

SHRI SATYA GOPAL MISRA : Then, why are you claiming that you are speaking on behalf on muslims alone.

SHRI A.K. SEN : Who said so ? I do not think we have said so.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No running commentary please. It is a bad habit that you are developing.

SHRI A.K. SEN : All I said was that this law was meant to affect a particular community and that community's view must have predominance in our judgement and that is the way to approach this problem in a secular democracy.

Now, Sir, it is said that we have not thought about women. What we have thought of ? The whole subject is about divorced women. It is true that we have not thought of undivorced women, which is beyond the scope of the Act. We are not thinking of women in general. Of course, we are all fond of women either as mothers or as sisters or as wives or as friends, but that is not the subject matter of the Bill.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I do not think that in a matter like this you should make such an observation.

SHRI SATYA GOPAL MISRA : He is speaking as if he is in a drawing room. This is Parliament which is the highest forum of the country.

SHRI A.K. SEN : There is something like a humour. If that subject is unknown to a particular Member, I can't help it. Now, Sir, the subject of compassion for women, in general, is not the subject matter of this Bill at all. We are on a limited field of divorce of women and their provision for maintenance during various periods of their life and certain contingencies which may arise, that is, when during these periods those who are charged with the duty to maintain them fail to do so, the community has to take the charge. This is according to our understanding of the Muslim law. This may be different from views of the Supreme

Court. We are not going into the merits. As quoted by the Supreme Court, as *Ayat* 241 of 'Surah Baqur' only says, that it is the duty of the virtuous men to maintain the indigent divorced women. Now, virtuous men means according to the Muslim Scholars the community and not the husband of the divorced woman. Her maintenance is a charge on the community as a whole. Therefore, we have provided that under certain circumstances the duty to maintain indigent divorced woman is on those certain members of her family and failing them on the community. I think that expresses also the spirit of compassion for women under Muslim Law. With these words, I humbly submit that the motion should be passed.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to protect the rights of Muslim women who have been divorced by, or have contained divorce from, their husbands and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : Then, I am walking out.

(Shri C. Janga Reddy then left the House)

SHRI A.K. SEN : I introduce the Bill.

15.50 hrs.

RAVI AND BEAS WATERS TRIBUNAL BILL

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of a Tribunal for the verification of the quantum of usage of water claimed by the farmers of Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan from the Ravi-Beas system as

on the 1st day of July, 1985 and the waters used for consumptive purposes and for the adjudication of the claim of Punjab and Haryana regarding the shares in their remaining waters.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of a Tribunal for the verification of the quantum of usage of water claimed by the farmers of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan from the Ravi-Beas system as on the 1st day of July, 1985 and the waters used for consumptive purposes and for the adjudication of the claim of Punjab and Haryana regarding the shares in their remaining waters.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : I introduce the Bill.

STATEMENT RE : RAVI AND BEAS
WATERS TRIBUNAL ORDINANCE,
1986

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) giving reasons for immediate legislation by the Ravi and Beas Waters Tribunal Ordinance, 1986.

15.52 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

(i) Demand to raise support prices of all agricultural produce by about 25 per cent.

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY (Hindupur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, agriculturists are facing a lot of hardships due to unremunerative prices for their produce.

Their backbone is broken. Whenever they have to purchase, they have to pay high prices. When they try to sell their produce they have to sell at a very low price. Present rise in prices of products like kerosene, petroleum products and fertilizers has raised the cost of inputs of agriculture to a very high degree. Comparative rise in prices of rice and wheat is nominal. Other agricultural products remain at the same level of prices. Due to the present rise in prices, the agriculturists are crippled economically. The support price given to agricultural produce is very meagre and it does not take into account the risk involved, and the sufferings of the agriculturists who have to work day in and day out. It is high time that the Central Government raises the support prices of all agricultural produce by about 25 per cent and save the agriculturists from economic disaster.

15.53 hrs.

[SHRI N. VENKATA RATNAM
in the Chair]

(ii) Demand for developing Northern part of Kerala to attract tourist traffic.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (Cannanore) : Sir, the State of Kerala has high tourist potential which has not been tapped at all. This is most obvious in the northern half of Kerala which is absolutely cut off from the tourist map of India.

Kerala, with its long coastal line, numerous rivers and back waters, famous tropical forests such as the Silent Valley, the green hills of Wynad with its rich forest wealth and rare species of animals, the temples and places of historical importance has much to offer to a tourist. However, the birth place of Pazhasi Raja and Kunhali Marakkar who fought against alien powers, the place where the Portuguese sailer Vasco-de-Gama first landed in India, the several forts etc. have all been ignored by the Tourist Departments both at the State level and at the Centre.

It is to be noted that the temple arts of Malabar such as *Theyyam* and *Thira* and