

earstwhile Union Territory of Arunachal Pradesh to continue as the Members of the Assembly of the new State of Arunachal Pradesh.

As has been mentioned by Shri Swell, they happen to belong to the most backward tribes in Arunachal Pradesh. By making this provision, the House will be fully justified in giving representation to those three tribes viz., Hill Miris, Solungs and Pangis

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): The point is, why was it not done earlier. Why was it not included in the original Bill?

S. BUTA SINGH: At that time it provided only the elected members but now with this provision that lacunae will also be made up and the nominated members will be fulfilled members of the Assembly.

Mr. Thungon has brought two other points. As far as the question of safeguarding the traditional rights and religious ceremonies of tribals is concerned I do not think there will be any difficulty because most of the things which Mr. Thungon has mentioned fall within the purview of the State Assembly. The State Assembly is fully competent to pass those laws. If Mr. Thungon thinks it fit to be passed by Parliament we can pass the laws and give those provisions to Arunachal Pradesh. I may tell Mr. Thungon in case the State Assembly does not pass it, at an appropriate time we will pass those laws and make possible for the people of Arunachal Pradesh to feel satisfied.

As regards the question of increasing the number from forty to sixty since elections are due in 1988-89 before the elections at an appropriate time this provision can also be thought of. With these words I commend that this House may pass the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to amend the State of Arunachal Pradesh Act, 1986, be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now we will take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill. The question is:

"That Clause 2 stand part of the Bill"

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 2 was added to the Bill.*

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

S. BUTA SINGH: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

15.05 hrs

KHADI AND VILLAGE INDUSTRIES  
COMMISSION (AMENDMENT) BILL —  
*Contd.*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now the House will take up further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri M Arunachalam on the 8th May, 1987, namely:—

"That the Bill further to amend the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Shri C. Janga Reddy may speak.

## [Translation]

\*SHRI C. JANGA REDDY (Hanamkona)  
 Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Khadi and Village Industries Commission is a rehabilitation Centre for Congress men. Khadi and Village Industries Board is one which provides employment to Congressmen who are out of power. Sir, the Congress men are making use of the Board for their selfish ends by setting up various organisations like Hyderabad Khadi Board, Bhayganagar Khadi Board, Warangal Khadi Board and Mettupalli Khadi Board etc. Whatever the nomenclature may be, the fact is that various Khadi Boards are springing up giving a chance to Congressmen to earn money. In one such Khadi Board a Cabinet Minister was a Chairman. Rs. 12 lakhs were misappropriated in that Board. So far no enquiry has been made into this affair. So Khadi Board has become synonymous with Congress. Even now people in the villages are of the opinion that Khadi Board is run by Congress and that it is an organisation through which Congress men can earn their livelihood. So, Sir, the time has come now to remove this impression in the minds of the people. So far, Khadi and Village Commission has mainly been restricted to production of Khadi cloth. Now the scope of the Commission has to be widened to by taking up and encouraging various small scale and cottage industries. No doubt loans are being given to persons belonging to small trades, cobblers, carpenters and potters. We thought by lending a helping hand to the persons who are engaged in these vocations, the dreams of Mahatma will come true. We thought that the villages will become self sufficient and once again hum with activity. But this hope has remained illusory. For, the benefit has not really gone to these poor villagers. Instead, it is only the Congressmen who stood benefited by it. I take this opportunity to request you to conduct an enquiry into the activities of Khadi Board in Andhra Pradesh. The loans are being sanctioned. But payment of these loans remains only on paper. Var-

ious associations and societies are springing up. Many such societies of the safety match manufacturers cobblers etc. are coming up every day. Just 11 members join hands to form a society and make use of all the benefits and are thus earning money. Crores of rupees are being misused in Andhra Pradesh this way. Hence I appeal once to you to probe thoroughly the activities of Khadi and Village Industries Board. Ex-Cabinet Ministers and the present Cabinet Ministers are involved in this. There is nobody to take action against them. Initially it was one organisation, then it has become two, and later on multiplied into various organisations. The employees working in these organisations are not being treated properly. Their salaries are not being paid regularly. They are being subjected to various hardships. Hence the entire functioning of the Khadi Board should be reviewed thoroughly. How many people were benefited by these organisation, how much loan has been extended to cobblers, potters and others by these organisations has to be found out. Now lakhs of rupees are being advanced to societies which are formed with eleven members only to get loans. Lakhs of rupees are being advanced as loans on interest of 4% to 6%. But an ordinary man is not deriving any benefit out of it. Hence the entire matter has to be thoroughly probed and it should be seen that the loans serve the real purpose of helping the poor. Lakhs of rupees extended as loan are not reaching the poor and need. Hence these activities of these Boards or Societies should be reviewed thoroughly

Some persons with the assistance of non-official Directors are trying to change the very shape of the Khadi Board. Be it Bhayganagar Khadi Board or Mettupalli Khadi Board. Be it in Andhra Pradesh or Madhya Pradesh or Uttar Pradesh, the situation is all the same. If the Govt. reviews the functioning of Khadi Boards in the country it would be clear that it could not achieve much though it has spent a lot

\* The speech was originally delivered in Telugu.

[Shri C. Janga Reddy]

since independence. Kindly review your performance once again. How much money you spent? How many people were provided employment? How many people have received loans? Sir, various organisations are coming up only to receive loans and grants from the Govt. These organisations are not distributing this money received from the Govt. among the poor. Many Congressmen are involved in this sorry state of affairs. No enquiry has been conducted so far. No effort has been made to set the things right. What is the use of setting up more and more boards. Setting up of such boards is useful for rehabilitating certain Congressmen who have lost their position. In no other way it is useful. I want to ask the Govt. how far it has succeeded in providing employment to the poor. I want to know how much employment has been provided to those who are engaged in handicrafts. Lepakshi is there in Andhra Pradesh. Nirmal is known for its paintings, wood craft and handicrafts. They have a lot of demand in foreign markets. Wooden and brass articles are very much popular everywhere. Whether you have made any efforts to encourage these handicrafts. Did you make any attempt so far for the promotion of handicraft products in foreign markets? How much foreign exchange could you earn so far. Many hon. Members have already stated that Khadi and Village Industries generate employment. Sir, the Khadi and Village Industries have a glorious past. During freedom struggle they inspired to fight against foreign domination and foreign dependence. They were the main instrument in the fight against domination. Today, unfortunately the very same institutions have become breeding grounds for corruption. These institutions are now engaged in misappropriation of money. Now all this should come to an end. Help should be given to all the persons who are engaged in village industries. Encouragement should be given to persons engaged in village industries by giving them at least 50 to 75% of the money they require for

their trade. It helps in providing employment to these people. But you are not doing it. Just by helping them in buying a few tools. You cannot make them stand on their own legs. What do you propose to do in order to help them to stand on their own legs? Now a potter or a cobbler gets Rs. 500 as assistance. But is it sufficient enough? No. It is an onerous task. It should be handled by the Govt. directly. It is too gigantic a task to be handled by voluntary agencies. Sir, there is a need to put an end to corruption indulged in by various agencies. This paltry amount of Rs. 500 is not sufficient enough. Govt. should come forward to purchase the products of Khadi and Village industries. You should supply all the required material and tools and then purchase the products later.

It is the best way of helping them. If you use shoes of Bata brand, who will use the shoes made by a cobbler in the village. If you buy steel furniture who will buy wooden furniture? You owe an answer to this question. It is our responsibility to see that the goods produced by Khadi and Village industries are used more and more. The use of similar products manufactured by big industries has to be discouraged. Matties, carpets and other articles used for decoration are produced in Warangal in Andhra Pradesh. You have to give subsidy on those articles also. It all needs a good amount of money. Instead of utilising the money this way, the Govt. is spending money on setting up Regional Offices over which it has no control whatsoever. Setting up offices in major cities like Delhi and Bombay will not help a common man who is engaged in village industries. These people are living a miserable life. They have no money. Many of them are living below the poverty line. It is unfortunate that the institution which is meant for these small artisans is not providing to be helpful to them. At present the Khadi Boards are in the hands of a few persons who are running them according to their whims and fancies. The time has come to reorganise the entire structure. There is also a need to enhance the amount of Rs. 500 which is being given to the artisans at present. It has

to be enhanced to Rs. 5000/-. Not only that the Govt. should come forward to purchase the handicrafts. There is a lot of foreign market for these goods. Govt. should help them in procuring foreign orders. Now the Khadi Boards are exploiting the poor artisans. I ask the Govt. to provide an account of the money that has been spent by these boards so far. I also want the Govt to disclose as to what extent they have succeeded in generating employment. Also I urge that the functioning of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission in Andhra Pradesh be probed. The condition of the employees in these organisations is far from satisfactory. Sir, Khadi Board reminds us of Congress and Congress reminds us of corruption. Once again I request the Govt. to review the functioning of Khadi & Village Industries Commission. At present this institution is not at all useful to the artisans. Corruption in this organisation should come to an end. I vehemently oppose the Bill.

[English]

SHRI N. DENNIS (Nagarcoil): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I rise to support this Bill and I wish to make the following points.

The basic philosophy of Khadi and Village industries and their promotion emanated from the ideas of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi as a part of our national struggle for Independence. Swadeshi Movement is the main economic principle for rural reconstruction. Gandhiji strongly believed that there should be economic activity in every household so as to ensure proper livelihood to every family. Gandhiji's intention was to provide employment at the doorstep by setting up small industries at nearby places which would provide opportunities for both self-employment as well as for creating more and more jobs. Thus, he was very keen on creating self-employment opportunities to unemployed persons.

