

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The Minister may now move for leave to introduce the Appropriation Bill.

13.58 hrs.

APPROPRIATION (No. 5) BILL,* 1987

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1987-88.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1987-88.

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The Minister may now introduce the Bill.

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

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The Minister may now move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

SHRI B.K. GADHVI : Sir, I beg to move** :

“That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1987-88, be taken into consideration.”

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

“That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1987-88, be taken into consideration.”

The motion was adopted.

14.00 hrs.

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

“That Clauses 2, 3 and the Schedule stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2, 3 and the Schedule were added to the Bill.

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

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The Minister may now move the Bill.

SHRI B.K. GADHVI : I move :

“That the Bill be passed”.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

“That the Bill be passed.”

The motion was adopted.

14.01 hrs.

STATEMENT RE : RECENT DELIBERATIONS IN THE U.S. CONGRESS ON SOUTH ASIA

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : Last week the US Congress has considered

*Published in Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, section 2, dated 7-12-1987.

**Introduced/moved with the recommendation of the President.

[Shri K. Natwar Singh]

some actions on South Asia which, if enacted, would have adverse implications for our bilateral relations with the United States.

We would not like to pre-judge the final outcome of the congressional proceedings nor, in normal circumstances, would Government have commented on them. Yet the circumstances of congressional action have made it imperative to emphasize that improvement in Indo-US relations requires a better appreciation of India's point of view. Financial flows or technology transfer are not the totality of the relationship nor can they be used as levers to force policy changes upon us. A healthy relationship between two sovereign democracies has to be built on mutual interest, trust and confidence. Devoid of these elements our relationship with the U.S. cannot retain its present level much less prosper.

Sir, India made a commitment many years ago not to develop nuclear weapons. We have kept our word. Our nuclear materials and facilities are dedicated to peaceful uses. We are against both vertical and horizontal proliferation of nuclear weapons. But for reasons which we have stated openly and unequivocally, India is not prepared to accept a discriminatory non-proliferation regime. We stand by this position, and nothing will persuade or compel us to change it. It is regrettable that the Senate Committee has thought fit to equate India's peaceful nuclear programme with Pakistan's relentless pursuit of a weapons-oriented programme. We cannot, and will not, accept this distorted view of the reality in our part of the world.

We have conveyed our strong feelings to the US Government at all levels. The Prime Minister has conveyed our concerns to President Reagan. I too have told the US Ambassador in Delhi that the consequences of the proposed congressional actions should be viewed in the perspective of our bilateral relations and remedial action should be considered on an urgent basis.

As Hon'ble Members are aware, we are now dealing with the recommendations

of a Committee of the Senate. We shall have to await the final outcome. We have noted that President Reagan is very concerned about the South Asia part of the Senate Committee's recommendations. Both India and USA have striven to establish a productive bilateral agenda for the future. We shall formulate our considered response in the light of future developments. Government would like to assure the House that we will not allow pressures from any direction to alter our basic policies.

14.04 hrs.

**EQUAL REMUNERATION
(AMENDMENT) BILL**

[English]

As passed by Rajya Sabha

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, we will go to the next item, that is, Item No. 18 regarding the Equal Remuneration (Amendment) Bill, which is to be taken up here for consideration.

Mr. P.A. Sangma to move the Bill.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : I beg to move :

"That the Bill to amend the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration".

Sir, one of the most important Acts relating to Women's employment, the Equal Remuneration Act, was passed in 1976 replacing the Equal Remuneration Ordinance of 1975.

The Act provides for the payment of equal remuneration to men and women workers for the same work or work of similar nature and for prevention of discrimination against women in the matter of employment. The Act covers all categories of employments in the organised and unorganised sectors.

During the decade or so that the Act has been in force, certain lacunae and omis-