

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Chairman Sir, you please listen me for a minute...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Jaswant Singh.

[English]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : You had called my name...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : We have given a notice on this issue, so this is our right to speak first...*(Interruptions)* We shall not allow the business of the House one to be transacted who has given a notice, will speak first...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Whatever is happening in the House is not good.

(Interruptions)

17.23 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Anil Kumar Yadav and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the table.

17.23 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Anand Mohan came and stood on the floor near the table.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House is adjourned for half-an-hour.

17.23 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fifty-Three Minutes past Seventeen of the Clock.

17.53 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Fifty-Three Minutes past Seventeen of the Clock.

(Mr. SPEAKER in the Chair)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members, I really do not know how to express my anguish. What has happened today, on the floor of the House, is most unfortunate. It is not becoming of the great institution of Parliament. I do not think, I am going to tolerate it. We are leaders of this nation. I think, everyone of us has to maintain the minimum standards of discipline. I had watched the proceedings on the video. I am going to watch it again - twice or thrice - and I will be compelled to take disciplinary action but not today because I want to be very sure about it.

17.54 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL OF PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE-PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE AND PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE-PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL*

MR. SPEAKER : We now go to the next item on the List of Business. Item Nos. 10 and 11 will be taken up together. I now call Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam) : I beg to move :

"That this House disapproves of the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections (Amendment) Ordinance, 1997 (No. 13 of 1997) promulgated by the President on June 5, 1997."

Sir, in 1952 the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Act was enacted. At that time there was no need for paying security deposit. There was only one condition that two representatives have to propose and second. Due to this, hundreds of people used to file nominations and create a lot of problems. In 1974 an amendment was made introducing security deposit and increasing the number of proposers and seconders to ten in the case of President and five in the case of Vice-President. That was also not sufficient. In spite of the provision for payment of deposit of Rs. 2,500 and ten and five proposers and seconders for the President and the Vice-President respectively, a lot of people used to file nomination. Persons who could not get even one or two

* Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part-II Section 2, dated 13.8.1997.

[Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy]

votes filed nominations which has resulted in the loss of dignity of this highest office of the country.

I am very happy that during 1997 the Election Commission has given a suggestion that the security deposit should be increased to Rs. 15,000 and the number of proposers should be fifty for the President and fifteen for the Vice-President. An Ordinance was issued to this effect. Now, it has come to the Lok Sabha for passing. It is a very important and practical amendment. By this we will not give an opportunity to most of the non-serious candidates who just want to file nominations for fun and to see their names in the newspapers. One more difficulty is that you will find more than thirty or forty people in the ballot papers which will be very irksome and cumbersome. At first we objected to this because we felt that this security deposit of Rs. 15,000 was not sufficient. The value of rupee has gone down. This should be much more. So, instead of Rs. 15,000, it should have been Rs. 25,000 or Rs. 30,000. However, it is not going to matter much. So, I support the Bill.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill further to amend the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952 be taken into consideration."

Sir, my hon. friend, Shri Subbarami Reddy has already explained the principles of this Bill and the necessity of passing this Bill. So, I do not think I have to explain it in detail.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motions moved :

"That this House disapproves of the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections (Amendment) Ordinance, 1997 (No. 13 of 1997) promulgated by the President on June 5, 1997."

"That the Bill further to amend the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952, be taken into consideration."

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as this Bill is concerned and as Shri Reddy has said now that all parties are of the same opinion that this Bill has been introduced to eliminate those candidates who were not serious, I want to say that the Members of the United Front talk about consensus. It would be better if these matters are brought with consensus. This is unfortunate that without consensus

the Government has created the same position for itself in the Rajya Sabha.

MR. SPEAKER : Do not digress to that.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : It will be proper if we give priority to these matters. I want that elections of the President and the Vice President should be kept above all controversies. In this matter we should rise above the party lines. When the Government view these matters on party lines, then the persons who are in high positions become victim of unnecessary comments and controversies. I hope that at least in future the Government would pay due attention in this regard and would take any other step only with consensus. I support the Bill on behalf of my party.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : Sir, this was brought by the Government after having discussion with all the political parties. So, there is no question of objecting to it. I support the Bill with the wish that it will be passed by the Rajya Sabha tomorrow.

SHRI SEBASTIAN PAUL (Ernakulam) : Sir, I support the Bill. It will definitely bring seriousness to the election to the highest constitutional office of the country. I cannot go into the details of the Bill for want of time but I fully support the Bill.

18.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support the Bill. I want to say that a person named Dharti Pakad who is a President of my constituency comes to me time and again for getting his nomination papers signed and I feel very uncomfortable.

