

16.51 hrs

Title: Ruling regarding Question of Reference of the Indian Council of World Affairs Bill, 2001 to Standing Committee. Mr. Speaker deffered to refer the bill to the Standing Committee.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, Shri Shivraj V. Patil had raised three points while rising on a point of order when the Indian Council of World Affairs Bill, 2001 was taken up for consideration by the House.

1. He had said that the Ordinance-making power was undemocratic. While I agree that the Government should resort to the Ordinance-making power as sparingly as possible, situations cannot be ruled out where the Government may need to promulgate Ordinances.
2. Shri Patil had said, "Can a Bill, which has been withdrawn, be re-introduced?" The withdrawal was necessitated in the present case. There have been three Ordinances on the subject. The first Ordinance-replacing Bill, as we are all aware, was passed in the Lok Sabha but could not be passed in the Rajya Sabha. Consequently, the first Ordinance lapsed. In order to give continuing effect to the provisions of the first Ordinance, the second and the third Ordinances were promulgated. When the Bill to replace the third Ordinance was introduced, the introduction of the Bill necessitated the withdrawal of the earlier Bill with the same title to avoid confusion.
3. He said that under rule 331 E (1) (b), almost all Bills were to be referred by the Presiding Officer to the Standing Committees. I agree that almost all Bills need to be referred to the Standing Committees after introduction. There are however two exceptions. First, Bills of technical nature, to which Shri Patil himself made a reference, need not be referred to the Standing Committees. Secondly, Bills seeking to replace Ordinances are not normally referred to the Departmentally-Related Standing Committees since these Bills have to be enacted before the expiration of six weeks from the re-assembling of Parliament in terms of article 123 of the Constitution.

As the present Bill before the House is almost similar to a Bill already passed by this House and since this Bill needs to be enacted by 3rd September, 2001, I am not inclined to refer it to the Standing Committee.

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