

[*Sh. P.A. Sangma*]

request the hon. members to withdraw this Bill because I have myself said that we ourselves are coming up with a comprehensive amendment to the Bill.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA (Vishnupur) : What about the new comprehensive Bill ?

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : Not new Bill ? I am bringing an amendment to the present Act.

[*Translation*]

\*SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA (Vishnupur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister has just said that in the coming Winter session of Parliament he will bring forth a comprehensive amendment Bill in this connection. In view of that I am withdrawing my Bill. I also thank all the hon. Members, belonging to both sides of the House, who have lent support to my Bill. The objective and purpose with which I brought forth this Beedi and Cigar workers condition of Employment amendment Bill before this House has been fulfilled to a great extent. This is because all the hon. Members who spoke on this Bill have agreed that the 40 lakh beedi workers of our country and their families live in very miserable conditions. The beedi workers have no job security and no benefits of provident fund, gratuity etc. Their names are not even registered with the real employers. All these have been accepted by practically all the hon. Members, I am glad that the hon. Minister has said that he is looking into problems. It is a very happy thing that he has issued identity cards to 20 lakh workers. I hope the remaining beedi workers will also be issued with identity cards at the earliest. The conditions and environment in which these beedi workers have to work, is responsible for making them easy victims of dreaded diseases like Asthma, T.B. etc. Some hospitals and dispensaries have been opened for their treatment no doubt, but they are not adequate in number. Many more such hospitals and dispensaries shall have to be opened for the treatment and proper medical care of the vast number of beedi workers of our country. All the benefits and facilities that are available to the industrial workers

in the organised sector like job security, gratuity provident fund, minimum wages, leave etc. must also be made available to the beedi workers. The hon. Minister himself admitted that these poor workers do not get a day off even on the 26th January i.e. our Republic Day. Proper steps must be taken at the earliest to see that these benefits are also made available to them. Prolonged and detailed discussions have been held with the trade union leaders over these issues. I hope the suggestions given by them as also the suggestions made by the hon. Members of this House from both the sides would be accepted by the Government and they would be incorporated in the comprehensive amendment Bill which will be brought forth in the Winter session Parliament, as assured by the hon. Minister.

With this hope, Sir, I withdraw my Bill.

[*English*]

I beg to move for leave to withdraw the Bill further to amend the Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is : "That leave be granted to withdraw the Bill further to amend the Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966."

*The motion was adopted.*

SRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA : I withdraw the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now we go to the next item.

16.43 hrs.

AURO-BASED INDUSTRIES RESERVED  
FOR THE PRODUCERS AND  
WORKERS COOPERATIVES  
BILL

[*English*]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL (Kopergaon) : I beg to move :

\*The speech was originally delivered in Bengali.

*& Workers Co-op. Bill*

"That the Bill to provide for reservation of agro-based industries for producers and workers cooperatives and to provide financial assistance to such cooperatives in setting up of agro-based industries, be taken into consideration."

*[Translation]*

I would like to thank you for the opportunity which you have given to me. We all discuss much for the farmers and express our concern for the rural areas and run many schemes for the development of the rural areas and for the agricultural labourers, be they Harijans or Adivasis, small or medium farmers, but our experience during 36 years has been that we have not been much successful in this. Though our agricultural production has increased, yet we should analyse as to how much production has increased in the case of small and very small farmers as also in the case of dry land farming and irrigated land. When we look at their figures, we find that we have to do a lot for them.

I feel that this whole work cannot be done by the Government alone. Pt Jawahar Lal used to say that :—

*[English]*

People's participation is a must in the planning process and implementation.

*[Translation]*

Sir, I would like to say that people's participation in the planning process and implementation is very low. We can march forward by taking with us small farmers, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes through cooperative movement. Even at present 70 per cent people are dependant on agriculture. The irrigated land in our country is limited. Nowadays we see that rural people migrate to cities and sleep on footpaths. Majority of them consists of Harijans and Adivasis. People from Telangana, Maharashtra and Rajasthan migrate to big cities. They do not get any facility there.

More than 55 per cent of our G.N.P. comes from Agriculture. Agriculture includes dairy, poultry, horticulture etc. also.

The Bill which I have brought forward is not a very comprehensive Bill. In our country there are separate cooperative movements in different States. In Maharashtra, Gujarat, Haryana, Punjab, U.P. and Bihar there are separate cooperative movements. In U.P. people call the cooperative society as 'Swaha' society. They do not believe in cooperative movement. In Gujarat and Maharashtra, the cooperative movement consists of those members who are themselves engaged in agriculture. They themselves manage the show, but I have seen in many places in the country that bureaucrats, collectors, commissioners hold the top posts and do not allow the elections of the cooperative societies to be held. In those societies, people are always nominated. I have seen sugar factories in Andhra and Karnataka. Farmer grows sugar-cane, but he has no connection whatsoever with the sugar factories. Though he is a member, yet he has no hand in running the mills and marketing the products. Advisory committee is constituted, but some M.L.A. or some other politician is included in that committee. Because of this reason, cooperative movement is getting a set back.

Many things have been said about Marketing Federation. I would not like to go into it. We want that food canning, processing of tea and coffee should be done under cooperative movement. This is being done in Maharashtra and Gujarat.

Farmer is producer as well as consumer. Farmers and labourers will progress only when they form cooperatives. Only this system will yield the results. In our country even now old policy is being followed. The sugar industry is set up in the villages, but the offices are located in the cities. Food canning industry is also being set up in the cities.

