मैं राजस्थान राज्य के अजमेर शहर से सांसद हूँ। अजमेर में नगर परिषद है। उसका सदस्य हमें भी बनाया गया है। जब परिषद की बैठक होती है, तो जहाँ पाँचगण अपनी समस्याएँ रखते हैं, वहाँ सांसद के रूप में हम भी शहर की समस्याएँ समग्र रूप से नगर परिषद के समक्ष रखते हैं और समस्याओं का निराकरण कराने का मौका मिलता है। इसलिए मैं समझता हूँ कि यह संशोधन नितान्त आवश्यक था। पंजाब की जो म्युनिसिपल कॉर्पोरेशन था, पंजाब का जो पहले कानून था, जो उसके उमर 1994 में लागू हुआ, लेकिन मूलतः उस कानून में ऐसा प्रावधान नहीं था, जो चंडीगढ़ में लागू किया गया। इसलिए छः वर्षों बाद यह कानून लाया गया है। वैसे इसे इससे पहले ही लाया जाना चाहिए था। उस समय की सरकारों को पहले ही लाना चाहिए था। उस समय की सरकारों ने इसको लाने में अनावश्यक विलम्ब किया और इस तरफ ध्यान नहीं दिया और वहाँ के चुने हुए प्रतिनिधियों को अपनी बात कहने का अवसर प्रदान नहीं किया।

मान्यवर स्भापति महोदय, बंसल साहब जैसे विचार प्रकट कर रहे थे, उससे ऐसा प्रतीत होता है कि चंडीगढ़ के अंदर शायद अन्य दल का नगर निगम होगा। इसीलिए वे इस तरह की बातें कह रहे हैं। मैं समझता हूँ कि चुने हुए प्रतिनिधि को चंडीगढ़ नगर निगम का सदस्य बनाने, बैठकों में सम्मिलित होने, उसमें अपनी राय व्यक्त करने के बारे में जो संशोधन विधेयक प्रस्तुत किया गया है, इसका हमें तहेदिल से, खुले दिल से स्वागत करना चाहिए।

लेकिन शायद राजनीतिक परिस्थिति कुछ ऐसी हो सकती है जिसके कारण से ज्यादातर लोग (व्यवधान)

श्री पवन कुमार बंसल आपको कुछ कहना है, इसलिए यह कह रहे हैं। (व्यवधान)

प्रो. रासा सिंह रावत : कुछ कहना नहीं है। (व्यवधान) केवल इसलिए कि चंडीगढ़ की विशिष्ट स्थिति है। उस दृष्टि से मैं इसका हार्दिक स्वागत करता हूँ। आपके माध्यम से मैं केन्द्रीय सरकार का ध्यान इस तरफ आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ कि स्थानीय निकायों की स्थिति सुदृढ़ होनी चाहिए। संविधान का 73वाँ, 74वाँ संशोधन तो हो गया लेकिन संशोधन होने के बाद कई दफा कई राज्य सरकारों अपनी सुविधा के अनुसार लोक सभा के सांसदों या विधायकों को कभी वोट देने का अधिकार प्रदान कर देती है और कभी ऐन टाइम पर मना कर देती है कि हमारा बहुमत एक-दो के कारण गड़बड़ा जायेगा। ऐसी स्थिति में 73वें और 74वें संशोधन की जो मंशा थी और संवैधानिक मर्यादा की रक्षा के लिए जब स्टेट्यूटरी बॉडी बन गई तो एक बार जो अधिकार उसे मिला है, वह अधिकार छीना नहीं जाना चाहिए, यह भी मैं आपके माध्यम से प्रार्थना करना चाहूँगा।

इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूँ कि नगर निगम सुदृढ़ बने, व्यवस्था अच्छी हो और वार्डों की संख्या में वृद्धि हो। चंडीगढ़ की आबादी भी अन्य नगरों की भांति बढ़ रही है लेकिन वहाँ का पर्यावरण, वहाँ का प्राकृतिक सौन्दर्य, वहाँ की विशिष्ट स्थिति सुरक्षित रहनी चाहिए, इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं आपका आभार व्यक्त करता हूँ।

डॉ. रघुवंश प्रसाद सिंह (वैशाली) : स्भापति जी, पंजाब नगर निगम विधि (चंडीगढ़ पर विस्तारण) संशोधन विधेयक, 2000 पर चर्चा चल रही है। 1994 से लेकर अब यानी छः सालों के बाद यह कानून आया है। प्रोफेसर रासा सिंह रावत जी पूर्व की सरकारों की बात कह रहे थे। मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि छः वर्षों में तीन वर्षों तो इन्हीं की सरकार है। यह कानून पहले क्यों नहीं आया ? सांसदों के साथ घोर उपेक्षा का बर्ताव किया जा रहा है। लोकल सांसदों को उसमें नहीं रखा गया। यह कौन सा कानून बना है और कैसे बना है ? तीन साल बीत जाने के बाद यह सरकार कानून लाई है। मेरा कहना है कि हरेक चीज में सांसदों की उपेक्षा की गई है। संविधान का 73वाँ और 74वाँ संशोधन हुआ। उस समय लागू करने के पीछे मंशा थी कि लोकल सेल्फ गवर्नमेंट, पंचायती राज, नगर निगम, नगर इकाई आदि सबको मजबूत किया जाये, प्रतिनिधित्व दिया जाये तथा हर पाँच वर्षों में इसका चुनाव हो। उसमें महिला, हरिजन, आदिवासी जाति, जनजाति आदि सबको प्रतिनिधित्व दिया जाये, आरक्षण दिया जाये, यह कानून बना। (व्यवधान)

