

(viii) **Need to Provide Assistance by the Centre to the Government of Maharashtra for Organising Drought Relief and Providing Drinking Water Facilities**

**SHRI KESHAORAO PARDHI** (Bhandara) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this year many districts of Maharashtra have been affected by drought which list includes Bhandara where the drought has been very severe. The State Government have started job-oriented works but they are not sufficient. There is also the acute problem of drinking water and it is necessary to provide relief measures for this. It is also necessary that the shortage of fodder is removed and the people are provided with foodgrains and employment. In the coming days, the farmers will have to be given seeds also. In such conditions the recovery of land revenue, land measurement tax, irrigation tax and bank loans is being made. Some farmers had taken loans from the Land Development Bank for digging wells and purchasing motors but they are not getting power connections even after waiting for three years. With the result, that the farmers have not been able to utilise their wells and electric motors. The recovery of the Land Development Bank loans has started. The farmers are unable to repay these loans owing to drought. The recovery of all these taxes and loans should be suspended forthwith. The drought relief team of the Central Government has, during its visit, witnessed their condition.

I request the Government of India to assist the State Government in drought relief work and in solving the problem of drinking water.

12.34 hrs.

**MONOPOLIES AND RESTRICTIVE TRADE PRACTICES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1985**

[English]

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER** : We will now take up Item No. 10—Further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri Veerendra Patil on the 15th May 1985, namely :

“That the Bill further to amend the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969, be taken into consideration.”

The time allotted is only one hour and thirty-eight minutes and I request the Hon. Members to be brief. Shri Jaipal Reddy may speak.

**SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY** (Mahbubnagar) ; Sir : This Bill is before us today because, as part of the Budget proposals, it was mentioned by the Finance Minister that the ceiling under MRTP Act would be raised from Rs. 20 crores to Rs. 100 crores. The Budget, particularly of this year has come to be noted for many important and fundamental departures not only from the accepted national policy pursued for the last three decades and more, but also from the perspective that was evolved during the freedom struggle.

The Budget is important not only for the fiscal proposals, but also for many important non-fiscal proposals. And the most important of those non-fiscals proposals was this : this is very significant, because it indicates the direction which the new Government would like to tread. The Congress (I) was at least making pretensions towards socialism; and now they have given up these pretensions also. This Government would do well to remember the background or the setting against which this Act came into being in the first place. In the '60s., a Study Report led by Mahalanobis, and a Study Report led by Hazari observed that the growth of economic power in this country was disproportionate, and that it was increasingly tending to get concentrated in fewer and fewer hands. That was the reason why this legislation instituting a Commission, a standing quasi-judicial Commission was brought forward way back in 1970.

I do not want to refer to the Preamble of the Constitution. I do not have to refer to the Directive Principles of the Constitution. Our Directive Principles of State policy refer to the need for mounting a conscious effort to see that economic power is decentralized. Under Article 39 (c), the Constitution directs :

“that the operation of the economic system does not result in the concentration of wealth and means of production to the common detriment;”