

litigants have to travel all the way from the Southern States to New Delhi to pursue their cases.

It is, therefore, necessary to have a Bench of the Supreme Court at Bangalore for the benefit of the litigant public of Southern States. This will help to bring justice to the doorsteps of the litigant public.

I urge upon the Government to set up a Bench of the Supreme Court at Bangalore.

12.25 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193... *Contd*

Floods in various parts of the
Country—Contd.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Item No. 6. Hon. Minister, Shri Bhajan Lal to reply.

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Hon. Members have had valuable discussion about the flood situation on 3rd instant and made good suggestions about situation in different states and the quantum of loss suffered due to floods and the steps required to be taken in this regard, Mr. Chairman, Sir, before talking about floods, I would like to say that this session is aptly known as Monsoon session. As you are aware that the country has been facing severe drought for the last 4 years, particularly the drought for the last two years was the severest drought of the century. The condition in Rajasthan and Gujarat was the worst due to this drought. These two states were badly affected by drought. I will go to the extent of saying that the House should express its gratitude to god Indra that there has been good and timely rain through-out the country and this is a good beginning which is an indicative of good prospect of not only kharif crops but Rabi crops also.

There had been excess of rainfall in some parts of the country and some parts have also been flooded but Mr. Chairman, Sir, as you are aware, the condition of the cattle and the human beings had worsened due to continuous drought for 4 years and the level of under ground water had also gone down. At many places, under ground water had become brackish due to which drinking water problem has assumed serious proportion in the country. Water dried in wells and tube wells creating a difficult situation before the country. This rain will raise the level of under ground water and will also remove its brackishness. Along with this, our tanks and dams from which canals originate are filled with water which could be used for irrigation purposes by releasing water into canals from them. Generation of electricity in hydro electricity projects suffered due to scarcity of water. That deficiency will also be recouped and the electricity will be available in sufficient quantity to different industries in the country. When it rains, electricity is not needed for tubewells. Electricity so saved will be utilised in other works of the development of the country. Industries will run by this and people will get employment there, this will also improve the economic condition of the country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, some Hon. Members have raised some points in this House. Through you, I would like to inform the House that 16 States and 124 districts have suffered some losses due to floods this year. I would like to tell about the losses suffered due to floods in 124 districts and 16 States with the help of the figures available with me. In all, 16 states and 124 districts covering an area of 1669000 hectares of land and a total population of 84 lakhs 13 thousand people had been affected; the most unfortunate part of the tragedy is this that as many as 442 people and 11,688 cattle lost their lives. Standing crops on about 10 lakhs 65 thousand hectare areas have also been damaged.

For this, the Government of India and the State Governments have established 2230 relief camps so that proper facilities can be provided to them there. In addition to it, I would like to tell the House that whenever there is flood or drought in any part of the

[Shri Bhajan Lal]

country, the Government of India extends all help to the affected people.

You have seen how smoothly the Government of India and the State Government have jointly faced the challenge of the severe drought throughout the country for the last four consecutive years and not a single man was allowed to die of starvation. All possible help was given to prevent starvation death and whatever was expected and possible on the part of the Government to provide drinking water, foodgrains, employment and feeders for cattle was done by the Government.

Many Members from our opposition benches, for whom I have a high regard, have expressed their views. It is not appropriate on our part if we do not say a just thing as just. They have said that there had been continuous floods for the last 40 years and the Indian Government has not done anything to check it.

You are aware that in the Seventh Five Year Plan an amount of about Rs. 1000 crores were earmarked as margin money for floods. Out of this amount about Rs. 553 crores have been already spent during the past three years and during the current financial year the States are having Rs. 740 crores and 75 lakhs as margin money. The Margin money is meant for providing immediate relief to the areas suffered from natural calamities. 50 per cent of this money is provided by the Centre and the rest of the 50 per cent is provided by the respective State Governments. In the funds provided by the Centre to the State Governments on the basis of memorandum submitted to the Centre by the state after spending the margin money, 75 per cent is contributed by the Government of India and remaining 25 per cent is shared by the State Govt.