Today we have to promote Khadi and Village industries with that spirit and such a feeling of dedication. As far as Khadi and

Village industries are concerned, production, sales as well as employment opportunities have been increased. Khadi and Village Industries Commission provides employment opportunities to lakhs of people, to the poorest of the poor, to artisans, to those belonging to minority communities, backward classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and other down-trodden sections of the society. So, from economic point of view also, the Khadi and Village industries form a very important sector and greater emphasis has to be given for the promotion of this sector by more and more allotment of funds.

Our country is an agricultural country and about 70 per cent of our people depend on agriculture. Secondly 36 per cent of our people live below the poverty line. Agriculture provides only seasonal employment and people depending on agriculture for their livelihood remain unemployed for a considerable part of the year. The activities of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission should be drawn up in such a way as to enable these persons who are living below the poverty line and who remain unemployed for a major part of the year, get employment opportunities. This will also help in reducing rural poverty to a great extent.

As far as the Bill is concerned, it is an outcome of the report of the high-powered expert committee. The expert committee studied various aspects of the functioning of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission and made certain recommendations. And this Bill is an outcome of those recommendations. The intention of the Bill is to promote and develop the Khadi and Village industries. With this view, changes are made in the structural organisation of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission. The strength of the members of the Commission has been increased from 5 to 12 and the term of the members has been increased from three to five years. Moreover, emphasis is now given to promote and establish industries in rural areas, where 70 per cent of our population lives. Keeping in view the changing times

[Shri N. Dennis]

and the changing face of our industries, when more and more new industries are coming up, all those industries whose investment does not exceed Rs. 15,000 are included as village industries. This will, no doubt, accommodate many new industries. Also, common service facilities are introduced for the effective functioning of the Commission.

With regard to the amendment of Section 2 of the principal Act, I want to mention one point. Clause 2(h) limits the investment at Rs. 15,000/-. I would like to suggest that it is not adequate in view of the cost escalation in materials and other inputs. This amount of Rs. 15,000 is meagre and I strongly feel that this limit must be enhanced for setting up viable units and also to provide more employment opportunities.

Regarding Amendment to Clause 4 of the Bill, the membership of the Commission has been increased from 12 in place of 5. The intention is to give wider representation and also to give regional or geographical representation. I would like to say that mere increasing the number of Members will not solve the problem. The men of expert knowledge and experience should be appointed. In the Bill, it is stated under Clause 4 "that only four persons with expert knowledge and experience should be appointed." I would like to suggest two points here. Firstly, all persons should have expert knowledge and experience and also these four persons with mere expert knowledge alone is not adequate. Theoretical knowledge has to be translated into action during the implementation of this Act. They should be committed to the Khadi and Village industries.

Secondly, all the persons should have expert knowledge and experience. I would like to suggest here, more than that, representation should be given to all the States, i.e. at least the Chairmen of Boards of the States should be represented. Moreover, the representative of the

workers and women should be there in the Commission.

In Clauses 5 and 5A, it is stated "functions of the Chief Executive Officer and the Financial Adviser should be defined." That is a welcome sign. There is a demarcation of their functions. It would help in avoiding the duplication of work and smooth functioning of the Commission.

In the Act, the function of the Chairman is not clearly defined. Because of this, the Chairman would become a powerless man. In the Act itself, it is stated that "Chief Executive Officer should execute the matter under the control and direction of the Chairman." Apart from this function, the only other function is that, he has to preside over the meetings. These are two matters specified in the Act, regarding the Chairman. I would say that the functions of the Chairman ought to have been explained.

Regarding Clauses 11, 12 and 13, i.e. amendments to Sections 18, 19 and 12 of the Principal Act, I wish to suggest that there need not be three separate Budgets, but there can be three separate parts. These parts can be clubbed into only one part.

Regarding Clause 15, i.e. Amendment to Section 27 of the Principal Act—creation of a common service facility—I would say, it is a welcome feature in the Bill. It is a welcome step. This would enable redressal of grievances of the employees. They have been demanding it for a long time. In this connection, I would like to say that the persons who are coming from the rural areas should be given training and they also should be given employment opportunities.

Regarding Clause 7, I would like to suggest—a substitution of Section 13 of the Principal Act—that the duration which is extended from three years to five years, it would be better, if the original system would have been better.

I would like to mention one or two points here. Special efforts should be taken for the promotion and growth of Khadi and Village industries. Provision should be made for the research and development of this sector.

There is the problem of markets, and stiff competition from the mill and other sectors. I would ask for greater protection, for the survival and growth of this industry. Allotments now made are not adequate. A higher allotment should be made.

Exemption should be given in the matter of income tax, sales tax and such other levies. Full assistance has to be given to various institutions working in rural areas. The Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act should be applied in every nook and corner of the country. Every block should have a unit.

This is a labour-oriented sector. The intention is to uplift the rural population, and improve their economic condition. So, proper attention should be given to greater allotment and protection. The quality of articles produced by the Khadi and Village industries should also be improved.

On an earlier occasion also I had brought this to the notice of the Minister: Since the introduction of Prohibition in Tamil Nadu, several tappers are there without work. The *palmyra* tapping industry should be encouraged through a corporation.

The honey industry should also be developed. A Honey Development Board has to be constituted. With these words, I support the Bill.

SHRI K. R. NATARAJAN (Dindigul): On behalf of AIADMK, I rise to support the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (Amendment) Act. I would like to speak a few words on this Bill.

Clause 9(2) (a) to (1) with the functions of the Commission. The objectives mentioned in the Bill are very laudable. But

these functions should be defined clearly. The definition of a village industry is that the *per capita* investment would be limited to Rs. 15,000. I suggest that this should be increased to Rs. 25,000. The term of office of members is now fixed as five years; this should be reduced to three years. The reason is that the members may otherwise develop a vested interest, and there may be the possibility of some errors. So, their term should be reduced.

Gandhiji had said: 'India lives only in its villages'. In other words, the economy of the villages represents the real economy of the country. So, if the economy of the country has to be developed, the economy of the villages should be developed. Farmers, agriculturists, agricultural labourers, artisans and unorganized labourers are living only in the villages.

Agriculture is a seasonal profession. During droughts, there is no work at all available. So, people should be given employment opportunities. For this purpose, it is necessary to develop cottage and village industries. In every village, there should be such an industry, and it should give employment to these workers and farmers. Otherwise, their economy will be completely shattered.

During the last 40 years we are going away from Gandhiji's principle of self-reliance. Self-reliance is of primary importance, but we are not working towards it. Gandhiji had relied upon the Swadeshi movement. He had started the Swadeshi movement. He boycotted British and other foreign goods, but we are importing foreign things. We are not developing Swadeshi.

That is the reason why our economy has not been developed. People in the villages are either unemployed or under employed. So, some industry should be established in each and every village so that people can get employment.

Now-a-days, a watch making industry and even sophisticated goods industry

[Shri K.R. Natarajan]

have become the cottage industry in Switzerland and Japan. These examples should be followed in India also. We can start making watches, electronic goods and other goods in our villages by the khadi industry. The South-East countries are developing their village economy in this way; that is why there is no unemployment. We have to follow the principles they adopt in their countries to remove unemployment or under employment. Then we can slowly eliminate unemployment or under employment. Thank you.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA (Balasore):  
Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Bill to amend the Khadi and Village Commission (Amendment) Bill 1986.

We know that the khadi and village industry adds to our national income. Not only that, in our freedom movement, the *charkha* was the symbol which had been introduced by the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gnadhi. In this connection, I would like to suggest some amendments for incorporation in this Bill. In case it is not possible to bring them in this session, then I would like to request the hon. Minister to bring them in the next session to make it a full-fledged Bill so that not only our rural economy will be strengthened but—or with my humble suggestions, if it is amended—it will make the rural people self-sufficient and will also provide employment to the rural mass especially to the rural woman folk, who are consisting of 50 per cent of the total population of this country.

In this Bill, the hon. Minister has suggested that the entire country will be divided into six geographical zones, and from each zone some members will be taken in the Khadi Commission. I would like to suggest that without making it a geographical zone, let one member be taken from each of the Khadi Board of the State. In this Bill, there is a provision to provide 12 members for the Khadi Commission. Previously, it was from 3 to 5. No

doubt, it will be more representative in character, but if you take one member from each State in the Khadi Commission, then it will be more representative in character and it will serve the whole purpose of this Bill.

Side by side, all the persons who will be taken as members in the Khadi Commission, they should have some knowledge about the rural economy, village industry, khadi industry and also first-hand knowledge about rural economy. Especially they should be persons coming from the rural areas. They should be inhabitants of rural areas. Side by side, it has been provided in the Bill that the Chairman will be a whole-time member and the other members are not whole-timers. What I feel is that if all the members of the Commission are whole-timers then they can provide more time to improve not only this Khadi Commission but also the movement of Khadi and Village industries in the country.

I must congratulate the hon. Minister that the main aim of this Bill is to provide employment to the rural masses. I would request the hon. Minister that, the three funds now provided in the Bill, namely, the Khadi fund, the village industries fund and the general and miscellaneous fund may be merged and made into only one fund since the object is mainly to provide employment.

