

12.08 hrs.

SHIPPING DEVELOPMENT FUND
COMMITTEE (ABOLITION) AMENDMENT
BILL *

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI
JANARDHANA POOJARY): I beg to move
for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the
Shipping Development Fund Committee
(Abolition) Act, 1986. Sir, I want to draw
attention of the House to Clause 2 of the Bill
which would involve expenditure from the
Consolidated Fund of India. It should have
been printed in bold letters out it has not
been done so because of printing error.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a
Bill to amend the Shipping Develop-
ment Fund Committee (Abolition) Act,
1986."

The Motion was adopted

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: I in-
troduce † the Bill.

12.09 hrs.

LABOUR LAWS (EXEMPTION FROM
FURNISHING RETURNS AND MAINTAIN-
ING REGISTERS BY CERTAIN ESTAB-
LISHMENTS) BILL *

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A.

SANGMA): I beg to move for leave to intro-
duce a Bill to provide for the exemption of
employers in relation to establishments
employing a small number of persons from
furnishing returns and maintaining registers
under certain labour laws.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a
Bill to provide for the exemption of
employers in relation to establish-
ments employing a small number of
persons from furnishing returns and
maintaining registers under certain
labour laws."

DR. DATTA SAMANT (Bombay South
Central): I have raised an objection.

MR. SPEAKER: What objection?

12.10 hrs.

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

DR. DATTA SAMANT: I have given a
notice to oppose the introduction of this Bill
on this point that various Acts-Payment of
Wages Act 1936, the Minimum Wages Act
1948, the Plantation Labours Act 1951, the
Working Journalists Newspaper Employees
Act 1955-some of the acts were introduced
by Britishers in 1936. This is a particular
legislation with regard to workers numbering
less than 20 or 10.

In case of unorganised labour, the
number is about 30 which is not protected by
this Bill. Actually they are exploited more in
this country. In respect of them, none of
these Acts-the Minimum Wages Act, Facto-
ries Act, Working Journalists Act-are imple-
mented anywhere in this country.

The Hon. Minister will agree with me

* Published in Gazette of India extraordinary, Part II, section 21, dated 24.8.87

† Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

[Dr. Datta Samant]

that whenever I talk of organised labour, he asks about the fate of unorganised labour. There are provisions as per this Act- which are even accepted by the Britishers also -to inform the Government authorities in respect of the names of the employees, their salaries, their funds, whether they have met with any accidents, etc., periodically by these establishments. Actually this is giving a little protection.

None of these small unorganised units keep these records. They are exploited by them and even they are not looked after by the Inspectors.

As per the provisions of this Bill, the Hon. Minister is asking these establishments not to furnish information periodically to the Government. What is wrong in just filing a return informing how many employees are there, and their names, their number etc.?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can discuss the merits and demerits of the Bill at the time of its consideration.

DR. DATTA SAMANT: This is a retrograde legislation and an anti-labour legislation. This is going to exploit more the unorganised labour. Therefore, I request the Hon. Minister of withdraw the Bill. What is the procedural difficulty? Even if an establishment has less than 20 or 10 employees, the employer can send these forms periodically. Why are you taking the side of these employers so much who are exploiting the labour more? I oppose the introduction of this Bill. This Government is moving against the working class interests and therefore, I request the Minister to withdraw this Bill.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA: At this stage the question that arises is whether the Parlia-

ment is competent to pass this legislation. The merits and the demerits and the purpose of the Bill do not come at this stage. They will come only at the stage of the consideration of the Bill. I feel that the Parliament is competent to pass this law.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the exemption of employers in relation to establishments employing a small number of persons from furnishing returns and maintaining registers under certain labour laws."

The Motion was adopted.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

12.13 hrs.

LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITIES BILL

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to constitute legal services authorities to provide free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities, and to organise Lok Adalats to secure that the operation of the legal system promotes justice on a basis of equal opportunity.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The ques-