I want to apprise you about the dams constructed and proposed to be constructed during these years. You are aware that the total area of our country is about 33 crore hectares and out of which about on an average 77 lakh hectares are affected by floods every year. Gravest floods occurred in 1978 when 178 lakh hectares of land was affected. But according to the survey, 400

lakh hectares of land are flood prone areas and may be affected by floods. The Central Government has been trying its best to control floods and so far satisfactory measures have been taken to control floods for about 133.7 lakh hectares of flood-prone areas. Some Hon. Members may ask for the measures adopted on our part, To them, I want to inform that 5 large dams have been constructed under the Damodar Valley Projects and which are the Maithan, Panchet, Konar and Tillaiya dams respectively. Apart from this, we have the Bhakra dam on Sutlej river. Then we have Hirakund, Rehand, Rengali and Chandil dams. Besides, three dams have been constructed on river Chambal, the names of which are Gandhi Sagar dam, Rana Pratap Sagar dam and Jawahar Sagar dam. The confluence of Lohit, Dibang and Dihang rivers lies between Tinsukhia and Dibrugarh and it is also the origin of the river Brahmaputra. The Brahmaputra Board was constituted in 1981. This Board is preparing a master-plan for flood control. A draft of the flood control plan for major flood prone areas of Brahmaputra and Barak rivers has been prepared. Apart from that the Ganga Flood Control Commission which was set up in 1972 has also prepared a master-plan. Out of a total of 23 sub-basins, plans with regard to 17 sub-basins have been prepared.

There are chiefly 4 states in our country which are flood prone. These are Bihar, Assam, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. We are making efforts to construct dams on the rivers. This task can be accomplished by mutual consultations. When a river passes from one state to another it floods the latter, That is why we want that the concerned States should sit together and consider as to how much amount is to be spent by each State for this purpose and what sort of measures are required to be taken in the particular states so that floods can be completely controlled. The Central Government have all along been making full efforts to control floods at any cost. But you are aware that there are some problems which are perennial in nature. Sometimes there are floods and sometimes there are severe droughts. During the drought situation, the entire attention of the Government is diverted in tackling that. Howsoever much we may pay attention in that direction, still

these horrible situations are created. Whenever such natural calamities occur in our country, the Central Government and the State Governments have to make cooperative efforts in firmly combating the situation.

You are aware that our resources are scarce that is why have to make judicious use of it by affecting economy on some items and utilising the money so saved on other items wherever needed.

Along with it many Hon. Members have mentioned that rivers like Kosi, Gandak and Ghaghara which originate from Nepal cause floods in our country.

DR. G. S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur) :
Kamala Balan river is also one of them.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : I will reply to your each and every point. There are several rivers of our country which emanate from Nepal. Several meetings were held at the secretary level in this regard and many matters were discussed. We hope that some fruitful result will surely come out. When the rivers of Nepal enter into Indian territory, they descend through a great height. Thus these rivers flow from hilly areas to the plain and on entering the plains, they start overflowing causing substantial losses. If dams are constructed on our side, it will not help in controlling floods and besides, they will be washed away. Therefore, we want that dams should be constructed in the upper course of the rivers so that Nepal is able to produce electricity and if it can spare some of it then India can also purchase it. Secretary level talks are going on in this regard and we expect that Nepal Government will think about it seriously. It will benefit both the countries. Government is always concerned about the fact as to how to prevent floods and to utilise every drop of water. You know that irrespective of which river overflows, we want that dams be constructed on all rivers and each drop of water be utilised and you know that out of the total of 33 crore hectares, 14.5 crore hectares are under cultivation and rest of the areas are lying fallow. In Rajasthan, Gujarat and in many other states agriculture is totally dependent on

rainfall and that is why each drop of water should be utilised and we want to make available water to the areas where there is shortage of it. If dams are constructed on those rivers and canals are also constructed, then we can have power generation as well. The problem of power shortages, being faced by the country today can also be solved. You are aware that hydel power is very cheap as compared to thermal power whose cost of production is very high and there are other difficulties as well and therefore water should be utilised for this purpose and efforts have been made in this direction constructing dams like Bhakra Nangal. Thus, the Central Government and the State Governments have made efforts to supply power to the people by constructing several dams. We want that we gain complete control over floods in future and each drop of excess water is utilised.