श्री रमेश चेन्नितला (मवेलीकारा) : बिहार में तो 17 साल से इलैक्शन नहीं हुए। $\hat{\alpha}$ (व्यवधान)

डॉ. रघुवंश प्रसाद सिंह : बिहार में चुनाव नहीं हुए ? लोग जानते ही नहीं, कैसे नहीं हुआ। ... (व्यवधान) क्या बिहार में चुनाव नहीं हुए ? आदिवासी, अनुसूचित जाति, जनजाति, महिलाओं को आरक्षण देने का प्रावधान संविधान ने किया और कहा कि अगर राज्य सरकार चाहें तो पिछड़ी जाति के व्यक्तियों को भी आरक्षण दे सकती हैं, इसमें कोई रोक नहीं है। वहां की सरकार ने पंचायत का जो कानून बनाया, उसमें पिछड़ी जाति को भी आरक्षण दिया। उसके बाद बिहार सरकार के इस फैसले को हाई कोर्ट में चैलेंज किया गया। हाई कोर्ट ने कहा कि संविधान के विरुद्ध फैसला दिया गया है। उसके बाद उन्होंने कहा कि मुखिया का पद सिंगल पोस्ट है। ब्लाक मुखिया, जिला मुखिया आदि का पद सिंगल पोस्ट है। उस पर किसी का आरक्षण नहीं होगा जबकि संविधान कहता है कि आदिवासी, अनुसूचित जाति-जनजाति, महिला आदि सबको आरक्षण दिया जाये और यह आरक्षण सभी पदों पर होगा। हाई कोर्ट ने कहा कि सिंगल पद, मुखिया के पद पर आरक्षण नहीं होगा। अब जो यह कहते हैं कि राज्य सरकार ने चुनाव नहीं कराये तो मैं उनसे कहना चाहता हूँ कि केन्द्र सरकार ने दुश्मनी के चलते राज्य सरकार को दंडस्वरूप 500 करोड़ रुपये नहीं दिये।

अब हाई कोर्ट के मुताबिक तभी चुनाव हों, जब मुखिया पद पर आरक्षण न हो। लेकिन फिर हम संविधान विरोधी हो जाएंगे। देश के सभी राज्यों में मुखिया पद पर सभी को आरक्षण मिला है, बिहार में आदिवासी, अनुसूचित जाति और पिछड़ी जाति किसी को भी नहीं मिला। एक तरफ हाई कोर्ट के अनुकूल चलने से संविधान विरोधी, तो दूसरी तरफ संविधान के अनुसार चलने से न्यायपालिका की अवमानना। फिर यह कैसे हम पर हो जाएगा। इसलिए राज्य सरकार के सामने संवैधानिक संकट पैदा हो गया है। इसीलिए चुनाव नहीं हुए। हमने अपील की, मामला सुप्रीम कोर्ट में है। सुप्रीम कोर्ट में हमने कहा है कि हम हाई कोर्ट के मुताबिक चुनाव कराए या संविधान के मुताबिक। अगर हाई कोर्ट के अनुसार नहीं चलते तो कंटेस्ट आफ कोर्ट का खतरा हो जाएगा।

श्री राजीव प्रताप रूडी (छपरा) : वहां राज्य सरकार का वकील नहीं होता।

डा. रघुवंश प्रसाद सिंह : ये लोग बिना सोचे-समझे बोल देते हैं। बिहार की बात पर हल्ला कर रहे हैं। ये लोग बिहार की दस करोड़ की आबादी के दुश्मन हैं। उसके साथ दुश्मन जैसा व्यवहार करते हैं। हमें वहां की जनता ने अपने स्वाल उठाने के लिए यहां भेजा है। यहां आप गलत नीतियों का समर्थन करने के लिए खड़े हो जाते हैं। इस सर्वोच्च संस्था में जनता के स्वाल नहीं उठाते।