A new type of sugar has been manufactured. It is produced through wheat and maize. It does not have sugar in it, it contains glucose. That too has been produced by the farmer, but in the absence of any cooperative society for him, we are not getting any effective contribution from the farmer. Some big industrialist will come in the field. I would like to give example of the textile industry. In textile unit, the farmer does not get the full price,

[*Sh. Balasaheb Vikhe Patil*]

the labourers does not get the full wages and the consumers are also exploited. All the three classes are exploited. Therefore, I urge and for this I have presented a Constitution amendment that there is need to recognise Cooperative Sector. The Government recognises the cooperative movement, but when some law is enacted, some circular is issued, some notification is issued, cooperative sector is put under private sector. There is provision in the Constitution. Therefore, my submission is that there is need to give new importance to it by preparing a new policy in a separate way. The result of this will be that its facilities will be available to all. For example, in Maharashtra several spinning mills are being run in the villages. They make available health services, take care of their children and provide facilities for education. In cities, public sector gets the schools opened, but for whom do they open schools and colleges? They are for their employees only. Central schools are meant for central Government employees. Schools, houses built by the cooperative societies and other services made available by them are for all the people living the villages irrespective of their being or not being member of the society. If you want to make new India of the rural India, if you want to fulfil the dream of Mahatma Gandhi, want to bring self-sufficiency in the villages, want to take India forward, then it is necessary to take the villages forward. I live in rural area and there we have tried to bring self-sufficiency, this work can be done through cooperative movement and not through private sector. In the private industry, you can see the division of IFC-64 per cent private sector, 24 per cent joint sector, 13 per cent public undertakings and 13 per cent cooperative sector, that is the least share is that of the cooperative movement. You will say that cooperative movement people do not come forward. NCDC which was formed in 1963 has so far provided Rs. 840 crores and in Seventh Five Year Plan a sum of Rs. 750 crores has been provided. Dairy, poultry, vegetable processing plant, oil extraction process, soyabean plantation have been brought under it. If you want to take the new technologies in the rural areas then this amount is quite insufficient. Do you want to make the farmer and the labourer professional and want to uplift

his economy? Do you want to uplift the poor and improve his economic condition? If so, then you will have to provide resources to the poor. Will they beg or will accept the alms given by some peon or somebody else.

One third of the amount given as loans under the 20 Point Programme goes away in corruption at the time of taking loan; two third goes in marketing. In this way people are exploited. We adopted mixed economy that is private as well as Government business will run concurrently, but alongwith Government business we should give encouragement to the cooperative movement also. Mere private business will not do. In cooperative sector people belonging to all religious and all walks of life work. It gives impetus to national integration also. How many spinning mills are there today. I won't take much of your time by giving bulky figures. In the cooperative sector, there are about 700 rice mills, 80 pulse mills, 115 oil seed processing units, 200 spinning mills, more than 216 sugar mills, 88 crop processing plants and 40 food and vegetables processing plants. No training is being imparted to the cotton growers.

Why should they not be provided the facility of powerloom and technological assistance and be asked to manufacture cloth and supply it to the market at federation's rate. For this, political will on the part of the Government is required. Mere making a speech and indulging in discussions cannot remove poverty. The dwelling units in slum areas of the cities have the maximum number of poor people. The villages also have the poor in a very large number. I wish to say that a poor cannot expect to become an M.P. I call them 'Mukhi' as there is nobody to hear them if they wish to do so. There are 30 lakh handlooms and 8 lakh domestic handlooms. If we impart training to the farmers, why can they not make progress. We would have to instal 30 million sweating agents till 1990, which comes to about 27%. Why cannot the Jaggery and Khandsari be produced through cooperative movement. I would like to submit that you should check as to how many applications are lying pending with N.C.D.C. Thirty applications from Maharashtra for spinning mills are lying pending on account of shortage of funds.

The same is happening with the applications for sugar-mills and dairy. I wish to say boldly that merely 20 Point Programme neither can develop the villages nor benefit the poor and also cannot take the country towards progress. We will also have to formulate scheme for self-employment. I would also like to cite an example. There is a running sugar-mill which has 20 lakh small farmers and other people as its members. Everybody talks of land ceiling, but nobody talks of urban-ceiling. While implementing urban-ceiling, builders are given concessions. It is said that there is shortage of houses in cities, therefore, construction of houses should be encouraged. It pains me very much that whereas we accept land ceiling and land reforms are also implemented, but at the same time laws regarding urban-ceiling should also be implemented, we should not ignore it. Till now, a sum of Rs. 400 crores of farmer's dues is pending as arrears and there has been a total investment of Rs. 1500 crores in the sugar mills. There are 3.5 lakh labourers in the sugar-mills. I am not talking of cooperative mills and private sugar mills. More than 3 lakh labourers are working in the spinning mills and a sum of Rs. 200 crores or Rs. 250 crores has been invested in them. I am satisfied with the performance of N.C.D.C. Regarding I.F.C. my friend had said as to what would they do? One should think whether cooperatives should be given weightage or not. One talks about small scale industries. Lakhs of people in cities and villages are working in them. Limit should be raised for installing agricultural processing units under cooperatives. At least, the limit should be raised to Rs. one crore. A limit of Rs. 30 lakh or Rs. 50 lakh will not serve the purpose. The technology, which they want to import is very costly. We also feel that industry should be modernized. For instance, I would like to speak about water-pollution. Distillery needs an investment of Rs 1.5 crores whereas for installing an unit to check water-pollution an investment of Rs. 5.5 crores would be required. Therefore funds required for industrial investment are less than the funds required to check environmental as well as water pollution. When we wish to take the Capital intensive modern technology to villages, we should raise the limit for it. We do not wish to

start a class-struggle. The gap between the rich and the poor is widening. Earlier, there used to be middle class and now it has changed to higher middle class. When middle class has become higher middle class, we can see as to what has been the effect of our economic policies. Hon. Minister is well aware of the condition of the well off farmers of Punjab. The farmers and agricultural labourers are not organised. When they join the cooperative movement, then both the classes will work jointly.