Along with it, a meeting of the Secretaries of all States was called in June in which they are directed to take all possible measures to check floods and if there is anything required in this regard, the Central Government be informed about it so that this requirement could be fulfilled. You may have seen that when floods occur, relief operations have to be undertaken on war footing and Central Government extends full assistance in this matter. Whatever is required by the states in tackling this situation is met by the Centre. Some Hon. Members have suggested that some sort of flood forecasting arrangement should be there. I want to submit that 147 such stations have been set up which give beforehand information to the people in this regard. The people are warned two or three days before the actual occurrence of floods in a particular area and this time you have seen that good monsoons were predicted by our scientists two months in advance and the results are before you. Similarly, our scientists have established 147 stations to caution people against floods in advance so that they can take precautionary measures. The Centre has directed the states as well that they should make prior arrangements in this regard. The States did as directed but at some places due to sudden flooding, considerable difficulties are created.

Many Hon. Members have demanded construction of embankments along the

[Shri Bhajan Lal]

rivers. But this involves a lot of expenditure. I may prevent the overflowing of river on one side but may take the shape of floods in another area. Therefore, the problem has to be studied deeply and detailed survey has to be undertaken to ensure that while checking floods in one area, another area do not get submerged due to it. It is not justified that in order to prevent flood in one area, another area is subjected to a greater fury of floods. Hence, our engineers have to take a very careful decision and the results are in front of you. It is only in case of very excessive rainfall that floods occur.

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There are two major problems facing the country today and these are the floods and the droughts. What are the reasons behind these twin problems? The main reason is the heavy depletion of forests. If we go to the mountains we will find that the lustrous green forests are missing and it creates an imagination in the mind that a woman has been made bald headed giving a very ugly look to the eyes.

I mean to say the difficulties arising out of it. When the trees are cut then there is no check to the flowing water. This results in extensive soil erosion and the rivers bringing floods to the plains. The second difficulty is of the drought. When there are no trees and greenery around, there will be drought in the area. So, both floods and drought are caused by denudation of forests. Therefore protecting the trees should be our sacred duty and we should protect them at every cost. All of us know that deforestation is resulting in soil erosion along the banks of the rivers.

Some Hon. Members have referred to heavy silting in the rivers and have asked for the arrangements to be made for desilting. It is true that the water flowing from the mountains takes the mud with it and causes silting in the river bed which rises as a result thereof. How can we desilt it? Suppose the capacity of a canal is 500 cusecs and there is silt in the canal and if we release 500 cusecs of water from the dam, there will be breaches in the canal. This would do extensive damage to the surrounding areas. Therefore there is need to look into it.

You may be aware that there are many subjects which are state subjects. It is for the State Governments to see what can be done in this regard and how the situation can be controlled and set right. The Central Government provides all possible help to the States. Some Hon. Members have complained that the Central team visits the flood affected areas very late. It is true that floods have hit many areas but we have received memorandum from J&K, Assam and Andhra Pradesh only. We have not received any demand from any of the state so far. We do not have the full statistics regarding these States also. Unless they make an assessment of the loss, how can the Central team be sent there. These states send the figures which are based on guesswork and they never send complete figures. The Central Government tries to send the expert team to the affected areas within 30 days of receiving the memorandum from the concerned State Governments. The team makes a reasonable assessment of the situation and the Central Government tries to provide suitable assistance.

Some states complain that the centre does not provide adequate funds to meet the demand. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to submit here that the states do not only demand compensation for loss of life and property during floods, they demand compensation for the crops that would have been grown in the area which has been submerged in the flood water. Suppose 10 hectares of land is submerged in flood water, they would ask for compensation by calculating the market price of the crops that would have been raised there had the floods not hit that area. It is not possible for the Central Government to pay this much compensation to the States. But the Government does provide compensation for the loss to life and property including the cattle which perish. There are fixed norms for each category. The Centre provides assistance to States according to the norms fixed by the eighth finance commission. All possible assistance is provided by the Centre to the States.

