

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : This Statement ought to have come from the Prime Minister. In the past it was like that.

15.20 hrs.

FOOD CORPORATIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL—*Contd.*

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will now take up further consideration of the Food Corporations (Amendment) Bill. Shri Ramswaroop Ram to continue his speech.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM (Gaya) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, yesterday, I had said that FCI has managed to distribute foodgrains among the people with considerable caution during the drought situation. It was a natural calamity of immense magnitude for the country and the role of FCI in this situation was praiseworthy. I want to convey to the hon. Minister through you that he has brought a very good bill and it will add to his resources. You should strengthen the F.C.I. with our increased resources. However, I want that the structure of F.C.I. is reviewed. I want to submit that due to lack of coordination between the FCI and the Railways, foodgrains worth crores of rupees get rotten or are pilfered. Proper monitoring is also not done in this regard. The wheat allotted for the advisis of Bihar is not even fit for human consumption. It is alright that your resources will increase, but if the quantity of stocks which are pilfered or get destroyed, are protected, I think you will be able to develop the resources internally but this is not happening.

I want to draw your attention to the FCI godowns in my area in Gaya. You are sending wheat from here. Earlier, it was stated that a godown would be constructed after constructing a platform there within a year, but due to the negligence of the Railways, lakhs of tonnes of wheat and other kinds of foodgrains are being unloaded in the open on the new platform. It is the rainy season nowadays You should

look into it. I want that the grains are kept in the protected places. A monitoring cell should be set up by the railways to monitor whether the foodgrains carried to the distant places in remote areas by the Railways are being properly protected there ? I have nothing more to say and this bill is welcome.

In the end, I would like to say that you should build up maximum buffer stock. Last year, it was 250 lakh tonnes, but inspite of that, we had to import 10 lakh tonnes of foodgrains to meet the drought situation. This year, the situation is such that you have not been able to raise the collection of foodgrains. Government godowns have not been able to procure foodgrains because agricultural production has been low. This will have its after effects and you should get prepared for that.

With these words, I extend my wholehearted support for the Bill.

[*English*]

SHRI B.B. RAMAIAH (Eluru) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, under Section 27 of Food Corporation of India Act, 1964 this Corporation was incorporated in 1965 primarily to protect and control speculative markets for the producers and the consumers. The purpose for which this Corporation has been set-up is to procure food stocks, storage, transport and distribution. The commodities that have been incorporated are : foodgrains, sugar and fertilisers. Through the present amendment Government wants to issue bonds. They want to raise some funds through the issue of bonds The main purpose is to mobilise resources from the public and use it as a working capital for the FCI. The purpose for which it is mainly intended is not specified. The interest rate as well as the dividend have not been specified clearly. I hope they will be able to furnish more details later on.

At the moment the FCI is operating with a paid-up capital of Rs. 837 crores and an authorised capital of Rs. 1000 crores. They want to issue bonds worth Rs. 200 crores. Government is also giving soft loan to the tune of Rs. 1200 crores. They are also giving consumer subsidy and transport concession to the tune of Rs. 2300 crores.

[Shri B. B. Ramaiah]

You have to take into consideration three factors in respect of FCI. There is lot of inefficiency. The depots are being started very late after the middlemen have already procured the foodgrains. Further they are not purchasing from the farmers direct on the plea that there is high moisture content or on some other pretext.

The purpose for which it has been started is not really served unless they avoid this procedure and try to purchase the foodstuffs directly from the producer.

The losses are increasing every year. During 1971-72, the losses were Rs. 19.71 crores and in 1986-87, these have gone up to Rs. 151.61 crores. Instead of purchasing directly from the producer, they purchase from the brokers and pay a commission.

Finally, they should improve the storage facilities and reduce the corruption in the department and at the same time, improve the efficiency.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now we take up Private Members' Business Bill for introduction. Shri Basavaraju.

15 32 hrs.

MARRIAGES (CURTAILMENT OF
EXPENDITURE) BILL*

[English]

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU (Tumkur) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for performance of marriages before religious priests and to curtail wasteful expenditure on marriages.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for performance of marriages before religious priests and to curtail wasteful expenditure on marriages."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU : I introduce the Bill.

HIGH COURT OF ANDHRA
PRADESH (ESTABLISHMENT
OF A PERMANENT BENCH
AT GUNTUR) BILL*

[English]

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a permanent Bench of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh at Guntur.

MR. DEPUY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a permanent Bench of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh at Guntur."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : I introduce the Bill.

15.33 hrs.

ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY
(AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Amendment of Section 8 etc)

[English]

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj) . I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Aligarh Muslim University Act, 1920.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Aligarh Muslim University Act, 1920."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : I introduce the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now we come to Bills for consideration and passing. We take up further consideration of the motion moved by Shri Ram Nagin Mishra on the 6th May, 1988. Shri Vir Sen may speak.