17.00 hrs.

In my opinion, there cannot be any other alternative in India. If you look towards export, you will find that in turn one gets back some portion of its earnings by way of foreign exchange, but the cooperative industries do not get anything in return. They give excuses by saying that instead of de-canalising, it is a canalising item. Therefore, the Government policy might be very good and even hon. Minister or hon. Minister of State might have sympathy with us and also might take pains for us, but it is of no use. Therefore, the problem would not be solved, unless you make changes in it in consultation with the officers. If you look towards spinning mills, you will find that people are raising their voice. As you are against corruption, so if you make you policy stringent, then the corrupt people in cooperatives will vanish. I want that agro processing industries should be reserved for cooperatives and private industries should not be allowed to enter this sector. They should be banned totally. If farmers and labourers work together, then cooperatives would run in a better way. It will not only bring about a change in Indian villages, but also the map of India. Our children will remain in villages and become good citizens there only. They will not required to free to the cities and bow down to the political leaders. For god's sake, please do not give us the references of N.C.D.C., or refer to rules or data. You should keep in mind that our experience is our only data. You should tell this much only as to how you are going to make progress.

With these words, I move this Bill and request you to consider it and adopt it.



[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved :  
"That the Bill to provide for reservation of agro-based industries for producers and workers cooperatives and to provide financial assistance to such cooperatives in setting up of agro-based industries, be taken into consideration."

Mr. Daga, do you want to move your Amendment ?

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA (Pali) : Yes, I want to speak also.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You may move your amendment I will call you later.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : I beg to move :

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by 21 November, 1966."

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, Shri Shantaram Naik.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Panaji) : This Bill moved by Shri Balasahab Vikhe Patil is really going to give some food for thought for all of us.

Our economy is basically divided into two compartments right from the day of independence private and public sector and subsequently as years passed, the co-operative sector began to play an important role. At this juncture it is essential that we set specific roles for those sectors ratio-wise. Our economy is a mixed economy. Whereas we give equal importance to both the sectors, at the same time co-operative sector also plays a role side by side. Here, I would like to say that since the third sector has come into being, then we have to fix ratio. Although we have not fixed ratio as such between the private and public sector, it is time that we fix the ratio for all the three sectors so that in our economy we contemplate and give specific roles to the specific sectors in a decided manner.

India being primarily an agricultural economy, it is no doubt our agriculture is with the agriculturists. There are middle

man who take profits out of the produce which is produced by our agriculturists. But since our economy is based on agriculture, it is the rural folk which plays an important role in bringing up this country, slowly and slowly agriculturists must also play a role in industries. If they produce an agricultural product, then till the end of the final product, it is these agriculturists who first start producing things who must get a role in the final product also. And if this is to be done, then a Bill like this comes into the picture. We cannot ask our private industries or the big industries to process all the agricultural products because then the entire profit goes to these fewer hands. On the contrary if our agriculturists are given opportunity to also produce the final products based on their initial products, then it is these agriculturists who will be playing a great role in our economy.

Secondly, in our Constitution we have, by an amendment, laid stress on the role of our country stating that the country is a socialist country. In this direction also the role of our agriculturists comes into the picture. Units like food processing units, fish canning units, oilseeds processing units, growers' spinning mills and weavers spinning mills these are the things which now should be reserved for cooperatives so that our agriculturists come and play a vital role in this area.

We are today faced with the problem of unemployment. I think that if in rural areas agro-based industries are established then we can, to a large extent, do away with the problem of unemployment. Similarly, the influx of population from rural areas to the urban areas which unfortunately we are not able to stop at this stage for various reasons, can be checked. I think will be able to do a lot if these industries are established in rural areas and if these industries are agro-based.

Thirdly, as the mover himself has suggested, various facilities like schools and even technical education with our industrialists provide, are provided only for elitist class. If cooperative movements start in these industries and if in rural areas these schools and other facilities are there to a progressive extent, the sons and daughters of agriculturists will get the benefit. So, it is

not only establishing agro-based industries but all the ancillary things and other paraphernalia that matters, it is the entire atmosphere created in the rural areas that matters.

As far as my territory Goa is concerned, fish products are also there, and I will admit and I would like to tell that in Goa so far there is practically no cooperative movement. If at all, it is only at the starting stage, it has not picked up at all and therefore, considering the products there, specially this type of marine products and industries, if cooperatives are established in the rural areas in a territory like Goa and if the Government takes initiative to establish these industries, it will be very helpful. Specially our fish products and other food products are increasing very much there now. In 1950-51 we had marine products of 5.34 lakh tonnes, inland products of 2.18 lakh tonnes making a total of 7.52 lakh tonnes. At this stage now, in 1984-85 the marine products are 17.77 lakh tonnes, inland products 10.82 lakh tonnes and total is 28.59 lakh tonnes. It is increasing four-fold. In these circumstances, in various sectors we can consider these agro-based industries.