Besides, some other Hon. Members have also raised a few points. Coming to them, Sarvashri V. S. Rao, C. S. Rajhans, Syed Masudal Hossain, Shanti Dhariwal, Ram

Bhagat Paswan, Shantaram Naik, R. N. Mishra, A. H. Ansari, A. Hamid. Manoj Pandey and Rana Vir Singh pointed out that the assistance given by the Centre to the States is being misutilised and it needs to be monitored properly. I would like to inform the Members that proper monitoring of the funds provided by the Centre to the States is done. However in a few places the funds have not been utilised properly. Suppose the funds were granted for providing drinking water to the people or for a particular drinking water scheme but instead these were utilised for some other purpose. We ask those states to refund the money, who divert it to other purposes. We tell them that as they have not used the funds for the purpose for which they had asked for, they will have to refund it. We have served notice to three states viz. Kerala, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh, to refund the money, because they have not utilized it for the purpose for which it was meant. Thus we do proper monitoring. Members have asked the Government to do it strictly. We have set up a committee which monitors the progress in the States so that the funds are not misutilised.

Shri N. C. Parasher has suggested to increase the marginal money so that people could be assisted fully. As I have told you, we have set aside Rs. 240.75 crores as marginal money and we increase it as and when required.

Shri M. Hossain has said that the West Bengal Government has not been granted adequate funds to meet the floods of 1987. I would like to inform him that the State Government had asked for Rs. 276.59 crores as flood relief whereas we provided them 82.90 crores. In providing this relief we have not discriminated against any State Government whether it is an opposition ruled state or a congress ruled state. It is the prime duty of the Centre to help the people of the country if they are in trouble. They may belong to any state. This has been our policy and we have provided assistance during critical times. It is not the question of a Government but of safeguarding the life and property of the masses. The Centre has always come forward to help them.

Similarly, Shri V. K. Yadav complained that Bihar did not get adequate funds for 1987 floods and that there has been discrimination against the state as compared to other States. Dr. Rajhans has also expressed similar views but it is not true. During 1987-88 the Centre has sanctioned Rs. 86.45 crore for flood relief and we shall provide all possible help. Rs. 54.32 crore have already been granted to them.

DR. G. S. RAJHANS : That is the lowest in the country though Bihar is the worst affected state. Bihar has received the lowest assistance.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : I do not agree with it. Other states have also received very little assistance and Bihar has been granted Rs. 55 crore as flood relief.

DR. G. S. RAJHANS : An amount of Rs. 55 crore is inadequate. Keeping in view the devastation in Bihar. The amount of assistance i.e. Rs. 55 crores is far from adequate. It will not serve any purpose. You can enquire from the different agencies at your command. The extent of devastation due to floods in Bihar is such that has never been during the last 150 years. Thousands of people have been ruined. Rs. 55 crore is nothing if we assess the situation.

I would like to say that the whole matter should be investigated. Their houses have been completely destroyed. Some token money must be given to them as a compensation.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : The Central Government does give money but the State Governments should also contribute. In many cases the State Governments do not contribute. There have been a number of complaints that the funds allocated for specific purposes are being utilized for other purposes by the State Governments. So much so that sometimes even the full amount is not utilized. The State Governments should see that the funds allocated by the Central Government are spent on those works for which these are earmarked.

DR. G. S. RAJHANS : It is requested that after the session is over, he may visit

[Dr. G. S. Rajhans]

the northern parts of Bihar and see the plight of the people there.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : You said that we do not undertake on the spot study. As I have already stated our team do visit the area within thirty days. As you have said we will visit Bihar and see what Central Government can do there.

SHRI MANOJ PANDEY (Bettiab) : Margin money should also be increased.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : Whatever you have said, we will consider that sympathetically so that you people may not have to face any problem.

Similarly, Shri V. S. Rao, Shri K. S. Rao and Shri N. C. Parashar have proposed to start the Crop Insurance Scheme in drought/flood prone areas and relief should be provided to the affected farmers by converting their short term loans into medium term loans. This relief has already been provided. In this connection, the Prime Minister has already decided and declared that in the areas of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, etc. the loans will be recovered in 7 years, if these areas have been in the grip of drought for the last two years and in 10 years if these have been in the grip of drought for the last more than 2 years.