Besides, I would request that, since this Bill is meant truly to eradicate poverty in the society, the Government may think of having the village industries included in the historic 20-Point Programme of our late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi and which has also been geared up to the maximum extent by the present Prime Minister Shri Rajivji.

Since this Bill intends to strengthen the economy of the weaker sections it is really a matter of great concern to all of us that the popularity of Khadi is decreasing day by day and the reasons for this should be found out and action should be taken to counter this decreasing popularity and

also to see that it is more and more popularised.

In this connection, I would like to suggest two points. It may be due to admixture and mixing of other yarns like mill-yarn and also polyester yarn with this Khadi cloth. So, this may be one reason. Another reason may be that our Government is giving more and more encouragement to mills. This should be thought over very seriously so that the Khadi and Village industries may be more popular and Khadi is used by the general masses.

Besides the hand-spun and hand-woven clothes are most popular, and are in great demand in Western countries and other advanced countries also. Efforts should be made to make them more and more popular so that it will also be a great foreign exchange earner and thus give a boost to our foreign exchange earnings and national economy.

Now what is happening is that in many of the Khadi Boards in the States there are some Government officers who are connected with the running of those Boards. I would request that there should not be any official to head those Khadi Boards, from now onwards. I am very sorry to say that the Ramakrishna Committee Report has not been thoroughly studied when this Bill was drafted by which many relevant suggestions given by the Ramakrishnaya Committee were not included in this Bill. Those suggestions should be taken into consideration.

46 per cent of the total employees in the khadi and village industries are women-folk. But their condition is so miserable and they are so poverty stricken that the Government should see that these women-folk should be paid sufficient wages...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please resume your seat. There is not much time left. The Minister also has to reply.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: With these words I support the Bill.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support Khadi and Village Industries Commission (Amendment) Bill, 1987. The objectives of the bill are praiseworthy and I support them also.

If we cast a glance on the history of the freedom struggle, we will find that Mahatma Gandhi had adopted non-violence and Khadi during those struggle days and the foreign goods were boycotted and consigned to fire so as to inspire the people to use Khadi.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Khadi and Villages Industries Commission Act, was passed in 1956 and subsequently amendments were carried out in it. In this connection, I would like to say that clause 4 provides for 6 non-official members who are taken on the basis of geographical zones. There are large zones and each zone covers many states. For example, Maharashtra zone or Rajasthan zone covers many states. Instead of taking one member from each zone, one representative from each State should be taken so that every State is represented in it. Suppose, no representative is taken from Rajasthan in the six members who are taken from different zones. This will create problem for Rajasthan because famine occurs in that State and Khadi plays an important role in such difficult times. The woollen Khadi of Barmer and Jaisalmer is very famous but if we have no representative of our State in the panel we will not be able to plead in the Khadi Commission and thus we will not be benefited. Therefore, there should be a representative of each State in it.

In this connection, I have collected some information. According to the figures, as many as 14 lakh persons are employed in khadi industry and as many as 26 lakh persons are employed in village industries. If we compare them with other industries, we will find that as against the investment in the other industries, it is only 1 per cent in



[Shri Virdhi Chander Jain]

the khadi and village industries whereas the employment opportunities in them are 200 percent more than the other industries. This is the distinct feature of the khadi and village industries. In big industries crores of rupees are invested but the number of workers employed in them is quite less. But in the case of khadi and village industries, the investment is meagre whereas the number of workers employed in them is more. You have made a provision of Rs. 60 crores during 1986-87 to promote this programme. But this amount is not sufficient. If you want to expand khadi industry, you will have to invest at least three times more. Besides, you should chalk out a plan for provision of employment to 1 crore 20 lakh workers against the present number of 40 lakh workers. Alongwith the production of khadi the question of creating the market also arises. In this connection you have set out very laudable functions. You have made provision for training so that one can acquire full knowledge of different khadi designs and can also modernise the system and develop it fully. In this way khadi can also be exported. There is a great scope for developing woollen khadi in Barmer and Jaisalmer districts. At present, our State is going through a great crisis. Barmer, Jaisalmer and other areas of Rajasthan have been in the grip of famine for 12 years out of the last 15 years. We do not want temporary famine relief and employment opportunities of which there is no certainty. The programme of woollen khadi in Barmer and Jaisalmer districts can prove to be of great help. You have chalked out scheme in regard to famine and drought prone areas, particularly for Bijapur in Karnataka, Rae Bareilly in U.P., Ramnad in Tamilnadu and for Punjab. Barmer and Jaisalmer districts should be included in the Seventh Five Year Plan for the development of woollen khadi. Besides, there is a need to develop breeds of sheep. The Sheep Breeding Department should be asked to improve the breeds. Our breeds are sent to Australia and we like Australian wool. Forty percent of the wool in the

country is produced in Barmer and Jaisalmer areas. Inerore, there is a need to develop these areas. There is a great exploitation of workers engaged in khadi production. I have submitted amendments on this and I will speak later in this connection. Those women who do spinning for 7 to 8 hours get only Rs. 4 to Rs. 5. In this way, they are being exploited. On the one hand, the khadi cloth is becoming costly and on the other, the workers are being exploited. Mahatma Gandhi and the Congress adopted khadi. It has been the rule in the Congress Party till now that the active members of the party will wear khadi. I am pained when I see that the Ministers as well as the Congress Members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha do not wear khadi. If they follow the philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi, they should invariably wear khadi. If they do not wear khadi, they should be expelled from the Congress. The Congress Party must take action against such Members, because it is essential to wear khadi in the Congress Party. Similar is the rule in the Janata Party. When Morarji Desai became Prime Minister, he laid stress on wearing khadi. If we use khadi, it will be produced more. At present, no department follows the rules which have been formulated for them. Only the class IV employees wear khadi and none else. The high ranking officers as well as the office bearers of the Congress Party do not wear khadi. Therefore, it is very essential to propagate and expand the use of khadi. We should continue the practice of wearing khadi introduced by Mahatma Gandhi. By wearing khadi we can make our life sublime and can lead a simple life. The polyester khadi is proving death knell for the khadi. The use of polyester in khadi should not be allowed. This philosophy of polyester is wrong. Action should be taken against those persons who are using artificial khadi. Such members should be appointed Directors in the Commission who are committed to khadi, who wear khadi and who know spinning on the 'Charkha.' At present, such a situation has developed in which people have lost faith in Khadi. This tendency should be checked. Faith in khadi should be knidled among them.

[English]

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU (Gobichettipalayan): I understand that there is a big list of speakers on this Bill. You promised to take up the Sri Lankan issue by 4 O'Clock. Are you taking up the issue or not?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER. Around 4 O'Clock we will take it up.

PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur): We are prolonging it far too long. We should spare more time for discussing Sri Lankan issue. We should take up Sri Lankan issue.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We will give sufficient time for discussing Sri Lankan issue.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU: After this Bill you will take up Sri Lankan issue.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Yes, yes, after finishing this, we will take up Sri Lankan issue.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU: I suppose, on this Bill there are speakers upto 6 O'Clock.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No, no, not upto that. We will finish it

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): By which time you will take up Sri Lankan issue?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Around 4.30.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY (Puri): Please, do not allow them to speak on this Bill who do not wear khadi.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Manvendra Singh.

[Translation]

SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura):

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (Amendment) Bill, 1967. I would like to remind that Mahatma Gandhi, who had launched the struggle for freedom, had also simultaneously launched khadi movement. Gandhiji had started this movement from those backward villages and towns where he noticed that under the enslaved life most of the people in India had no clothes to wear. He associated 'Charkha' movement with freedom movement and inspired Indians to spin and weave khadi so that those people who have no clothes on their body or wear tattered ones, could be provided indigenously made clothes. 40 years have elapsed since we achieved independence—but even to-day we find that we have not been able to make as much progress in khadi as in the other fields. Gandhiji had made the khadi movement a part and parcel of the freedom struggle so that people living in the villages could be provided employment there itself, khadi may become a means of their livelihood, it may get expansion and publicity through them. It is also an indisputable fact that before independence, even a needle was not being manufactured in India. All commodities used to be imported from abroad. Our entire industrial system was in doldrums during pre-independence period. After independence we have made progress in every field, but when we compare the achievements in khadi vis-a-vis other fields it becomes very distressing for us because we have been lagging behind in the khadi movement which was associated with the freedom struggle by Mahatma Gandhi. I congratulate the Government for this Amendment Bill. As has been mentioned in this Bill, other industries alongwith Khadi and Village Industries can also be brought under its purview in towns having a population upto 10,000 and you have changed their names also alongwith khadi. Not only that, you will induct 6 members having experience in khadi and village industries who will represent 6 geographical zones of the country. Their experiences will be utilised. It is also a commendable step. The reason is that the bureaucrats sitting in the

[Shri Manvendra Singh]

Government do not realise the importance of khadi. They are also ignorant of the requirements in respect of khadi and village industries of the people living in the villages. Due to this the people living in the villages do not get its benefits, which they otherwise ought to get. Gandhiji had visualised that the village people may get strong base through khadi but we have not been able to fulfil it.

