

**12.30 hrs.**

**MERCHANT SHIPPING (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2004\***

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 and the Indian Ports Act, 1908.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 and the Indian Ports Act, 1908. "

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: As usual, on Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Bill, Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan has given a notice.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (CHIRAYINKIL): Sir, now-a-days, it has become a practice for the Ministers to take the House for granted.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Radhakrishnan, you are absolutely right.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Please do not interrupt. Let me complete.

MR. SPEAKER: You have the right to admonish me. I accept it in good spirit. I know your point.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, legislation is an important function of the House.

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The House should not be taken by surprise. I am very sorry to say that nowadays some of the Bills are introduced by taking shelter under your prerogative in respect of Directions 19A and 19B to dispense with the required notice. That is why I submit that this House should not be taken by surprise...(Interruptions) Certainly, Shri Baalu's amendment is also very precarious. This has been brought forward on the last day of the Session.

MR. SPEAKER: Do not go into the merits now.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : The hon. Minister Shri Baalu has moved for leave to introduce a new Bill. On which date has he brought it forward? On the last day of the Session, he has brought it forward. We should realise that according to him it is an urgent matter. In the International Shipping Law, he wants some statutory backing. ...(Interruptions) There is a necessity to meet the situation in the International Shipping Law. For that purpose, he has come forward with this Bill. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnan, ordinarily, you are absolutely right. Now, please take your seat.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : The device is to by-pass the Legislature and bring an Ordinance immediately after the House is adjourned. This is very unfortunate. This should not be allowed. The hon. Speaker is aware of all these things better than I am aware of. Now, this is a question of by-passing the Legislature...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, you have to take your seat. You have had your say. I am now interrupting you. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : I am very sorry. On the last day of this Session, the hon. Minister has brought it forward. He should have brought it forward much before.

MR. SPEAKER: You have realised that I have permitted it. You are challenging the decision of the Speaker. If you are dissatisfied, take proper action to get me out of this place. Please sit down now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Knowing well that I have permitted, you are raising this issue. I have said that this is not the normal thing. Because of a certain case made out, I have felt that it is proper to exercise my discretion.

The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 and the Indian Ports Act, 1908. "

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI T.R. BAALU: I introduce the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I call Prof. Malhotra to speak.

...(Interruptions)

श्री रामजीलाल सुमन (फ़िरोज़ाबाद) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह बहुत गम्भीर मामला है।

...(व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप लोग बैठिये।

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let me regulate it. I have promised it. I have already given an assurance that I would allow the hon. Members. I will allow the hon. Members to raise their issues. I am committed to it. I shall allow all of you. I have called Prof. Malhotra to speak. I will call the hon. Members on all sides of the House.

...(Interruptions)

प्रो. विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा (दक्षिण दिल्ली) : अध्यक्ष जी, इन्हें रोकिये। (व्यवधान)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): He has already spoken....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have called him. What can I do? I am asking them to cooperate with the Chair.

श्री रघुनाथ झा (बेतिया) : अध्यक्ष जी, हमने नोटिस दिया है। आज पूरे देश में तहलका की बात हो रही है। (व्यवधान) वहां की सरकार को डिसमिस किया जाये, नरेन्द्र मोदी को बर्खास्त किया जाये। (व्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: The House is adjourned till 12.45 p.m.

**12.34 hrs**

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till forty-five minutes*

*past Twelve of the Clock.*