The Crop Insurance Scheme has been implemented in almost every State. Compensation for the damage of crops whether caused by drought or flood in any part of the country is provided in accordance with the norms prescribed under the law.

Similarly, the Hon. Members like Sarvashri H. M. Patel, Syed Masudal Hossain, Shanti Dhariwal, Manoj Pandey, S. P. Jindal, Y.P. Yogesh, R. N. Mishra, B.P. Dass have referred to environmental pollution. I have already expressed my views in this regard. These Members have rightly pointed out that the main cause of drought and flood is the felling of trees. The Government is taking suitable measures to check cutting of trees. The State Governments have also been asked to check deforestation.

They have also proposed to further develop the forest areas in order to reduce the effect of floods. For this purpose, the River Valley Projects are there. A programme is being implemented in respect of 534 water courses of 27 catchment areas of 17 States after conducting a thorough survey. An amount of Rs. 249.46 crores have been spent during 1987-88 to reclaim 213 lakh hectares of land.

Similarly, Shri V.S. Rao has proposed that adequate health facilities should be provided in the flood affected areas. There is no doubt that floods cause diseases. The Central Government has issued a circular to the State Governments to provide adequate facilities in this connection.

Shri Shanti Dhariwal emphasised that the Advisory Committee on Drought and Floods of the Rajasthan Government should be strengthened. The State Government has been directed to form a committee consisting of an M.P., MLA Chairman of the Panchayat Samiti and Sarpanch of village level, so that the Government continue to get information about the problems of a particular area and about the ways these can be solved.

13.00 hrs.

Shri V.S. Rao stated that the Government of Andhra Pradesh did not supply the agricultural inputs in the flood affected areas in time. We would try to find out the difficulty and see what the Central Government can do in this connection.

Sarvashri H.M. Patel, Ranavir Singh, Jansa Reddy, C.P. Thakur and A.J.V.B. Maheshwar Rao suggested to sort out a permanent solution to floods by starting long term plans. I do not know whether the Government can control floods or not. China has, however already succeeded in this task. As already stated, the Government is aware of this problem and a plan has been formulated to tackle it. Commissions and Boards have been set up to control floods in the Ganges and other rivers. For

this purpose, a number of plans are ready. You know very well that all those plans cannot be implemented simultaneously, for the resources are limited. But we try to execute the important plans at the earliest by mobilising resources.

Similarly, Shri Ram Bhagat Paswan, Dr. Manoj Pandey, Sarvashri A.H. Ansari and R.S. Khirhar have proposed to solve the flood problem in the northern parts of Bihar by constructing a dam over the river Burhi Gandak from Nepal side. They have also suggested to implement the Madhubani, Sitamarhi and Adhwara group of schemes. Besides, the northern parts of Bihar should be treated as parts of India. The rivers flowing in this area cause floods in Sitamarhi area. In the light of these facts the plans meant for the Adhwara group of rivers and the Bhagmati river should be implemented within a period of 5-10 years. Besides, a number of points have been raised by them. As I have already mentioned, the Government has taken up this issue with the Nepal Government and we are considering these matters deeply. We would not lag behind and would do the needful as soon as possible.

In the same manner, Sarvashri V.S. Rao and Sidnal proposed to prepare a master plan to control floods. As I have already stated, a master plan in respect of many rivers has been prepared. This plan will soon be undertaken after determining the *inter-se* priority among various works. Similar points have been raised by Shri Parag Chaliha in regard to Assam and West Bengal.

SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH (Jaunpur): I had mentioned about Jaunpur.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: You had definitely talked about Jaunpur and I mentioned your name also. Perhaps you were not present in the House at that time. I will discuss it with you in a few minutes.

Similarly, Shri Ram Narain Singh has urged to improve the relations among various States. The Government is quite vigilant about this matter. Sarvashri Manoj Pandey,

Narain Chand Parashar, Ram Bhagat Paswan, Bipin Pal Das and C.P. Thakur have urged to divert the course of the waters of Ganga Kauveri. I have taken up this matter with the Hon. Minister.