Alongwith it, this amendment is also welcomed for the reason that you have combined handicraft products with khadi and village industries. We find that our handicraft art is gradually declining in the villages. What is, therefore, required is to make efforts to promote handicrafts through khadi and village industries so that our people living in the villages may get more and more employment. There should be training centres of khadi and village industries in every village in which women, children and men may receive training in these centres and establish their own industries, may produce khadi and other handicraft goods. Their goods may come to the markets and their living standard may rise. I also suggest that they may be encouraged to produce such goods which we may send abroad and earn foreign exchange. I remember that the then Deputy Chairman of Khadi and Village Industries, Acharya Laxmi Reman was with us during the election work. He had placed a draft plan before us. He had suggested a scheme for the rickshaw pullers in the election meetings. According to the scheme, the rickshaw pullers would acquire the ownership of the rickshaws they are pulling within two years. These rickshaws will be provided to 48 lakh people within 2 years and about 2 lakh people will get employment in its ancillary industries. Through this august House, I would like to request the hon. Minister that he may implement this scheme through which the rickshaw pullers who earn their livelihood with hard labour and great difficulty may be provided with rickshaws, of which they may become the owners sub-

sequently and about 50 lakh (48+2) people may get employment within two years.

With these words I support this Bill and express my thanks to you.

16.00 hrs.

[English]

SHRI SALAHUDDIN (Godda) Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (Amendment) Bill, 1987.

[Translation]

Sir, the Amendment Bill will be considered as a revolutionary step to boost the khadi industry. The Khadi Industries and Village Industries used to have very close connection with the economic development of India. History is the witness that in the olden days also people in England used to buy khadi on marriage occasions and felt very proud to wear it. In this respect muslin produced in Dhaka was also a type of Indian khadi. India has always been proud of khadi.

India is a country of the villages and 80 per cent of its population lives in the villages and depends on agriculture. People undertake farming for 5 months in a year and sit idle during the remaining 7 months. It is the main objective of the Khadi and Village Industries that the farmers who sit idle for 7 months in the villages may be provided industries in the villages itself so that they may get work for 7 months and increase their earnings. On the one hand our farmers are artisans and craftsmen and on the other hand, they undertake farming. History shows that people in the royal courts used to wear khadi made by our artisans. They used to give handsome rewards to them but with the end of the royal courts in India, our artisans started starving. The artifacts of the artisans of the villages used to be presented in the royal courts. Therefore, as soon as the royal courts disappeared, there was nobody to take care of these artisans and they

became paupers. With the setting up of the industries the artisans became labourers in them.

I would also like to say that khadi and village industries are important not only from economic point of view but from social point of view also. Through this we can give a new dimension to the process of development by creating opportunities of employment in the country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through khadi and village industries Mahatma Gandhi had dreamt that there will be 'Charkha' and grinding mill in every house. But the planners did not prepare the plan in conformity with it. This resulted in the gradual downfall of this industry.

To-day, we express concern over the rising unemployment in the country and it has become a challenge for our country. Therefore, in order to solve this problem, it is necessary that we may give a boost to the Khadi and Village Industries.

With these words I support this Bill.

[English]

SHRI K. S. RAO (Machilipatnam): Mr Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am extremely happy to support this Amendment Bill which brings a new definition to the Khadi and Village Industries Act, giving more concentration to the village industries in the rural areas. The general impression today among the public in various parts of the country, particularly, among the younger generation is that it is only for weaving khadi or spinning yarn this Commission is there, and it is not in their interest. But, Sir, today having permitted the population to grow in its own way and not checking it to the requirements of the country, suitability of the resources and socio economic conditions of the country, it is the responsibility of every-one of us including the Government to see that nobody is unemployed in the country. This is possible only when the institutions like Khadi and Village Industries Commission

takes it to the heart, sees that majority of the rural folk are employed, particularly in the village industries, by giving them financial assistance and if necessary by linking up the 20-point programme also.

The Opposition Members have made a lot of criticism about it saying that a lot of corruption is going on in and Khadi and Village Industries Commission.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: ... as in the case of banks.

SHRI K. S. RAO: I wish to ask the hon. Members from the Opposition, through you whether their role is only to criticise that corruption is going on everywhere or is also to see that they also take active part in their own areas, to ensure that the programme is properly implemented then and there and see that those mistakes are rectified. There is no point in just criticising every time and thinking that their role is over. It is not so.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: Whom do you make members of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission?

SHRI K.S. RAO: Members of Parliament are people's representatives. You are also a Member of Parliament. We are also Members of Parliament. In a particular area where you are living, if you also take it to the heart and see that the policies and programmes are implemented properly in identifying the right beneficiaries, absolutely there cannot be any reason or way for us to criticise it. But not one of us is taking the responsibility or accountability in identifying the right beneficiaries in a particular local area or local office. If we try to help them select right beneficiaries, by this means we can encourage right men and we can see that the achievement is made in the right direction as is expected in bringing forward this Amendment of the Act. Let us not restrict our responsibility only to criticise it.

I do accept that there might be some deterioration or some people might have

[Shri K.S. Rao]

misused the funds. I request the hon. Minister also to see that extensive publicity is given about the various programme, schemes and facilities available from the Khadi and Village Industries Commission. These are not known to the commonmen. These things are not even known to the people's representatives at various levels in a particular area. Let the hon. Minister take the responsibility to see that this is widely publicised and, if necessary, elected representatives should be put in charge of the various schemes and they should be encouraged and asked to recruit the right men. After this is done, we can certainly see whether the purpose for which the Khadi and Village Industries Commission was incorporated was achieved or not. The purpose will be achieved. The basic purpose in those days—people are not aware now of the basic purpose because we belong to the new generation—of Mahatma Gandhi in bringing this Khadi Scheme was to bring about unity, commitment, self-respect and patriotism in the people and that purpose has been achieved. But in course of time if anything goes down, we can certainly bring it up particularly by adding the number of village industries which is of prime importance.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Why are they restricting the definition?

SHRI K.S. RAO: I have already said, Khadi and Village Commission...

PROF. MADHU DANAVATE: Don't say Commission. As soon as you say Commission, he suspects.

SHRI K.S. RAO: The programmes can be implemented only when the rural people are trained well. Unfortunately, majority of the beneficiaries today are not suited and they have not got enough skills, to make use of the assistance in the proper way. Without making use of the assistance, they will not only be able to get any benefit but the programmes also will not

be implemented properly. So, I wish that the training facilities must be multiplied to see that the rural skills in various professions suitable to the areas are imparted to the people and then link them up for the purpose of finance.

In regard to the appointing of Members, whether it is Member or his employee, his background must be considered first to ensure that his character or integrity or his commitment and his convictions are suitable to these schemes. If not, if the people are selected only on some personal or political grounds or as favourites of somebody or at the request of somebody, the purpose cannot be achieved. We do observe that in many of the areas where Khadi Bhandars are located, in various cities, the people employed are not all aware or committed to the scheme.

I request the Government to see that only committed people are recruited both as employees and Members. Highest responsibility should be given to non-official Members of the Commission after selecting them taking their background and their convictions into account.

This Commission can also have close liaison with DRDA in various district without which the implementation cannot be proper. In regard to the village industries, modern technologies are to be imported and the people must be brought to a level to adopt those latest technologies.

Elimination of corruption or the scandals must be viewed in a serious manner and there should not be any time-lag in taking necessary action. Improving efficiency is the major factor that is affecting the various sectors.

I wish Mr. Arunachalam and Mr. Vengal Rao who are the Ministers will take this aspect into account as they are in the habit of taking necessary and speedy action in these matters. Incentives have to be given to the people who repay well by way of reducing interest or giving some prizes and by creating some competition among

them and so on. Marketing is a major problem. For the products they are manufacturing in the villages, they are not able to get the right price. The middlemen once again are making money. This has to be cut down.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Everywhere there are middlemen.

SHRI K. S. RAO: This is possible only when the Government takes the responsibility in regard to this.

Our rural handicrafts are facing extinction.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE. See that they will not deposit the money in the Swiss bank!

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Prof. Madhu Dandavate, such words should be expunged. Is it not? They should be expunged!

SHRI K. S. RAO: There are lot of items which are being manufactured in the rural areas which have got export potential also. The Government must find out various avenues of holding and encouraging rural fairs which are very much in demand in various parts of the world.

This aspect needs a thorough scrutiny and encouragement. Keeping all these things in mind, I certainly support this Bill. I wish the Minister must take it to the heart to see that the implementation is made properly by regularly monitoring it at frequent intervals. He should make the measures more stringent in order to take action on the people who are on the wrong side.

DR. PHULRENU GUHA (Contai): Sir, I am very glad for the opportunity given to me to speak a few words on this amending Bill. Definitely, this Bill can bring about a change in the situation of increasing the earning capacity of the people in the rural areas.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolarpur): Change for the worse?

DR. PHULRENU GUHA: I don't believe in it. That is why I still wear khadi and I believe that khadi can do a lot. If small-scale industries like Khadi and Village Industries are enlarged, they can help to promote employment opportunities in the rural areas. In spite of all the efforts, the problem of unemployment and poverty, particularly in the rural areas has not been eradicated...

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: How many congressmen wear khadi?

*(Interruptions)*

DR. PHULRENU GUHA: The agriculturists have got seasonal work only. In other times, they are unemployed. Therefore, if small-scale industries are set up in the rural areas, the villagers can get income by which the condition of poverty and unemployment can be solved.

Sir, it has been proposed that there should be a Committee consisting of 12 members in the place of 5. The Experts Committee has recommended that there should be six non-official members and such persons only should be associated with the Commission who have experience in khadi and village industries. Otherwise, the very purpose of increasing the number will be defeated. About the experts, it is essential that they are from various disciplines like economic, planning, rural development science and technology etc. But the experts must have full faith and commitment to the promotion of khadi and village industries. Unless they have that commitment, nothing will be done. The Commission should give full encouragement, assistance and technical help to the institutions that are working in the rural areas. This should be the largest programme and must reach to all the 165 Districts. It should reach each and every block. Further, support should be given to the new institutions for their working. But the financial conditions are not very good. Special assistance should be given for them to survive. There are rigid laws. But there must be a certain degree of flexibility.