Lastly, Sir, going through the Bill as such, although the mover of the Bill, Mr. Patil, has given a good idea, yet he has not been exhaustive. In fact there are no sufficient provisions in this Bill. For instance, if a Bill is to be enacted like this, then there must be other types of machinery involved. There is no provision for rule-making in this particular Bill. Again, there is no Schedule of industries. The agro-based industries have not been identified in this Bill. If there is a Schedule provided in this Bill, it would have been proper and we could understand what are the objectives in a better way. Leaving aside this procedural aspect, I think it is a good Bill, and Government, specially our new Labour Minister, must give a thought to the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA (Pali):  
Mr. Chairman, Sir, I could not understand this bill properly and probably the Member

who had piloted this bill was trying to make me understand it. He was saying that human resources and raw-materials have not been properly used in rural areas. There are two classes of people in India the rural rich and the rural poor. Five percent people in villages are the owners of most of the land and the remaining people have very little land. You still believe that our land reforms have not properly been implemented. I have gone through a statement, in which it is stated that distribution of our land has not been done in a proper way. The rich people and big farmers have grabbed this land. These are the people who have grabbed the land in villages and opened shops in the cities and have also started industries and now are trying to launch cooperatives. These rich and affluent people want to become owners of all these things and instead of serving the people they start serving themselves and become even more affluent. I fail to understand as to what would be the procedure and functions of these workers cooperatives.

I do not want to tell you about the poverty in India, but you may ask the people who come from Maharashtra as to what is the condition of the poor there. Today, there are 77% farmers in the country who do not possess even 3 acres of land and there are certain areas, where the farmers do not have even 2 acres of land with irrigation facilities.

The Member, who spoke prior to me had also said that he could not understand the bill, brought forward by him regarding agro based industries and I am also unable to understand as to what do you want to do through this Bill. It is not clear to me. Gandhiji had evolved a principle that if one wants to make villages self sufficient and self respected, then the villagers are required to chalk out their programmes themselves and work upon them. If they want to adopt this principle, there is no restriction on them. If they wish to take all industries to the villages and want to develop them, then nobody is checking them. But now, there is no need to invest more funds in these cooperatives. Today the situation is this that these People of cooperatives have swallowed more than Rs. 170 crores of the country.

**SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS :** Anyhow, it is less than Rs. 200 crores.

**SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA :** I admit it, but who gets the benefit of it. Only rich people get its benefit. So, if you intend to bring forward such a Bill, then Government should decide that only such agro-based industries, which would make the villagers self sufficient would be allowed to be set up, I would like to submit that the people who possess the land and till it with their own hands should only be allowed to be the owner of such units and not others. You may see that Shri Choudhary has been elected to the Parliament and practising law, owns a house in the city, has land in the village, but somebody, else is tilling it. But he sells the entire crop and earns lakhs of rupees. He should not be called a farmer. A farmer is one who himself tills the soil. In the same way labourers is one who himself works in the rain, hot sunshine and cold. He should be conferred the ownership of the land. It should not be like this that I live in the big posh colonies of Delhi and be called the farmer. Otherwise everyone is a farmer. The big people sitting here are all farmers. I am also a farmer. They all receive income from their land and the land is cultivated by labourers. I did not give any amendment to this Bill, but only that person should be allowed to become its member who himself cultivates his agricultural land. Twenty five per cent of members should be from scheduled castes community and those people should manage it. But this cooperative society would comprise of only wealthy and big landlords. They will form their society in the name of the small farmers. The hon. Member who has introduced this Bill has not mentioned as to who will cultivate the land and who be the Member of the society.

Prior to introduction of this Bill, Congress was the first which raised a voice regarding distribution of land. I do not say that a mistake was committed by implementing law regarding land ceiling. But even today the big land lords and affluent people have hundreds and thousands acres of land in their possession and are out of the purview of law. Law is a cobweb in which big people are never caught, but always manage to remain out of it. These

people are such farmers who have neither felt the heat of sun and nor have worked in the biting cold. I have stated in the first definition :

[English]

Those who are actually cultivating the land, those who are actually working, must be employed.

[Translation]

Would you allow the formation of Agriculture Union ? It has been reported that the poor still dare not come forward. They do not have the courage. They are being exploited. According to the policy of Gandhiji, if you want agro based industries to be set up in the rural areas, then these poor people should be provided the new technology and new infra-structure. If you think of cooperative society, then these big people will become its members and form the society.

The mover of the Bill has presented this Bill with good intention and he must have worked very hard in drafting it. But had he gone to the Agriculture Department and asked for the help of Shri G.S. Dhillon, then he would have come to know as to how the poor people and the farmer be helped.

I oppose this Bill until you say that those who are actually tilling their own land and who are small farmers would manage the affairs of this society. This should be the first principle and at least twenty five per cent of the members should be from amongst scheduled castes. After the formation of such cooperative society only agro-based industry should be set up. It should not happen that a sugar mill is started and the big businessmen control it. I want that the poor people should be the owners and you should do it. What is the intention of this Bill ? The poor people who cultivate can not irrigate even two acres of their land. You have built dams and controlled the waters of rivers and by it the God has helped the rich, because the water has been channelled to the rich people while the poor have been deprived of it.

