

[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

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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 ANNASAHIB 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, 12 of 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 Press 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.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That Clause 1, the Enacting formula, and the Long Title stand part of the Bill.

The motion was adopted.

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

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed.

The motion was adopted.

18.14 hrs.

INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY
(AMENDMENT) BILL*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : Sir, on behalf of Shri S.R. Bommai, I beg to move :

"That the Bill to amend the Indira Gandhi National Open University Act, 1985, as passed by Rajya Sabha be taken into consideration."

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That the Bill to amend the Indira Gandhi National Open University Act, 1985, as passed by Rajya Sabha be taken into consideration."

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I welcome the objective of Indira Gandhi National Open University (Amendment) Bill, 1997 introduced by the Government because amendment has been made in section 3 and 6. The following proviso would be added in sub-section of section 3 of Indira Gandhi National Open University Act, 1985, "Study centre could be opened outside India with prior approval of chancellor." The words, "Study centres outside India" would be added alongwith with "throughout India" in section 6.

Sir, it is a matter of great happiness that earlier we used to hear about Nalanda and Takshila that there were big centres of education and students from foreign countries visited these centres for study. For the first

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time Indira Gandhi National Open University has gained lot of importance in spreading informal education. It has become a boon for those private students who are getting education through correspondence courses and distant education. As large number of immigrants, who know Indian languages and non-resident Indians are living in United Arab Emirate, Mauritius etc. They want to set up such type of centres in their countries so that they could also take benefit of these centres. To extend this facility, original Indira Gandhi Open University Act was enacted in 1985 and 225 study centres at 17 regional centres are in existence since 1987 onwards. Through these centres there are 746 students in the first year, 6000 in the second year and 8,000 in the third year but as against the number of faculties opened the required number of students therein are not adequate and moreover, the medium of instructions is also English.

Sir, through you I would urge upon the Government that on the one hand the students could not get admission in colleges and there is a large number of students in queue for getting admission and there is a problem of discipline, the people in service cannot get education after getting admission, the people living in villages or the people who want to get education in the morning and evening, they can also not get education, therefore when such University has been opened to get them educated, then all the Indian languages should be the medium of instruction.

We are celebrating the 50th anniversary of independence, therefore, alongwith English, Hindi should also be made the medium of instructions in the examinations of Indira Gandhi Open University and study centres of correspondence and remote education. Besides, it would be better if Minister should clarify as to what will be the system of examination in the centres being opened in foreign countries and how the centres will be controlled. The Headquarters of the Indira Gandhi Open University is in Delhi but its centres have been opened in other states also and complaints of irregularities being committed there have been received in regard to the appointment. I would like to request the Government to make efforts to remove those irregularities so that the services of Indira Gandhi Open University can be utilized properly in the country as well as abroad. Indian culture, knowledge, traditions and social features should reach foreign countries and the people living there can also be benefited there from.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : When a Professor speaks on a University, I know that there can be no end.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have to say such things which are in favour of the Bill.