[Prof. Phulrenu Guha]

Sir, I will take only one minute. The conditions of khadi workers are very unsatisfactory. But the conditions of women workers in the khadi and village industries are very very pitiable. It is now high time that various schemes, the women schemes, are upgraded. Special protective measures are needed to upgrade the women scheme and to establish equality among the rural individuals. Provisions regarding child care and maternity benefit and other supportive services have been accepted by the Government. But I am sorry to say that it is totally missing in this amending Bill also.

The last point I would like to point out is that Government and the Khadi and Village Industries Commission should work together in the field of anti-poverty programmes like IRDP and other programmes. They should be closely coordinated. Otherwise, it will not be possible to eradicate the poverty in the villages.

With these words, I support this Bill.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KEYUR BHUSHAN (Raipur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to present first the ideology behind Khadi so that our friends from the opposition parties can fully support this Bill and I am confident that they will do so. I am saying it because khadi had begun as a part of the National Movement. I think that history is again repeating itself. Mahatma Gandhi used khadi as a counter weapon against imperialistic attempts of ruining our economic system; trying to keep us slaves till eternity and for making our country a ready market of their goods. Khadi was a big blow for imperialism at that time and the situation is being repeated again. Imperialistic forces are again resurging today. Whatever is happening is known to everyone. It is the conspiracy of the imperialistic forces which are out to destroy India and to counter such forces Mahatma Gandhi in the shape of khadi has again emerged on the

scene. Khadi should not be considered as mere cloth or a means for providing employment. Khadi is being re-established today to defeat the forces of imperialism. We want to make our country self-reliant today. Can we achieve self-reliance by mechanisation and will everyone get employment if we go in for greater mechanisation? To counter imperialistic evil designs and to strengthen the country everyone must get employment. It is only through khadi and village industries that we can provide employment to our people and make them self-reliant. Khadi and village industries are the only solution for overpopulated countries like ours. The developed countries generally have a very small population. If they go in for mechanisation, enough employment opportunities will still be available for them but the same is not true for overpopulated countries like India where mechanisation will only create more unemployment. Mechanisation increases production but it reduces employment opportunities also. That is why Mahatma Gandhi had said that machines should be used to the extent that they assist development but they should not displace people. Mahatma Gandhi had presented a very rational view of the use of machines. He was not against scientific development but he wanted that science should not be used to bring an end to humanity. We should guard against that. Khadi and village industries should be used to provide employment to our people in the villages and make them self-reliant. I want to make one request that khadi and village industries should not be viewed just as other industry. It should be decentralised in a way that at least one industry is opened in every village to make them self-reliant.

'Khadi and Village Industries' sector has become a sanctuary for the politicians. The people who do not get any other position become Members or Chairman of its Commission. Only these persons who have devoted their lives for khadi should be appointed in it. When this Commission was constituted the Prime Minister of our country was late Pt. Jawaharalal Nehru. He

had appointed late Vaikunth Lal Mehta as the Chairman who was an expert on khadi. Today also there are hundreds of people who are working in this field. You should select persons among them to ensure development in this sector.

Alongwith it, I want to say that Government has been spending a large amount of money for the industrialisation of the country. I do not have any objections to it. Industrialisation is essential for the security of the country. But at the same time you should spend at least one fourth of that amount for the development of khadi and village industries. In this context I want to tell you that at least 25 people are required just to spin the thread before production of khadi. After that comes weaving, dyeing and printing. One Ambar Charkha gives employment to at least 10 people. That is why I am supporting the Bill. Gandhiji had stated in reference to the utility of khadi that it will be a weapon in our fight with the imperialistic forces and it will help us in strengthening the country and in making the Britishers flee the country within a year. Again the same forces have come together and want to enslave our country. We will use every thread of khadi to defeat such forces. It is my submission to you.

[English]

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK (Cuttack) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I welcome this Bill. The basic philosophy of the khadi and its programme as advocated by Mahatma Gandhi is 'Swadeshi' that is product produced in our country, 'Swavalamban' means self-reliance and 'Swabhiman' means pride with respect. The development of our economy with khadi and village industries should be taken as our programme and with the increase of our industries, this khadi and village industries should receive due attention. The total investment on khadi and village industries is little over Rs. 500 crores as against Rs. 50000 on public sector undertakings.

Sir, coming to employment in the public sector undertakings which are nearly 300

provide employment for 20 lakh people, whereas 1% of investment of this public undertaking will create 200% of employment generation. That is why we should give more emphasis on khadi and village industries and the Government is trying to give a thrust to the village oriented industries. Here I want to say that this should be extended to the municipalities and NIC area of an undeveloped State. This should be specified that for more than 5 lakh population should be considered as urban area. Secondly, there will be a commission which will have regional representation from six regions. I want to say that these regional representatives should cover all the States at some time or other. So far, Orissa has not got any opportunity to get the representation. Thirdly, we know that there are 1100 registered bodies and 30000 cooperatives. But they are starved of funds and finances. So we urge for more financial assistance and it should be ensured that institutions get full finance in the form of grant and loan.

Sir, the subsidy component of khadi and village industries should be at par with that of IRDP. We know some of the khadi and village industries programmes are being criticised that they are not implemented properly. For this, I would like to say that the field wing of different khadi and village industries board should be strengthened in order to have better implementation of the programme. Then all the industrial multi-purpose cooperatives should be provided with a paid secretary and the salary should be borne by the khadi and village industries for better implementation of the programme. I would like to say here that the technological support must be there. It is an important thing that Regional Training Centres should be there in every State and besides this, there must be the regional office opened in tribal area in order to give financial assistance as well as infrastructural assistance to the people in the tribal areas.

Khadi Commission may be requested to send a panel of experts for taking up a



[Shrimati Jayanti Patnaik]

quick industrial potential survey with reference to Khadi and Village Industries activities mainly in the afflicted areas. In Orissa there are Kalahandi, Koraput, Phulbani and Bolangir areas. They should be taken care of.

Khadi Commission have provided financial assistance to some drought affected States in 1986-87. But Orissa is also facing problems and in view of the large percentage of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes population in the State, special assistance may be provided to Orissa

I would like to mention that Polyvastra Scheme which comes under the Khadi and Village Industry, has been taken up in Orissa in a big way and it was envisaged to take up the scheme in all the 314 blocks of the State. So far, this scheme has started in 126 blocks providing employment to 3654 women in the rural areas. Some of the speakers already have spoken about the marketing problems. Unfortunately, the finished products are not selling to our expectations. A stock of polyester fabrics to the extent of Rs. 70 lakhs have been piled up in the godowns of Orissa State Handloom Development Corporation Ltd and Orissa State Handloom Weavers' Cooperative Society Ltd., who are producing polyester fabrics on behalf on the Khadi and Village Industry Board. Large quantities of handspun yarn are also lying with these two organisations. In spite of 40% rebate—20% by State Government and 20% by Khadi Commission—these fabrics are not selling to our desired satisfaction. So, the Government of India may issue instructions to the concerned organisations to give marketing support for selling of these polyester fabrics. Because so many women are employed in this and this is creating such a major problem.

With these words I support the Bill.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUS-

TRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir: I am indeed grateful to my colleague from both the sides for their abiding interest in the Khadi and Village industries movement and for their valuable suggestions. The last two days of discussions in this august House on Khadi and Village Industries Amendment Bill have been of great educative value to me. I must assure them at the very outset that I have taken careful note of all the suggestions and shall endeavour to follow them up.

The Rajya Sabha, I may recall, had considered the Bill and passed it unanimously with some amendments. The amendments related to the composition of the Commission, emphasizing the mission oriented nature of the organisation as distinguished from a bureaucratic set up. There was, I noted with gratitude and satisfaction, an unanimous feeling in this House that Khadi and Village industries commission should serve the villages better; except for my very learned friend and my senior colleague Mr. Chatterjee who has given an amendment

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE. It is a good amendment, you should accept that

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM. The amendment, it seems, says that we have to take the village industries to the towns also. I myself come from a remote village in the southernmost corner of this country. I know the village problems and the village life intimately. I am also aware that given the chance, our villagers will develop a high degree of initiative and skill. They have the talent. Only we have to exploit the talent and show the way.

I am tempted to quote Mahatma Gandhi who was fondly remembered more than once during the discussions. Writing in *Free India* in December 1929, Gandhi said:

To serve our villages is to establish Swaraj. Everything else is but an idle dream."

Sir, I find that this was the central theme in the speech of Prof. Ranga, a veteran amongst us. As Prof. Ranga said the Khadi and Village Industries sector gives self-employment which is self-respecting and, therefore, all the more satisfying and rewarding. Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru had this in mind when he said at the inauguration of the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board in February, 1953:

"The issue, therefore, is not merely the advancement of the cause of khadi and village industries. It involves the advancement of the cause of the nation and the well-being of the people. This should, therefore, be dovetailed into the general planning of the people as a whole."