Today who are being benefited by the irrigation projects? Only the big landlords are getting the benefits. The small and poor farmers do not get the supply of electricity. Whatsoever law is enacted, only the rich are benefited by it... (*Interruptions*).

What is definition of a farmer according to you? Even that one is a farmer who gets the labour done by others. (*Interruptions*) I am expressing my feelings. There are many shortcomings in this Bill. You should, therefore, bring a comprehensive Bill and after bringing forward such a Bill, you should accept that the land in fact will belong to the poor farmers. When the poor farmer will make progress and he would own his industry, only then the country will march forward.

[*English*]

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY (Nalgonda): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose this Bill although the idea behind this Bill is very good. India is basically an agriculture country where roughly 70 per cent of the population are engaged in agriculture. We are producing many things but there are no proper industries for the agriculture produce. There are no industries for agricultural implements. That has to be taken into account. I find that the words used in the Bill are 'farmers and workers'. I do not understand what is meant by 'workers'. Does it mean those who work on the farms? This should be defined clearly.

Sir, it has become a fashion these days when everybody wants to call himself a farmer. An industrialist having crores of rupees just to hide income tax is becoming a farmer. There are small and marginal farmers who partly depend on agriculture and partly on other things. So, let the hon. Minister first define who is a farmer and who is a farmer and who is a farm worker.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): You please ask the mover of the Bill to define it.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY: Yes, the Minister as well as the mover. First we

have to define who is a farmer. A farmer is one who cultivates himself and who depends only on agriculture.

Now a word about farm labour. Only such workers should be called farm labour who work for eight to nine months in a farm. Actually these days farm labour are facing many difficulties in rural areas. They are not getting minimum wages.

Sir, in my opinion setting up of agro-based industries in every State in our country is very essential. We are producing many fruits and vegetables. In the peak season there is slump in the prices whereas in the lean season the prices go up. We can have agro based industries for storage of vegetables and fruits and for all the by-products of agriculture produce. We have to welcome those industries in rural areas. I request the mover of the Bill and the Government that setting up of agro-based industries is very essential and the same should be taken up only in rural areas where such crops are grown.

We are setting up sugar industry in many States. It is unfortunate that sugar industry is established in those areas where sugarcane is not grown at all there. This kind of disparity should be avoided at all cost. Clear instructions should go from the Central Government to the States in this regard that wherever such crops are grown, in those States only industries requiring the agricultural raw material should be established. Not only that. There should be a legislation passed that only those crops which are viable should be grown in a particular area, basing upon the needs of the country. There should not be any change over to any other crop. There should be a uniform cropping pattern of cultivation in different areas according to the needs of the country. We should produce agricultural produces for meeting the indigenous demand thus avoiding import of such goods. We should bring forward a legislation or a land law restricting the cultivators to switch over to any crop other than what has been cultivated hitherto in a particular area. For instance, oil-seed is grown in a particular area. Farmers are not allowed to go in for some other crops in that area. Cultivation of particular crop in a particular



[*Sh. M. Raghuma Reddy*]

area should be based on agro-climatic conditions and other factors.

Sir, nowadays it has become a fashion in our country to drink soft drinks prepared with concentrates. If the farmers grow abundant fruits of many varieties, juice can be extracted from them and that can replace these concentrated soft cold drinks. People going in for coco cola and other kinds of soft drinks would prefer drinks prepared with fruit juice. This would improve their health also.

Now, Sir, as per the requirement of the farmers, we are not manufacturing implements used by them. Many research centres and research works are going on to improve the agricultural implements used by the poor farmers. The implements means not only tractors, not even the power-tillers, but it also include ploughing materials and other inter-cultivation operators. Cheaper variety of implements should be developed for benefit of poor farmers. Agro-industries for manufacturing these implements should be developed. I once again request the mover of the Bill to take care of farmers and the farming community and the farming labours. They are not getting sufficient employment in agriculture and during off-season they sit idle. If the agro-based industries and other small industries are established in the rural areas, these farmers can get some employment during the off-season so that they may be able to earn their livelihood. In this way, we can also discourage farming community from migrating to other areas.

Sir, though I oppose some of the clauses in the Bill, at the same time, I welcome this Bill provided my suggestions are taken and incorporated in this Bill.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS (Bhilwara) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the spirit behind this Bill is very good and I appreciate the spirit behind this Bill. It has been said in it :

[*English*]

Agro-based Industries Reserved for the Producers and Workers Cooperatives Act 1986.

[*Translation*]

In this connection I would like to submit to you that all industries based on the agro products should be established only in rural areas. It will benefit the producers as well as the workers to be engaged in it. But in this connection Shri Mool Chand Daga has raised many points and I want to lay stress especially on the definition of producer given in it :

[*English*]

“(.) Producer means a ‘ farmer who cultivates land and produces raw-materials ; and...”

[*Translation*]

It means, as he has also pointed out that big farmers and producers are also covered in it, but the intention of our colleague Shri Patil is not to include big farmers. He says :

[*English*]

“Farmer means who cultivates land and produces raw-material”.

[*Translation*]

But one word is missing in it.

[*English*]

“Farmer who cultivates land himself by hand and produces raw-material”.

[*Translation*]

If this word is also added, then the feelings of our colleague Shri Mool Chand Daga will also be satisfied. I therefore, think that these words must be inserted in it.

[*English*]

“A worker means a person who works in the cultivable land owned by farmers”.

[*Translation*]

A cooperative society of these two types of persons be formed and through it all agro-based industries should be established.

