

12.20½ hrs.

FINANCE (AMENDMENT) BILL*
1987

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Finance Act, 1987.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Finance Act, 1987.”

The Motion was adopted.

SHRI B.K. GADHVI : I introduce** the Bill.

STATEMENT GIVING REASONS
FOR IMMEDIATE LEGISLATION
BY THE FINANCE (AMENDMENT)
ORDINANCE, 1987.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI) : I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) giving reasons for immediate legislation by the Finance (Amendment) Ordinance, 1987.

12.21 hrs.

CUSTOMS AND CENTRAL EXCISES
LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI

B.K. GADHVI) : On behalf of Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Customs Act, 1962, the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 and the Customs and Excise Revenues Appellate Tribunal Act, 1986.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Customs Act, 1962, the Central Excise and Salt Act, 1944 and the Customs and Excise Revenues Appellate Tribunal Act, 1986.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI B.K. GADHVI : I introduce** the Bill.

12.22 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

- (i) Need to take measures to protect the interests of arecanut growers of Kerala and Karnataka

SHRI I. RAMA RAI (Kasaragod) : Major problem faced by the Indian farmers presently is the steep and abrupt fall in price of their produce. This fluctuation had badly affected the plantation farmers of Kerala. Now the areca-nut growers of the North Kerala and parts of Karnataka are in the grip of a real economic crisis. Already their plantations and crops are badly affected by recurring drought. Price of arecanut has fallen by 50% whereas the cost of living has gone up enormously. Naturally the wages of agricultural labourers and other costs have gone up. Thousands of arecanut farmers and lakhs of agricultural labourers are helpless. This has affected the general economy of several parts of Kerala and Karnataka. Most of the arecanut farmers are small and marginal farmers.

Unless the Government itself takes up this problem either by exploring foreign

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**Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

[Shri I. Rama Rai]

markets or by providing a support price as extended to other cash crops the plight of these farmers and labourers will worsen further. I request the Government to tackle this problem by an appropriate measure at the earliest. One such measure would be to release sufficient funds to the Directorate of Cocoa, Arecanut and Species Development and direct CAMPCO to tackle this problem on war footing basis.

- (ii) Need to reconsider the decision to allot the plot meant for a garden in a residential area of Bombay to the Helicopter Corporation of India

SHRI HUSSAIN DALWAI (Ratnagiri) : Cuffe Parade reclaimed area of Bombay has been developed as exclusive residential zone and the Municipal Corporation of Greater Bombay had earmarked one plot for development of a garden. As a matter of fact, the work of developing a garden on that plot had begun. But abruptly the Bombay Metropolitan Regional Development Authority has suspended the work and has issued orders giving that plot to the Helicopter Corporation of India to develop a helipad on it for taking passengers to airport and *vice versa*. The decision will create nuisance and both noise and air pollution in this residential area. The Environment Ministry should take a serious note of this and prevent the authorities concerned from taking up the helipad project in place of a garden.

12.23 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

- (iii) Need to ensure social security in old age by introducing national pension plan

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA (Aurangabad) : There is increasing evidence that the norm of smaller families gets acceptable if social security during old age is assured. The Government should therefore, think in terms of a national pension plan which would generate on a very conservative estimate annual savings of something like Rs. 2000 crores improving investible funds for various development purposes while providing the wherewithal to pay pensions to retired workers. This would drastically reduce the compulsions to have more children as has happened in many

developing countries. Government must get a preliminary report on this prepared by an expert group so that such a scheme could be introduced as soon as possible.

- (iv) Need to re-orient the functioning of the Ministry of Welfare

SHRI JUJHAR SINGH (Jhalawar) : The Sati incident at Deorala village in Rajasthan and more than that the tremendous response this incident received at the hands of the local population on every occasion, go to prove that very little work has been done by the Social Welfare Department and by the Women's organisations to change the psychology and thinking of the people on such vital social issues in Rajasthan and elsewhere in the country so far.

Sati is a stray and exceptional incident but even matters of daily occurrence like child marriages, wasteful expenditure on marriages and on death feasts, the increasing social evils of drinking and drug smoking are very much on the increase and these social evils are seen to be committed against law in broad day light, in presence of the law enforcing authorities and the social organisations on all district headquarters and the capital towns of the country with impunity. Not even a protest is ever lodged by anyone, anywhere.

The Social Welfare Departments and the Women's Welfare organisations have been too much politicalised and the dedicated, genuine social workers do not find place on these bodies to do real, concrete effective social work of tuning the public mind to modern thoughts. This work is particularly absent in rural areas where its need is felt the most.

In view of these facts, I will request hon. Minister incharge of Ministry of Welfare to bring about a practical change in the working and in the recruitment of workers in this Ministry as well as to ensure that they continue their activities to welfare work and they do not indulge in politics.

[*Translation*]

- (v) Demand for rapid industrialisation of backward districts of eastern Uttar Pradesh, particularly Gorakhpur Division

SHRI MADAN PANDEY (Gorakhpur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, a number of com-