Sir, there is a complete agreement in this House that the re-definition of the village industries to cover new industries is a welcome step. My friends, Sarvashri Ramachandra Reddy, Das, Krishna Iyer, Vyas, Janga Reddy, Dennis, Natarajan, Rao and others felt that we could have gone a little further and raised the limit to Rs. 25,000/- or Rs. 30,000/- as recommended by the Ramakrishna Committee.

Sir, I must plead that we are guilty of a certain degree of caution. We are conscious of the tremendous response that this change in the definition will evoke from the artisans but we should also build up the capability to meet their expectations. We, therefore, thought that we could begin with this somewhat lower ceiling of Rs. 15,000/- and as we gain experience and as we strengthen our organisation, increase the limit. That is why the Bill provides for increasing the limit by notification which will be laid before this House.

In this context I am glad to note that the demand has been made in this House that the allocation of funds for the Khadi and Village industries should be increased manifold. Prof. Ranga said that the allocation should be raised by ten times. Even this limit of Rs. 15,000/- is going to strain

the resources of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission to such an extent that I will have to go to my colleague in the Finance Ministry and the Planning Commission for additional funds. But now that we have the support of this House for a higher allocation for this sector I have no doubt that we will be able to get additional resources.

Before I turn to the other points raised in the debate I wish to reiterate again that the khadi institutions in urban areas will continue to be assisted and promoted by Khadi and Village Industries Commission.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Only the existing units.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Yes, of course. We are not touching the khadi industries at all in the urban areas. It is only in respect of the village industries that we intend to concentrate in the rural areas during the coming years. We have covered only a fraction of our villages through the village industries programme and it is essential that at least by the turn of this century we cover all the villages of the country either individually or in clusters. In this connection I must refer to an apprehension expressed by some members of the House that the proposed definition would exclude any village. I would invite the attention of the members again to the wording of the Bill. All the villages will be eligible to be covered in the new scheme of things. What we have said is that in addition to the villages areas with a population of 10,000 or such other number as may be prescribed will also be considered eligible since we found that there were towns and town panchayats with a population of less than 10,000 in some States. Sir, here again we have followed the definition in the NABARD Act and the wording of the Bill would show that we can change this number if there is any difficulty by notification which will be laid in this House. I would request the hon. Members to let us know if they come across any problem on this score, I promise immediate action.

[Shri M. Arunachalam]

My friend from Andhra Pradesh, Shri Janga Reddy, has alleged some irregularities, corruption charges, misappropriation in Andhra Pradesh Khadi & Village Industries Board. Sir, for his information, I would like to say that the Khadi & Village Industries Boards are administered by the State Governments. I request him to take the issue with the State Government. If he is prepared to give any specific instances, we will talk to the State Government through our Opposition leader, Shri Madhav Reddi, or directly to the Chief Minister.

Sir, there were understandably enough repeated references to the living conditions of the artisans. Shri Dass, Shri Vyas, Shri Chaturvedi, Shri Pradhan, Shri Rawat and others referred to this. This is a major problem causing concern to us also. By and large, in the village industries sector, the wages provide a certain minimum livelihood but in the khadi sector where women are employed, the wages are still inadequate. Only two years ago, we increased the wages of the spinners and weavers by 25% to 40%. This pushed up the cost and we, therefore, increased our standing rebate from 10% to 15%. Much more remains to be done and with the support of this House, I am sure, we will be able to serve our artisans better.

I have also taken up the question of labour laws with the Ministry of Labour. We have to weigh the interests of the artisans vis-a-vis the economic viability of this sector. The solution lies in increasing productivity and it is with this in view that we have proposed to induct scientists/technologists in the Commission.

Sir, the Ramakrishnaya Committee in its second part of the Report, which has been placed in the Library, has dealt extensively with science and technology and the next decade is going to be a challenging period to the KVIC for they will have to expand their activity, increase productivity, induct new means of production and enhance the quality of life of the artisans

by eliminating drudgery and increasing wage levels. It is in this context that the selection of members of the Commission assumes great importance, as the hon. Members have stressed repeatedly during the last two days.

Sir, I must assure the Members that, as one responsible to the House, it will be my duty to ensure that members appointed to the Commission have faith in the philosophy behind the khadi and village industries and have the ability to implement the programmes in the field and will not be mere dreamers.

Sir, Shri Krishna Iyer wanted to know whether the Government have accepted all the recommendations of the Ramakrishnaya Committee. Sir, we have accepted all the major recommendations of the Committee contained in the first part of the Report which was submitted in June 1986 and this Bill was introduced in December 1986—within six months of the submission of the Report. Sir, this shows the earnestness and commitment with which we have processed the Report. The second part was received in February this year and is under process. This report mostly deals with the internal set-up of the KVIC and discusses measures to activate the Commission and the act may or may not need any further amendments.

There was a reference to the problems of marketing in this sector. Yesterday, I was reading the story of Gandhiji's experiments with truth and I found that Gandhiji faced all these problems when he started the Khadi movement. Getting the yarn was difficult in the first place and finally when the first piece of khadi was manufactured, it cost, in those days 17 annas per yard and it was very coarse. Here I quote Gandhiji

"I did not hesitate to commend this very coarse khadi at that rate to friends, who willingly paid the price."

But not we cannot sell the khadi and village

industries products by mere sentiments alone. They have to be of quality as Shri Mahajanji, my learned colleague mentioned in the House. They have to be reasonably competitive. We must have a good marketing strategy. It is with this view in mind that the Committee has recommended in the second part of the report the setting up of a separate marketing corporation under the Khadi and Village Industries commission. We are yet to take a final view on this but the hon. Members would have noted that the Bill provides for establishment and maintenance of separate organizations by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission.

Shri Rawatji referred to involvement of the banking sector for increasing assistance to Khadi and Village Industries Commission institutions. During the last 2-3 years, we have resorted to the banking sector and the response has been encouraging. From Rs. 7.75 crores in 1979-80, it has gone upto Rs. 74.34 crores in 1985-86.

There is an utmost need for integration of other programmes as mentioned by Prof. Rangaji. We have already made an attempt in this direction in a few districts. We hope to extend this in the coming years.

I have tried to cover all the major points raised during this most informative and informed debate. If I have not specifically mentioned any particular point, it is not because it is less important but because I have already taken a lot of time of the hon. Members. In view of what I have said, I hope the Members would not press for their amendments.

DR. PHULRENU GUHA: What about providing child care and maternity welfare for the workers?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: I will come to that.

The Prime Minister while presenting the 1987-88 Budget had said:

"We launched an important scheme to enlarge employment

opportunities for the urban poor. I have extensively toured and seen the work being done in the most backward and remote villages of our country. Talking to the people, face to face, I know how much more needs to be done. I am convinced that we are making progress in our struggle against poverty."

I wish to add that the amendment we have brought before you is only in fulfilment of the assurance given by our beloved Prime Minister to the people in remote villages.

I would like to conclude my speech with a quotation from Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. I quote.

"In my own mind an idea is growing daily that the yardstick by which one can measure the economic progress of a country is the extent of employment. We have been talking of having a Welfare State. A Welfare State is one where every citizen is a partner, sharing its benefits and responsibilities equally. The citizen must realise that he is actually a partner in the State. People must have full employment. How could there be a Welfare State if people could not get employment? For the unemployed, the Welfare State had no meaning."

Sir, the Bill before this House is a step in this direction, in the direction of providing employment to the citizens of this country.

I appeal to hon. Members on both sides of the House to give their unanimous support to this Bill and pass this with cheers. Our beloved leader, Shrimati Indira Gandhi had said:

"Khadi and Village Industries are not only necessary but important for the country and I hope that besides tried and tested workers, even the younger generation will

[Shri M. Arunachalam]

develop an interest in this branch of constructive work."

We will be only remembering her when we pass this Bill today for we are opening up the village industries so that the younger generation will be drawn in.

As regards the point raised by hon. lady member Shrimati Phulrenu Guha, I would like to inform that we have taken up the matter with the Ministry of Labour. The Ministry of Labour have constituted a Committee to go into the problems relating to labour. As soon as their report comes, we will study it and take necessary action.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill. Mr. Somnath Chatterjee, are you moving your amendments to Clause 2?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Yes Sir. I press my amendments. As there are four amendments, I should be given time proportionately.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You first move your three amendments to Clause 2.

*Clause 2. (Amendment of Section 2)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I beg to move:

Page 2,—

(i) line 6,

after "town" insert—

"or city, except a metropolitan city;"

(ii) lines 6 to 8

omit "the population of which does not exceed ten thousand or such other figure as the Central Government may specify from time to time;"(4)

Page 2,—

Omit lines 11 to 31. (5)

Page 2, lines 16 to 20,—

Omit "in which the fixed capital investment per head of an artisan or a worker does not exceed fifteen thousand or such other sum as may, by notification in the official Gazette, be specified from time to time by the Central Government:" (6)

Sir, before I speak on my amendments, I want to know how many members there will be in the Commission. I specifically raise this question because in the Bill that has been introduced in the Rajya Sabha, the number of members is given as 12. Now it has become 10. Is it a conscious change or a printing mistake?

Secondly, as we all know, this Bill relates to a very important sector of our economy, covering rural, semi-urban and urban areas. The Minister himself has stated that this is an instrument in our struggle against poverty. Ritualistically, they mention the name of the Prime Minister too. Struggle against poverty is very important and a very important role is played by this Khadi and Village industries sector in this direction. This is as important as the interpretation of Article 78 of the Constitution. As you know, there are 3 sub-articles to Article 78. Now, what is the true meaning of Article 78? There is a controversy going on in this regard in the country.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is the relevance of it now?