And then the people will certainly be benefited in many ways as you have mentioned in your statement of Objects and Reasons. The raw materials produced would also be properly utilized. The labourers would be saved from the exploitation. They will have more income through the co-operatives and their financial position would be strengthened. This system should be properly organised so that there could be maximum development of the rural areas and financial condition of the rural people may improve.

You are implementing 20 Point Programme to raise the people above the poverty line and if this system is evolved then it will also certainly help to achieve that objective. If all these facilities are provided to them, then they can lead the life of a good citizen. So this system should be properly established. You have reserved some items exclusively for the small scale sector, in same way through this Bill agro-based articles should be reserved for the cooperatives of workers and producers so that the people of rural areas could get financial benefits and they could march forward to achieve self sufficiency by increasing the production to the maximum level. This type of system must be certainly arranged by you. But besides it you will have to provide technical know-how and other facilities on a large scale at the district level. If you make these arrangements, then you would be able to operate such societies very smoothly.

Hon. Member Shri Mool Chand Daga had made a reference to sugarcane. There is a large production of sugarcane in Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh. But this industry is also controlled by big farmers. Although they have formed cooperatives, but these cooperatives comprise of big farmers. In this way a separate lobby has been created and through that lobby they try to derive maximum benefits. There is great fear that this trend may not percolate to other areas also. I want that only big producers should not take advantage of it and hence the system is required to be properly organised. If you establish this system, then people in large number will be benefited by it and you would be able to give them employment. At the same time you will be able to strengthen their financial position.

There is an urgent need for land reforms. Now a days our hon. Prime Minister is also stressing the need of land reforms. This has caused uneasiness among the big farmers' lobby. When the Prime Minister wants the land reforms to be implemented and if we implement them strictly, then the small farmers will certainly be benefited by them. The big farmers whether they belong to our party or to the opposition parties, have never cooperated in streamlining this system. They are all opposed to land reforms. They never want that the land reforms be implemented properly. They are behind its non-implementation. Even if today some States have enforced land ceiling laws, they have escaped from its purview and have taken the advantage by distorting the law. I want that surplus land from big farmers, even from those farmers who own more than five or six acres of land, be recovered and allotted to the poor, only then the situation may improve. Though it is a very difficult task, yet our hon. Prime Minister is strongly determined to implement the land-reforms properly throughout the country. But the lobby of big farmers and land-lords will definitely create obstructions in its implementation. They have also done the similar thing in the past as well. Whenever the question of land ceiling comes up, whether it may be urban land ceiling or rural land ceiling, they have always opposed it and tried their level best to obstruct its implementation. Even after that if there is any possibility of its implementation, then there are some people in bureaucracy who leave some lacuna in land ceiling laws to give benefits to this lobby. Therefore, you will have to be very alert and careful at every stage to strengthen this system. Some definite arrangement should be made for this purpose.

Similarly rural industries and Agro-based industries should be set-up in villages where raw-material, which may be in the form of maize, potato, tomato, apple, sugarcane, cashew nuts, oil seeds, cotton or any other products, are easily available. In this way we can uplift the villagers and can bring about a drastic change in village life. We can industrialise the villages and thereby raise the standard of living of the villagers. Such an arrangement is very essential and there is an urgent need to adopt it. Similarly for

the transportation of these products some cooperatives have to be set up and the persons who want to stand on their own feet should be granted loans and other similar facilities. Shri Dagaji had apprehension about such cooperatives. He had said that an amount of Rs. 170 crores was misappropriated by the office bearers of cooperatives which had caused a heavy loss to the cooperatives. But he had him-self stated that a huge amount of Rs. 4000 crores has been locked up in industries by big industrialists which has also been misused. There is much difference between Rs. 170 crores and Rs. 4000 crores. Even after the misappropriation of Rs. 170 crores the cooperative sector will definitely flourish and crores of people will be benefited and their living standard will be improved. Therefore, this matter should be considered seriously. The misappropriation of a small amount should not lead us to think that this cooperative sector is not working properly, because such an attitude would be a serious set back to this system. Therefore, in view of the large number of workers, cultivators and their products, the agro-based industries should be set up at villages, towns, tehsils and district levels on a very large scale. Whatever amount is required for this purpose, must be provided, because it would be very helpful in the programmes of upliftment of the people and to bring them above the poverty line. I am thankful to Mr. Patil for putting forward such a fine idea and it is necessary to enforce this system on a very large scale. This system should be set up in a planned way at Block, tehsil and district levels so that we may provide employment to thousands of poor people and improve their economic condition.

I had to say only this much and with these words I extend my support to it.

[English]

SHRI I. RAMA RAI (Kasaragod) : Mr. Chairman, while welcoming the spirit of the Bill, though it is not so comprehensive, anyway the spirit of the Bill.....

[Translation]

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY (Hanamkonda) ; You have been influenced by

Shri Daga. That is why you are not calling it comprehensive one. It would be better if you speak from the front row.

