

Hukumdeo Narayan Yadav leave of the House to withdraw his amendment?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

Amendment No.2 was, by leave, withdrawn

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"This House is of opinion that against the background of the Ninth General Elections, poll reforms should be urgently undertaken, more particularly to curb the influence of money power and muscle power and to ensure that future elections held in this largest democracy of the world are completely free and fair".

The motion was adopted

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Shrimati Basava Rajeswari to move the Resolution.

She is not present in the House.

So, the next Resolution to be moved by Shri Guman Mal Lodha.

17.44 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE: REGARDING BAN ON COW SLAUGHTER

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We have to fix the time for the discussion on this Resolution. I think, we can fix two hours time for his Resolution. Now, Shri Lodha to move the Resolution and speak.

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali): I beg to move:

"This House is of the opinion that the Government should bring forward a suitable legislation to ban slaughter of cow and its pregnancy throughout the country".

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, when a Resolution to ban slaughter of Cow and its progeny like Calf, Ox, bull etc was brought in the constituent Assembly, the matter was seriously considered. India has been an agricultural country and in agriculture, the importance of cow and its progeny like calf, ox, etc. cannot be over-emphasised. During the days of freedom struggle, the great leaders like Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya and several others resolved and assured the people that as soon as the country attained freedom, cow slaughter would be banned all over the country. Mahatma Gandhi also spoke in favour of banning cow slaughter throughout his life. When our country became independent and the Britishers left the country for ever, it was hoped that cow-slaughter would be banned all over the country. But it was our misfortune that the time when our constitution was being framed, attempts were made to include the Resolution on banning cow slaughter in the Directive Principles of State Policy of our constitution but the amendment on cow and cow's progeny could not be included in the Directive Principles of State Policy. As a result of that, no provision regarding cow slaughter could be made in the Directive Principles. Not only this, ban on cow slaughter could not be placed in the concurrent list and ultimately it was kept in the state list. Even after that several attempts were made, Resolutions and private Members Bill in this regard were brought but none of them could be passed. Though in some states cow-slaughter has been completely banned, yet there are some states like West Bengal, Kerala etc. Where even today cow blood can be seen on the roads.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, a few days back, I was in Calcutta. In the course of a function over there some people came to see me and told that if was a matter of great

regret that in the country of Lord Rama and Krishna where Lord Krishna incarnated as 'Gopalak', cows are slaughtered openly on the roads. It is a matter of shame for all of us that even today in Calcutta cow slaughter is permitted by the Government under the law, on the occasion of Bakrid(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Lodha, you are quite in a position to understand the feelings throughout the country. So, please be careful not to say things which will unnecessarily flare up the situation. You can present this topic in any fashion you like but see that the feelings of the people are not hurt.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hint given by you will be followed in letter and spirit, but it is very unfortunate to hear hon. Members saying that we are not concerned with the sentiments of the people. I presume that they perhaps forget that a person who is concerned with the life of even a dumb animal will certainly give foremost importance to the sentiments of human beings.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to present before you the debates of the Constituent Assembly in which it has been clearly mentioned that the slaughter of cow and its progeny in India should be totally banned. I had mentioned the instance of Calcutta before you because when I visited Calcutta people narrated it with great distress.....

SHRI SHOPAT SINGH MAKKASAR (Bikaner): Because communists live there.

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it hardly matters whether it is a communist, a Congress, a B.J.P., a D.M.K. or a A.I.A.D.M.K. ruled States, slaughter of cow should be banned in all parts of India which is the land of Lord Krishna and where agriculture is of foremost importance.

Having resolved this in my mind, I have moved this resolution.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, besides cow, calf and ox have always remained a principal source of our agriculture. If we see it from economic angle, then too it is important. Today whether we take the question of environment, fuel or fertilizer, if we can provide protection to cow and its progeny, we can do a great service to our nation. Today there are such substances in chemical fertilizers and insecticides which cause immense harm to the crops. Not only this, the use of such fertilizers also results in accidents. Recently, there was a news regarding a big mishap which took place on account of poisonous insecticide. Such insecticides cause major accidents resulting in many deaths. In this context, I would like to present such evidence before you on the basis of which our scientists as well as scientists from all parts of the world have said that cow dung is the best manure, the superiority of which has been acclaimed for centuries and it continues to be so even today.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, cow is adorable not only from the religious point of view but also from economic and social angle. Cow has always been worshipped in India and she has been termed as mother. The saints and top Congress leaders who struggled for the country have held the cow to be more sacred than their motherland. The reason behind this is the usefulness of the cow in the economic sphere. That is why I request that we should rise above the party affiliations on the issue of cow slaughter. In order to stop it in the country as a whole, we should in the first instance bring an amendment in the constitution under which the right to enact diverse laws in the States pertaining to this issue—which has been the main reason for legislative diversities in the country should be done away with. At present, only two States in the country permit cow slaughter under the law. If a legislation is enacted banning cow slaughter throughout the country, it can help in establishing unity in the country. Sir, till now we have kept this under the Directive Principles.....

[Sh. Guman Mal Lodha]

SHRI KALPNATH RAI (Ghosi): Which are the two States where cows are slaughtered?

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as per my knowledge, the States are West Bengal and Kerala where slaughter of cow is permitted. If my information is wrong, I am open to correction. There is restriction on cow slaughter in West Bengal, but permission to slaughter cows is given on certain festivals under the notification issued by the State Government. A writ petition was filed against it in the Calcutta High Court which has repealed this right of the Government. However, the West Bengal Government filed an appeal in the Supreme Court which is still pending and a stay order has been granted as a result of which permission is being granted by the State Government for cow slaughter on the festivals which are celebrated by the people who slaughter cows.

That case is still pending in the Supreme Court. Earlier also, the highest court had debated this issue. But the court in its decisions have held that as laid down in the Directive Principles, directive has been given to State Government to ban slaughter of and provide protection to cow and its progeny, so that economic and agricultural development of the country could be ensured. I would like to read out the quotations from the judgement of the Supreme Court before you. The Supreme Court judgement says that no religion in the world permits slaughter of cow. The judgement denies the charge that cow slaughter has been considered essential in Quran or that the slaughter of cow has been approved as a very sacred act. In their decision, the judges have affirmed that no religion in the world approves of cow slaughter, nobody considers it religious, nobody thinks it to be sacred. Thereafter they have referred to the Directive Principles. My submission is that as per the verdict of the Supreme Court, there Directive Principle though it is a directive, sometimes it becomes an deal for the State but it is certainly not such an order or

a directive which could be enforced by the court under Article 226 or 232 of the Constitution.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may continue next time.

17.57 hrs.

[English]

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Debt Relief to Farmers, Artisans and Weavers

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, in my Budget speech on 19th March, 1990, I had announced the scheme for providing debt relief to farmers, artisans and weavers who had taken loans up to Rs. 10000/- from various banks.

I had announced that the Central Government will bear the full responsibility of debt relief in respect of loans taken from public sector banks and Regional Rural banks in the Central sector.

In respect of cooperative banks and land development banks in the States' sector, I am happy to announce that in order to assist the State Governments in regard to debt relief scheme on the Central pattern, the Central Government will bear fifty per cent of the burden of relief on loans taken from these banks in the State sector.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I wanted some clarifications, but the Finance Minister is going away. What is the point in saying that fifty per cent assistance will be given without giving what will be the guidelines on which it would be formulated? How will you assess and find out the beneficiaries? Nothing has been said. This is insulting that the Minister after having given the statement has gone away.