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Why are they so upset? Are the words 'Constitution of India' unparliamentary? Why are they so allergic?

*(Interruptions)*

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Let us see how he interprets Article 78 in this context!

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: We do not know what questions are asked by the President.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: I do not understand how it is relevant to this Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: In view of the important role played by this sector, the President is most likely to ask for some information.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please confine yourself to this Bill and to your amendments.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: He is showing disrespect to the President!

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You only speak on the Amendment.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Very well, Sir. Is President of India unparliamentary? Is the Constitution of India unparliamentary? What can I do? I have to bow down to you. What is this Amendment? Then hon. Minister says, it will include any village and the town with only a population of less than 15,000...

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM (Salem): Ten thousand.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I stand corrected—less than ten thousand. Can the Minister say that the poor people live only in villages? There are poor people also in the urban areas, semi-urban areas.

We do not know. We have to provide the wherewithals—the livelihood—to so many people who are coming from outside the State of Mr. Satyendra Narayan Sinha. *(Interruptions)* I mean we do not mind. We are quite happy. They are quite happy in West Bengal. There is no communal trouble, no caste trouble, no tribal problem and there is no law and order problem. There is democratic right. There is no preventive detention. There is no police present. Therefore, people will not be ready coming here because they can live with honour and dignity and unless *(Interruptions)* Why did he mention Calcutta? I have to reply to him.

Therefore, I am saying that if the object is the removal of poverty, as he is the panel Chairman, he should restrain himself...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now as a Member, he is reacting. What to do?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Some day, he will protest and he may raise a point of order from the Chair itself. Then there will be a problem.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: He should not behave like this. At this rate, he may become the Speaker also.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Therefore, I am submitting that the emphasis on removal of poverty and giving opportunities to the poor people to start an industry of this magnitude which is being contemplated here, then why do restrict it to only 10,000?

I am sure, Mr. Sontosh Mohan Dev who has come from Silchar, has many poor people there. He would like to advocate for setting up industries for these people also i.e. Khadi and Village Industries. But why should it be restricted? Sir, they cannot speak. They are gagged. They have no right to speak. We can only speak....

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You come to the point.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Therefore what I am saying is that it should also include cities. Maybe in deference to the Minister's allergy, I have excluded the Metropolitan cities. But you accept other Amendment, namely, it should include cities. And then the necessary corollary is being used, to delete that provision. Where is the necessity for restriction? We do not understand this. Why are you making a restrictive provision in this Bill, if your object is to expand the scope of the Bill, so that more and more industries can be set up in different parts of this country? Therefore, we do not want this. We do not agree. We do not understand the rationale of the restrictive provisions in this Bill when that was not there. How can the Khadi and Village industries as defined have an expanded or have greater area of operation as compared to the restrictive operation in the existing Act? Of course, he will not be replying to it because it does not contain in the written answer.

Secondly, the other important thing is regarding the definition of the Village Industries. No doubt, you are very much concerned with this. Kindly look at the definition of the Village Industries. I know you are aware, Sir. May I remind you?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You tell, Sir. Everybody knows it.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: No, Sir. Kindly see that. But, how they are mutilating it now?

"Village Industry" means —

"All or any of the Industries specified in the Schedule and includes any other industry deemed to be specified in the Schedule by way of Notification"

This is under Section 3. That is the present law. What they are trying to do is that, they are excluding all industries which may be set up in future in urban or semi-urban areas or small towns. The proviso only covers the existing one. But no new indus-

try in the towns will come within the scope of this Bill. For whose benefit this is being done? We do not understand. Ordinarily, the basic objective is to strengthen this sector of our economy which can really create jobs, which can really come to the benefit of the people and can be an effective programme for alleviation of poverty. But how are you implementing them? If your idea is to make it more and more restrictive, it cannot be for the good of the people and of the country. That is why I have suggested that it should be restricted to industries, as provided in the first part of the meaning of village industries. The rest of it should be amended.

I will not take much of your time. My amendment No. 6 is an alternative to No. 5. If they do not accept No.5, they should at least accept No. 6, so that this law can be more effective i.e. this Bill can be a more effective instrument in eradicating poverty, or in attempting to eradicate poverty —it will be perpetuated as long as they rule, we have no doubt; but even then let there be a pretence of an attempt to remove poverty; but poverty cannot be removed till they are in power.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Though it is not relevant to his amendment, I would like to inform him that the Khadi and Village Industries Commission will be having ten members — six non-official members, two experts.....

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: The Statement of Objects and Reasons said it would be twelve. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Kindly hear me. (*Interruptions*) The Chief Executive Officer and the Financial Adviser are two official members. They have no voting right. This is clear in the Bill. Coming to the amendment.....

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: On a point of order, Sir. This is the trouble. The Minister has not had the time to read his own Statement of Objects and Reasons. It is said there:

"In order to discharge the new

responsibility of the Commission in promoting village industries, it is proposed to strengthen the Commission and increase the maximum membership to twelve."

And the Bill introduced in the Rajya Sabha contains provision for twelve members. Why is it suddenly reduced to ten, I ask. Sir: You did not allow me to ask that. I would like to know why it has been reduced from twelve to ten, when his Statement of Objects and Reasons says it will be twelve. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: This Bill has been introduced after a careful study of all the amendments carried out by the Rajya Sabha.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Why have you done it?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: This was the amendment carried out by the Rajya Sabha.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Is this the answer? Was it a Government amendment in Rajya Sabha? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: It is an amendment carried out in Rajya Sabha. I am repeating that it was carried out in the Rajya Sabha.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It was done in the Rajya Sabha; that is all.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Why have they changed what is contained in the Statement of Objects and Reasons? The Minister says he does not know.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: In the Rajya Sabha they made the amendment. They have said it. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: What have they said? Was it a Government, or a private amendment that was accepted?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Kindly go

through the proceedings of the Rajya Sabha. You will be knowing it.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: This is the answer of the Minister...

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: I appreciate the concern of the hon. Member Shri Somnath Chatterjee for the poor in the urban areas. But I am afraid that as far as village industries are concerned, the Khadi and Village Industries Commission should have to concentrate on the villages in future.

Hon. Member Shri Somnath Chatterjee would have noted that we are not disturbing, in any manner, the present arrangements for the allocation of the Khadi industries in any town. At present, only around 1.5 lakh villages out of the six lakh villages in the country are covered by khadi and village industry activities. In this kind of a situation, there is no justification for the Khadi and Village Industries Commission assisting units in urban areas. Industries in urban areas have better access to institutional finances. This Bill, again, will enable the Khadi and Village Industries Commission to concentrate on rural industrialization. I hope the hon. Member will withdraw his amendments. Otherwise, we are not accepting them.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I will not withdraw them.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I now put the amendments No. 4, 5 and 6 moved by Shri Somnath Chatterjee to the vote of the House.

*Amendments Nos 4 to 6 were put and negatived.*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clauses 2 to 4 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clauses 2 to 4 were added to the Bill.*



*Clause 5 (Substitution of new Section for Section 5 and 6)*

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS (Bhilwara):  
I beg to move:

Page 3,-

after line 43, insert —

"(f) if he is trustee/office bearer of a Khadi and/or Village Industries institution/Co-operative Society aided or recognised by Khadi and Village Industries Commission or any State Khadi and Village Industries Board." (1)

[*Translation*]

My amendment is that

[*English*]

"6. A person shall be disqualified for being a member of the Commission—"

[*Translation*]

Below this in sub-clause (a) to (e) it has been mentioned as to who would be disqualified. I want to add clause (f) to it that such people should be disqualified who have vested interests. The following are people who have vested interests.

[*English*]

If he is trustee/office bearer of a Khadi and/or Village Industries institution/Co-operative society aided or recognised by Khadi and Village Industries Commission or any State Khadi and Village Industries Board.

[*Translation*]

The purpose of my amendment is that persons with vested interests should not be appointed as the members of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission because such people will help their own institutions. As you are aware that there is

a lot of corruption in several Khadi and Village Industries about which Several hon. Members have pointed out. Hence, if persons belonging to these corrupt institutions or cooperative societies are appointed as the Members of the Commission, they will indulge in malpractices to protect their own institutions. Therefore, such persons should not be appointed as Members.

[*English*]

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: I would like to point out to the hon. Member that Clause 6 (a) to (e) would take care of the proposed amendment moved by the hon. member as this would have covered all such possible situation where the membership attracts such disqualification. Hence I request the hon. Member to withdraw his amendment.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do you want to withdraw your amendment?

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS: Yes.

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

SEVEPAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

*Amendment No. 1 was, by leave, withdrawn.*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clauses 5 to 8 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clauses 5 to 8 were added to the Bill.*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Clause 9, Shri Girdhari Lal Vyas' amendment is there.

*Clause 9 - (Substitution of new Section for Section 15)*

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS: I beg to

move:

after line 42, insert --

"(KK) to ensure protection of the interest of workers/artisans engaged by the Khadi and Village Industries Institutions/Cooperative Societies, involving funds of Khadi and Village Industries Commission directly or through its any agency, against any exploitation and to ensure them reasonable conditions of employment." (2)

I am suggesting this amendment for ensuring protection of the interests of workers/artisans engaged by the Khadi and Village Industries, Institutions/Cooperative Societies, involving funds of Khadi and Village Industries Commission directly or through any agency against any exploitation and to ensure them reasonable conditions of employment.