अब मैं चंडीगढ़ की बात कहना चाहता हूँ। रासा सिंह जी ने ठीक कहा कि जब पंजाब का बंटवारा हुआ तो हरियाणा और पंजाब की राजधानी चंडीगढ़ बनी। इसके अलावा वह स्वयं केन्द्रशासित प्रदेश है, उसकी भी राजधानी है। उसका एक्ट बना। लोकल सांसद को इजाजत नहीं दी, उसके लिए कानून नहीं बनाया कि उसमें बैठ सके। अब काफी देर से यह संशोधन आया है। वहां के सांसद पी.के. बंसल जी काफी काबिल आदमी हैं, कानूनविद हैं। उन्होंने जो स्वाल उठाए हैं, हम उनका समर्थन करते हैं और इस बिल का भी करते हैं। केन्द्र सरकार की ओर से जो सांसदों की उपेक्षा होती है, वह नहीं होनी चाहिए। पिछली बार सप्लीमेंटरी बजट का जवाब देते हुए वित्त मंत्री जी ने आग्रह किया था अध्यक्ष महोदय से, क्योंकि माननीय सदस्यों ने स्वाल उठाया था कि जो पैसा राज्यों को विभिन्न योजनाओं, जैसे इंदिरा आवास योजना, स्वर्ण जयंती रोजगार योजना आदि के लिए दिया जाता है, उसमें सांसदों की उपेक्षा होती है, तब कहा गया था कि स्पीकर साहब बैठक बुलाएं और देखें कि सांसदों की इसमें क्या भूमिका हो सकती है। हमने इस बारे में पत्र भी लिखा है कि उसका कार्यान्वयन होना चाहिए। भारत सरकार के द्वारा जो सांसदों की उपेक्षा होती है, इसे बर्दाश्त नहीं किया जा सकता। इस संशोधन का तो हम समर्थन करते हैं, लेकिन हम चाहते हैं कि और जिन कानूनों में खामियां हैं, उनमें भी सुधार होना चाहिए। कानून में संशोधन करके सांसदों की भूमिका सुनिश्चित करनी चाहिए, ताकि हम जनता की आवाज को उठा सकें। वहां केवल विधायक ही होते हैं और वे एक तरफ हो जाते हैं, हम लोगों की उपेक्षा हो जाती है। इसलिए ऐसे कानूनों में भी सुधार का आग्रह मैं मंत्री जी से करता हूँ।

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESHWARLU (TENALI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity.

Sir, I rise to support the Punjab Municipal Corporation Law (Extension to Chandigarh) Amendment Bill. I take this opportunity just to make one suggestion that as the local M.L.A., and M.P. are proposed to become the members in the Municipal Corporation automatically, a situation may arise, as it is happening in several other States, where the Rajya Sabha Member of that particular area or State may opt to be a member in a particular Corporation. I think, a clarification need to be given in this particular Bill itself about Rajya Sabha Members who want to be co-opted in a Corporation.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : May I just clarify one thing? Chandigarh is a very small Union Territory. As far as Chandigarh is concerned, we do not have any M.L.A., or a Member of the Rajya Sabha.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESHWARLU : That may be the situation today. But this is my thinking, and it needs to be clarified either in a positive way or otherwise in this Bill itself.

Secondly, if the local M.L.A. is there, then the interests of the Corporation can be protected in the Legislative Assembly. If the local Member of Parliament is there, then he will be in a better position to coordinate it with the Central issues. It is a good Amendment Bill, and we do support it.

In this respect, I also suggest for the consideration of the Ministry as to why we should not bring about a uniform Amendment Bill for all the Corporations in different States. As we have brought about the Seventy-third Amendment Bill and the Seventy-fourth Amendment Bill to strengthen the local bodies, why should we not bring in a uniform Amendment Bill for all the Corporations in different States so that we can have uniform provisions?

Thank you very much for the opportunity given to me.

SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO: Sir, I am thankful to the hon. Members for supporting this Bill. The purpose of this Bill is very, very limited. It is only to enable the Member of Parliament from Chandigarh to become a member of the Municipal Corporation with a voting right.

Sir, the hon. Member was pleased to make a suggestion regarding transfer of the staff of the municipality, and also the ratio between the nominated and elected members of the Municipal Corporation. All these points will be taken care of, and I have noted down these points. A decision will be taken at the appropriate level.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: What more appropriate a level can be than that of the Minister?

SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO: The subject is confined only to one or two sentences, that is, to enable the Member of Parliament to become a member of the Municipal Corporation with a voting right. There is nothing more than that, so far as this Bill is concerned.

So many good suggestions have been given, and they will be taken care of. Regarding the suggestion made by Prof. Ummareddy Venkateshwarlu garu, which is about the Rajya Sabha Members, article 243R provides only for the representation of the Members of the Lok Sabha and not of the Rajya Sabha. So, it is a different subject. However, I have taken note of that, and at an appropriate time, it can be taken into consideration.

Now, I request the hon. Members to pass the Bill.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESHWARLU : Do you propose a uniform Bill?

SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO: I have already take note of it, but I cannot give an assurance at this stage.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That the Bill to amend the Punjab Municipal Corporation Law (Extension to Chandigarh) Act, 1994, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

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

SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.