As my friend Shri Jain was telling earlier that discussion was going on since a long time regarding electoral reform. This is unfortunate that whichever party comes to power, the ruling party does not consider this matter seriously and the issue of electoral reforms is discussed only in piece meal. We should consider this matter seriously and take a decision. This is very important and I request you that much awaited decisions regarding electoral reforms should be taken immediately on the basis of all such matters which have been decided by consensus. I do not want to say more and I support this Bill.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, do you want to reply?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : Sir, I thank all the hon. Members for supporting this.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House disapproves of the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections (Amendment) Ordinance, 1997 (No. 13 of 1997) promulgated by the President on June 5, 1997."

The motion was negatived.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill further to amend the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER : The House shall 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 3

[Translation]

SHRI MAHABIR LAL BISHWAKARMA (Hazaribagh) : I beg to move : for "Rs. Seven thousand" Substitute "Rs. Fifteen thousand." (2)

Mr. Speaker Sir, I want to mention only one thing that the office of President is the highest office of the country. It is a good step that the number of supporters have been increased by this amendment. But we should not assess the office of President in terms of money only because in our country any such person can also become President who is a renouncer and ascetic and for whom money is not very important. So I have given my amendment.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Are you pressing your amendment?

[Translation]

SHRI MAHABIR LAL BISHWAKARMA : I am withdrawing it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Has the hon. Member leave of the House to withdraw his amendment?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

The amendment was, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That Clause 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That Clause 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 4 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1

Amendment Made :

Page 1, lines 3 and 4,—

for "Second Amendment" substitute—
"Amendment" (1)

(Shri Ramakant D. Khalap)

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That Clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Enacting Formula and the Long Title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Nalanda) : Mr. Speaker Sir, this is third stage of Bill so I have to say something. I support this Bill but I want to make a request to the Government. The President, the Vice-President and the Prime Minister of this country should be a man who is a citizen of this country and also born in this country. This is very necessary. We know that today multinational companies are busy in the work of globalisation and they have the capacity to spend billions of money in any country of the world and they have ruined the democratic system in many countries. We also know that there are some powerful countries in the world who not only make current plan but draft their planning of foreign policy for coming 50 to 200 years. Therefore, Mr. Speaker Sir, I would request the Government that we should bring such a Bill by which only that person can become the President, the Vice-President and the Prime Minister who is not only a

[Shri George Fernandes]

citizen of this country but born in this country too. This is my request to the Government.

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : What about the position if they were born in Bangladesh or Pakistan?

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : When such a Bill will be introduced then we will discuss on this issue.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It is a suggestion. I do not think that the Government is responding to it here and now.

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : I beg to move :

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

18.06 hrs.

COTTON GINNING AND PRESSING FACTORIES (REPEAL) BILL*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : I beg to move :

"That the Bill to repeal the Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories Act, 1925, be taken into consideration."

This Bill was introduced on 11th December, 1995 and was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam) : Sir, you may extend the time of the House.

MR. SPEAKER : I think that has already been decided.

(Interruptions)

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Sir, it will take only five minutes for me.

This is a very simple Bill. It was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee of Commerce by the then Speaker. The Parliamentary Standing Committee, in their final report in March, 1996, recommended repeal

* Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part II - Section 2, dated 13.8.97.

of this Bill. But the Bill could not be passed due to procedural requirements.

This is a very old Bill and it was amended once in 1982. Since we have passed the Cotton Control Act and cotton was also brought under Essential Commodities Act, we feel that this has become redundant. That is why, I am requesting the House to allow the Bill to be passed.

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That the Bill to repeal the Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories Act, 1925, be taken into consideration."

SHRI ANNASHIB M.K. PATIL (Erandol) : Sir, as pointed out by the hon. Minister, this was already introduced but after it was introduced and discussed, the Lok Sabha was dissolved. I do not think that it would happen now also. Somehow this Bill is really not so helpful to the industry and therefore, I support the Bill.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur) : Sir, I support the Bill. I want to say something in favour of the Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories Act, 1925. Though I support it, although I would like to point out one thing. I urge upon the Government to provide some incentive and modernisation efforts to ensure quality processing of cotton and charging remunerative prices for the services provided for and not to exploit the labourers. This is my submission. There have been many changes in the pattern of processing, marketing and consumption of other cotton seeds with the opening up of our economy. Modernisation of ginning and processing factories are essential due to the changes in the present industrial scenario. Government should look into the problems of labourers who are working in the factories and ginning the cotton from cotton-seeds. My submission is that their services should be protected.

MR. SPEAKER : I think, you have noted it down. Everybody is supporting it. The question is :

"That the Bill to repeal the Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories Act, 1925, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER : The House shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That Clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.