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Title: Introduction of the Biotechnology Regulatory Authority of India Bill, 2013.

MADAM SPEAKER: Item No. 11, Shri S. Jaipal Reddy.

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): Madam I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to promote the safe use of modern biotechnology by enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of regulatory procedures and provide for establishment of the Biotechnology Regulatory Authority of India to regulate the research, transport, import, manufacture and use of organisms and products of modern biotechnology and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto ....(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Madam, I rise to oppose the introduction of Biotechnology Regulatory Authority of India Bill, 2013 on the following grounds....(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please go back to your seat. Your leader is speaking, now

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Madam, how the Biotechnology Department, which is the promoter Department, can be the regulator? Recently, the Standing Committee on Agriculture in its Report on Genetically Modified Foods and Crops, recommended that there should be a non-incumbency Regulatory Authority. By not implementing this recommendation, now, in order to help the multinational companies, who were to come and join our agricultural sector, the Government is bringing a Bill to regulate the Biotechnology mainly in the field of agriculture...(*Interruptions*)

Instead of being pro-industry, the Biotechnology Regulatory Authority Bill should be a comprehensive bio-safety regulation to ensure bio-safety, bio-diversity, human and livestock health safety, environment protection etc., ideally be brought by the Ministry of Environment and Forests or as an alternative, through joint efforts of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Ministry of Agriculture....(*Interruptions*)

This proposed Bill is not sync with the Biodiversity Act and the protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act.

The proposed Bill is not in consonance with various international protocols and conventions on bio-safety, bio-diversity, environment, human rights, etc., to which India is a signatory...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Okay. You have made your point.

Yes, Mr. Minister, now.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Madam, the objection raised by Shri Basu Deb Acharia is untenable. Parliament is fully competent to give shape to the International Treaty. The Government of India is a party to the United Nations Conventions on Biological Diversity signed at Rio de Janeiro and Cartagena.

Therefore, the point of order or objection raised by Achariaji is untenable. It is done within the legislative competence of the Parliament of India. So, I stand by my Bill....(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Now, the question is:

"That the leave be granted to introduce a Bill to promote the safe use of modern biotechnology by enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of regulatory procedures and provide for establishment of the Biotechnology Regulatory Authority of India to regulate the research, transport, import, manufacture and use of organisms and products of modern biotechnology and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

*The motion was adopted.*

MADAM SPEAKER: The Minister may now introduce the Bill.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Madam, I introduce\* the Bill.

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