[English]

SHRI I. RAMA RAI : Dagaji of course, he is there. He spoke about co-operative movement in a very spirited way. We cannot remove the nose just because we caught cold. Nose is there. We can get medicines for controlling the cold. We can send medicines. So co-operative movement is a correct movement for the Indian peasants. But the only thing is that it is handled badly. That is why we are in this state of affairs. In my State, we are trying to bring people from different sections of the society into the Board of Directors—big landlords, marginal farmers, small farmers and agricultural also. Every section is given its quota in the Board of Directors so that it cannot be controlled by some vested interests alone. Evne Harijans and Girijans are given a place in the Board of Directors. When I come to Delhi, I see people having paan pockets. I am a grower of arecanut. Arecanut costs very little in my State, but when it comes here, a small tin box costs about Rs. 20/-. The arecanut growers were being exploited till now. But after the two State Governments of Karnataka and Kerala took up the cause of the farmers and formed an institution in the cooperative sector called CAMPCO, they have succeeded in giving a good price to the farmers. This CAMPCO has now taken a step further and is going to set up a chocolate industry, which will be a major industry in the whole of India. Cocoa can be easily grown in the midst of arecanut plants.

There are so many good points with regard to the cooperative movement. Just as our Andhra friends had said, we have plenty of seasonal fruits and vegetables. These vegetables can be preserved only in big warehouses, and this work can be taken up by the cooperative sector. Otherwise, farmers will have to sell them for a pittance. We have good fruits, good honey etc. and these are the days of canned food. We can have a lot of agro-based industries, like the canned food industry. ; Nowadays, when we go to our constituencies, we are not getting mangoes. But we are getting mangoes here

in Delhi. These agro-based industries can have a cooperative transport system, whereby they can move fruits and vegetables from one part of the country to another, in various seasons.

We have plenty of coconuts in Kerala and Karnataka. Karnataka is thinking of sending wagon-loads of tender coconuts to Delhi. Similarly, the cooperative movement can think of having different varieties of coconuts and fruits marketed in different parts of the country.

I would say that the water of tender coconut can be used if there is no glucose available, and it can be injected into the blood. It is a well covered, and an unadulterated thing. This drink can be supplied all over the country by the cooperative movement. This can be started by agriculturists and agricultural labourers. This is the time for us to have cooperative farming.

I again come to Kerala. There, the charges for agricultural labour have gone up to a great extent, i.e., Rs. 30 or Rs. 40. In fact, land-owners will be glad to contribute their lands as their share to the cooperative farming society, so that they can have a good return; and the labourers can contribute labour as their share. Thus, everybody can have a good dividend on a cooperative basis. Thus, many useful institutions can come about under the name of agro-based industries and under the name of agro industry and other things. I welcome the Bill. I want the bill to be amended further to see that the benefits for the agriculturists and the labourers are achieved by bringing forward a different legislation like this. I once again thank you for giving me this chance to speak on the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA (Robertsganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I wholeheartedly support the aims and objects of this Bill moved by our colleague Shri Patil. It is correct that 75 per cent peasants and workers are living in villages and their main occupation is either agriculture or other allied agricultural work. Shri Patil has drawn the attention of this House through this Bill. At present the main problem before us is to stop migration of peasants and

agricultural labourers from rural areas to urban areas. We have to bring about an improvement in their standard of living. At present 37 per cent people are living below poverty line and if we want to uplift them, we have to definitely bring agro-based industries under cooperative sector. I would like to say that not only agro-based industries, but forest based industries should also be set up in tribal areas and Harijan areas on a large scale. Not only this, but animal based industries like industries based on wool acquired from sheep, should also be set up in villages. It will definitely bring about a revolutionary change and the dream of Mahatma Gandhi regarding self-sufficiency of villages, would be translated into reality. For this purpose, the 48 per cent industries which are based on agriculture have to be set-up in villages. The five per cent industrialists whether they are in private sector, joint sector, public sector or in cooperative sector, are earning the profits out of raw-material produced by 75 per cent of people. It has no meaning unless the industries are established in rural areas. When public exchequer has invested 90 per cent of the investments in these industries, then there is no reason that only five per cent people should get profit out of them and 95 per cent people may remain deprived of its profits. There is no reason that peasants and agricultural labourer should not get their due share. Therefore, I wholeheartedly support it. I would like to say only this much that the Government should bring a comprehensive Bill in this regard which may include all these aspects. Our colleague has put forward an idea, a policy and a thought, therefore, the hon. Minister of Agriculture on the basis of his experience, should bring it in a form of comprehensive Bill in this House to bring about a revolutionary change in rural-life which hitherto could not be brought at par with urban development despite our best efforts.

It is correct that constitution guarantees law of equality, equal rights and equal opportunities to all, but unless equal resources are also provided to attain that equality, the right of equality has no meaning at all. If poverty has to be alleviated from rural areas, tribal areas, flood-prone, drought prone and desert areas and if we want to implement new education policy in the real sense, then the economic change is essential,



[*Sh. Ram Pyare Panika*]

without which it is not possible to bring about equality. Therefore, today it is necessary for the House to take a decision that all the agro-based, forest based and animal based industries be set up exclusively in rural sector. We may call it rural sector or the cooperative sector. It is correct that in some states such as Maharashtra and Gujarat, there has been remarkable work in rural sector, but in some other States there has not been good work, but we can improve its efficiency by removing middlemen, who are involved in it. It is the duty of our Government to do so. Our cooperatives should function in such a way that big capitalists are kept away from it. Our hon. Prime Minister is also worried about it and he has asked the opposition parties to extend cooperation to the Government in this regard. The conflicts taking place in Bihar regarding land should be resolved. I had said earlier also that matter relating to land should be settled, because the persons are not getting possession of the land distributed to them under land ceiling Act. It is due to the fact that all of us whether we belong to ruling party or the opposition parties, are not strictly following it and we are not helping the people to whom land has been allotted. In Uttar Pradesh, the land revenue is being paid by the Harijans, whereas the land is still under the possession of big land lords. If land of a Harijan falls between the land of big landlords, he is not allowed to plough his land or irrigate his fields. Therefore, there should be a comprehensive law regarding land and agriculture and if the land of Harijan falls in between, a separate drain for irrigation purposes should be provided to him. If such a law is made, definitely there will be a drastic change in the rural scene. The dream of Bapuji regarding prosperity and self-sufficiency of our villages can, thus be translated into reality.