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): I had enquired about the approval of Punpun Dargha Project meant for the permanent solution of the problems of flood and irrigation in the southern parts of Bihar. I had asked about this project, which had been sent for approval in 1980. Will the Hon Minister be pleased to give a reply in regard thereto?

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: The fact is that many states have sent various plans in respect of dams for approval and you know very well that it is under the Department of Water Resources and the Department of Irrigation. The Department of Agriculture does not deal with it. But as you know it is the joint responsibility of us all whoever the concerned Minister may be. A Minister ought to give a complete reply on behalf of the Government. I agree with you and want to say that the Central Government attempts to grant approval to the projects sent by the States at the earliest. But clearance may sometimes be delayed due to some reasons. Before granting approval the Centre has to see to a number of aspects: whether the project is technically alright, how the funds will be mobilized by the State Government and what will be its possible harmful effects. The issues related to the Irrigation Department are sent to them for their immediate consideration.

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Delay causes hindrance in the way of implementation of any plan. Its cost increases. The Hon. Minister must keep this in mind. If the plan is useful, it must be approved and if it is not, it should be rejected.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: I do agree with you that delay in completion of a plan increases its cost and the country has to suffer a loss as a result thereof. The Government of India does not at all intend the country suffers a loss. But the plans are approved after studying their various technical aspects. In the same way, Sarvashri

[Shri Bhajan Lal]

K.S. Rao. Ram Narain Singh, Ranavir Singh, Prof. N.C. Parashar and Shri Kali Prasad Panday referred to the other issues like Muneru and Aleru flood relief operations, floods caused by Yamuna in Haryana the State of the Darbhanga Project, protection of Kota town in Rajasthan, Jaunpur town protection scheme in U.P., the Piprasi, Pipraghat embankments, floods in the rivers of Ghagra, Tapti and Chhoti Gandak affecting the areas of the districts of Ballia, Basti, etc. Implementation of the scheme for meeting the shortage of drinking water and power in Hyderabad city, the effect of floods in Himachal Pradesh, Swan Channelisation, destruction of Gopalganj due to floods, and raising of the embankments of delta areas of the Godawari. The Government would consider these issues seriously and measures will be taken to accomplish the important tasks at the earliest so that the people might be protected from floods. So far as protection of Jaunpur city is concerned, a scheme has already been prepared and the technical advisory committee has recommended for studying its model. Further action is being taken in this regard. I would like to tell the Hon Members that whenever there is flood or drought, the Central Government makes its utmost effort to protect the life and property of the people and to provide them adequate assistance. These efforts will continue in future also. I assure this august House in this regard. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The discussion is over. The House now stands adjourned for lunch to reassemble at 2.10 p.m.

13.10 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch
till Ten Minutes past Fourteen
of the Clock*

14.14 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after
Lunch at Fourteen minutes past
Fourteen of the Clock*

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the Chair*]

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE : DIS-
APPROVAL OF THE ARMS (AMEND-
MENT) ORDINANCE, 1988 AND ARMS
(AMENDMENT) BILL—Contd.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up further discussion on the resolution moved by Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee. Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee was to continue her speech, but she is not present here.

Resolution moved :

“That this House disapproves of the Arms (Amendment) Ordinance, 1988 (Ordinance No. 5 of 1988) promulgated by the President on the 27th May, 1988”.

So, the Minister may now move his Bill for consideration.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : I beg to move :

“That the Bill further to amend the Arms Act, 1959, be taken into consideration.”

In the context of rising trend of violence and terrorism by extremists and anti-national elements in various parts of the country and in particular the alarming increase in the use of sophisticated automatic fire arms, rockets, etc. by these elements, an urgent need has been felt to amend the Arms Act with a view to provide for some deterrent punishment for offences under the Act. The Government has, therefore, brought up an amending Bill. The provisions contained in the Bill make a distinction in the matter of punishment for offences involving ordinary arms, ammunition on the one hand and prohibited arms and ammunition on the other. The provisions also prescribe more stringent punishment for offences involving prohibited arms and ammunition,