[*Translation*]

My submission is, and the hon. Minister had also stated this, that the workers and artisans engaged in the Khadi and Village Industries are getting Rs. 3 or Rs. 4 per day against minimum wage of Rs. 11 per day. Some law should be enacted to ensure minimum wage to these persons. It is necessary that the power to protect the interests of such workers and artisans should be given to the Commission to protect the interests of these workers and to save them from victimisation. It will put an end to the exploitation of these people. 40 lakh people are engaged in this sector and they are not paid even minimum wages due to which they are not able to live properly. Hence, it is my humble request that my amendment may be accepted and the Commission be granted powers so that these 40 lakh workers may get full wages and the exploitation by the institutions may also come to an end. This is the amendment which I have proposed and I hope that it will be accepted.

[*English*]

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: The amendment proposed by the hon. Member relates to the protection of the interests of workers and artisans engaged in the Khadi and Village Industries. In this regard, it may be noted that the Labour Ministry is seized of the matter and I have personally taken up the matter with the Labour Ministry. The Labour Ministry has appointed a study group to go into the various labour laws applicable to the Khadi and Village Institutions and how their application or otherwise can be modified for this purpose. As soon as the report of the study group comes we will again take up with the Labour Ministry. Therefore, I would request the hon. Member to withdraw this amendment.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS: I withdraw.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Is it the pleasure of the House that the amendment moved by Shri Girdhari Lal Vyas be withdrawn?

*Amendment No. 2 was by leave, withdrawn.*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clauses 9 to 14 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clauses 9 to 14 were added to the Bill.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Clause 15, Shri Girdhari Lal Vyas' amendment is there.

Clause 15 (Amendment of Section 27)

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS (Bhilwara): I beg to move:

Page 8, —

after line 5, insert---

"28. The Commission shall have

Power of frame rules to check and to initiate appropriate action, including legal action against any trustee/office bearer of Khadi institutions/Cooperative societies or an individual aided by the Commission or any of its agency found responsible for misappropriation, avoidable losses and expenditure of funds against objectives of Khadi and Village Industries Commission." (3)

I am suggesting that the Commission should have powers to frame rules to check and to initiate appropriate action including legal action against any trustee/office bearer of Khadi institutions/Cooperative societies or an individual/aided by the Commission or any of its agency, found responsible for misappropriation, avoidable losses and expenditure of funds against objectives of Khadi and Village Industries Commission.

[Translation]

Such complaints come to us everyday and the Commission does not have any power to initiate action against them. So I want that the Commission should have such powers. There are no provisions in this Bill by which the Khadi and Village Industries Commission can initiate action against any institution found responsible for misappropriation of funds. That is why I have proposed this amendment by which the Commission can be strengthened, proper distribution of funds will be ensured, people will get proper employment and your aim can be fulfilled. If we take all this into consideration, this amendment becomes very necessary. If you do not accept this amendment, the Commission will not be able to check the constant misappropriation of funds. I hope the hon. Minister will accept the amendment which I have proposed.

[English]

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: The pro-

posed amendment by the hon. Member appears to protect the interest of KVIC programmes including safeguarding the funds of the Commission and as such, we should welcome it. However, this cannot be considered now. If necessary, at a later stage, we can come up with a suitable amendment taking into account all these relevant facts into the proposed amendment of the hon. Member. At this stage, I request him not to insist on the amendment.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS: I seek leave of the House to withdraw my amendment.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Has shri Girdhari Lal Vyas leave of the House to withdraw his amendment?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

*(Amendment No. 3 was, by leave, withdrawn)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clauses 15 to 17 stand part of the Bill "

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clauses 15 to 17 were added to the Bill.*

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

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed"

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed"

*The motion was adopted*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, we take up discussion under rule 193.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): Before you take up the discussion, we would like to know whether the discussion will extend to tomorrow or some other issues are to be carried out.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I will let you know

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: We have to plan our journey accordingly.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: If we do not sit tomorrow, then we will finish it today by sitting late, otherwise, it will continue tomorrow

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: The normal procedure is that the House is informed in time whether there is a proposal to extend the sitting of the House

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I will find out.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: People have to go. They must know whether there is a sitting or not.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT): We are going to have a sitting of the House tomorrow

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I think, the House will accept extension of the sitting of the House by one day.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: In the absence of the Business Advisory Committee it is the Parliamentary Minister who informs the House about the business of the House. We would like to know as to what is going to be the agenda for tomorrow.

SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT: Whatever business is left in today's agenda, that will be taken up tomorrow. Tomorrow we have got two or three important Bills coming up in the Order Paper.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: What about discussion on Punjab?

SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT: I cannot say.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU. (Gobichettipalayam) Sir, there has not been even the sitting of the Business Advisory Committee also. Everyday they are extending the House without the knowledge of the Members. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY (Katwa): What is going on? Everyday in the evening they say it has been extended.

SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT: Sir, if I remember correctly, they had requested the hon. Speaker about a discussion on Punjab. He is taking up that also. I can let the hon. Members know in another twenty-five minutes what is going to happen because I have just now been told that we are going to have a sitting of the House tomorrow. If they will bear with me for another 10-15 minutes, I will let them know what is going to happen?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: What about the motion on Article 78?

SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT: I cannot tell you that just now....

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU: My request is if there is a sitting of the House tomorrow, let us take up this matter tomorrow as the first item.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, I am sorry.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU: It is already 5.20 now.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will take forty minutes now and then tomorrow we will take up in the beginning itself.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU: Now only

[Shri P. Kolandaivelu]

one or two Members will be able to speak, that is all.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It will come as the first item tomorrow. Let them speak tomorrow. We will continue tomorrow.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have got a problem. I have to go away now. So, please carry on tomorrow.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is your problem. What can I do, Sir?

SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT: It will be carried on till tomorrow.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Mohanty, you speak now...

*(Interruptions)*

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Every-day they are extending the House. I am not talking about you, but I am talking about the Parliamentary Affairs Minister. They go on extending like that. We have programmes and all that. Tomorrow again it will be extended; we do not know the purpose for which it is extended and those items on the agenda are also dropped. What is this?

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): What an *ad hoc* method in which the House is being treated!..... *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour): There is no consideration for the people... *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Sir, you must make an observation at this *ad hoc* manner in which we are treated and the callous attitude that is being taken towards the Lok Sabha sittings and its business also. You must make an observation from the Chair. It is a very *ad hoc* manner. We do not know. From day to day it is being continued

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Are we

casual labour who are engaged on daily basis? What is this? It has never happened like that.... *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Even till now we do not know what will be the business tomorrow. This is a very *ad hoc* manner and callous attitude that is being taken towards the business of this House.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: O.K., we will see.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: You, sitting in that exalted Chair, must make an observation on this method that is being adopted.....*(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is a Business Advisory Committee. Let them...

*(Interruptions)*

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: There is no Business Advisory Committee...

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will convey the feelings of the Members to the Minister...

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have conveyed the Members' feelings to the Minister. They will take care of your objection....

*(Interruptions)*

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: The Ministers are taking the Chair for a run. They cannot function in a tyrannical manner like this.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: Sir you are neutral. You give your judgement. Is it the way to run the House?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have expressed your views. I have conveyed your feelings to the Minister. There may be some urgency, I will find out.

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum): Sir, you must safeguard our rights.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, definitely.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: We are a political functionary... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI (Adilabad): At least let them tell us what is the business for tomorrow.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: She has said that she is going to inform. Within 10-15 minutes she is going to inform. She has already said that. Madam, after fifteen minutes you try to tell them what is the agenda for tomorrow.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: Such an important matter..... (*Interruptions*).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have told the Minister. She will inform. Don't worry.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: This has never happened before.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I thought that *ad hocism* was only the characteristic of the Government, but it has become the characteristic of this House also.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: Sir, in that case let us discuss Article 78. That business is already there. The Speaker has admitted that.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We will see what is the possibility. The Minister will find out. Mr. Mohanty, you can carry on.

17.25 hrs.

DISCUSSION RE: SITUATION ARISING OUT OF THE ESCALATION OF VIOLENCE IN SHRI LANKA

[English]

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY (Puri): What is the scenario to-day in Sri

Lanka? If you observe minutely, perhaps it is human civilisation marching backward.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Order please.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY: What is the scenario to-day in Sri Lanka?

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour): You are taking the place of Shri Tewary.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY: I do not know whether that word has been monopolised by any Member.

The situation prevailing in Sri Lanka is distressing. Not only it is distressing but also one feels as if the human civilisation is marching backward. What is the situation to-day? Jayawardhane Government is using Army and Air Force against the citizens. It is unusual. Nowhere Army and Air Force are engaged against the citizens. Not only that, the economic blockade, the communication blockade is there. In order to punish the militants, the entire population including the civil population, they were denied the opportunity of getting their provision of economic needs or communication needs. This is unfortunate.

This is not all. So far as the Tamil population is concerned, they are not safe. I mean to say, the civil Population, apart from the militants, their safety and security is not assured.

In the year 1986 alone, 2000 people had been killed. Most of them are Tamil. This I am saying from the version of the Government of India. 1,30,000 Tamil people exodus, they are inside India. That is on Government of India account. You imagine the situation there. The April 21 massacre took place in Colombo. Of course, Government of India have condemned it. The normal impression is, perhaps, the militants have committed it. But as a matter of fact it is the Israeli Mossad who have committed it. It is not my version.