Our colleague Shri Dagaji was opposing this Bill, but I think perhaps he has not gone through it properly, because it is clearly mentioned in the Bill that.

[*English*]

'Producer' means a farmer, who cultivates the land.

[*Translation*]

Both the farmer as well as agricultural labourer are equally included in this Bill and

it has been mentioned in this Bill very clearly. I want that hon. Minister of Agriculture, who is very experienced Minister, should bring forward a Bill regarding these functions under cooperative sector, if not in this session, at least in the next Budget session. I request you to withdraw this Bill.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY (Hanamkonda) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support this Bill. Shri Dagaji has not gone through its provisions, but this Bill contains very good provisions for the workers. I could not understand as to why Shri Dagaji had opposed this Bill. The definitions of both the producer and the worker are given in it. One who works in the field is eligible to become a member of the cooperatives, This Bill has been brought forward to protect the cooperative sector and the rural people engaged in agricultural work. You can see that whenever in the Central Hall we ask for tomato ketchup, that costs Rs. 8 to us whereas that does not contain even 100 grams of tomato. Similarly a little of tomato and some butter is supplied to us, which contains the butter worth less than 30 paise and tomato worth less than 10 paise, but he charges 150 paise for it. So what is the reason for all this? It is because the industrialists are exploiting the producers. If I get a house in Delhi, then I would be ready to give up even one hundred acres of land in lieu thereof. In Delhi, Hyderabad and Warangal, sale of residential plot can fetch some Rs. 4 lakhs. It is due to the huge appreciation of the value of urban property that the economy of our villages is going helter-skelter. The farmer is not getting the remunerative price that he should for his produce. When we ask for potato chips in the Central Hall, we have to pay Rs. 2 for it, although it does not contain even 50 gms. of potato. Moreover, potato sells at Rs. 20 per maund. So you can calculate as to how much chips could be made. The similar is the case with mango juice. A single glass of juice does not contain even 25 paise worth of mangoes, yet we are charged Rs. 3 for it. Air India charges Rs. 5 for the same glass of juice. Similarly a glass of Mausami juice costs Rs. 6. You could calculate that the farmers do not get even one rupee for this. It is quite evident that the farmers and the workers are being exploited. How many people own landed

property? In our Andhra Pradesh only 10 or 15 persons might be owning more than 5 acres of land. Benami transactions are undertaken and Benami shares are purchased, because there is plenty of black money in our country. If a farmer purchases anything with unaccounted money his money comes to light immediately and he is caught at once, but the people who have deposited money in the Swiss Bank and other banks are neither caught nor is any notice taken of their money.

Again, Land Reforms is a topic which is discussed quite often. Eleven years have passed since the enactment of the Urban Land Ceiling Act. How much land was declared surplus as a result of enforcement of ceiling and how much was distributed. We are aware that since the Act was passed, no one is willing to demolish the illegal constructions which have taken place... (Interruptions) In Warangal, registration and stamp fees are also not required for transfer of land. So why should one not take benefit of it? This implies that the people belonging to the Urban areas are exploiting the rural people. I would also like to add that if a farmer has thousands bighas of land in his possession, it is like committing suicide. If any girl is asked as to what kind of man would she prefer to marry, she would at once say that her first choice would be an I.A.S. or an I.P.S. officer, this would be followed by a preference for high Government official which would again be followed by a sub-inspector, then a constable and a peon; the person owning agricultural land or the tiller would occupy the last position in her order of preferences. This is so because the farmer is considered as sinners. It may or may not happen elsewhere, but in our country the person who is dependent on his land does not get anything to eat. There is a couplet in Telugu which is as follows :

*Boomulu dunde vaniki buve Karvaye  
Amuka tine vani kumule tirage*

This means that the person who tills land does not have enough to eat. But the person who sells the produce in the market becomes rich. He becomes a big man.

That is why I am saying that the farmers are very much troubled these days and therefore agro-based industries should be reserved for them as has been provided in the Bill, and due arrangements should be made for that. Another reason behind his troubles, is that, when we buy vegetables directly from the farmer we do not pay more than one rupee for a kilo of it. However, the same vegetables sell at Rs. 10 per kilo in the markets in Delhi. Hence, the Government should have moved this Bill and it should have taken initiative to implement it. But only the farmer's land holding attracts our Government's attention. The Government should take steps for the protection and upliftment of farmers, If the farmers survive, then our villages would also survive. If our fields do not produce enough, then we would have to depend on imports as is the case with sugar at present which is being imported from abroad. We would have to depend on other countries then, in every field. Therefore the Government should make such arrangements that the farmer gets remunerative prices for his produce and his produce should be reserved for the units in the cooperative sector.

18.01 hrs.

**BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Twenty-fourth Report**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : Sir, I beg to present the Twenty-Fourth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House now stands adjourned to reassemble on Monday, the 21st July, 1986 at 11 A.M.

18.02 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, July 21, 1986 Asadha 30, 1908 (Saka).*