

[Sh. Bhajan Lal]

of fair average quality has been fixed at Rs. 325/- per quintal for the 1989-90 marketing season marking an increase of Rs. 35/- over the price fixed for 1988-89 marketing season.

5. The minimum support price of mustard of fair average quality has been raised from Rs. 430 during the 1988-89 marketing season to Rs. 460 per quintal for 1989-90 marketing season. The minimum support price of safflower for the 1989-90 season has been fixed at Rs. 440/- per quintal marking an increase of Rs. 25/- per quintal over the price fixed in 1988-89 season. The minimum support price of Toria would be announced separately on the basis of its normal market price differential with rapeseed/mustard.

[English]

AUROVILLE FOUNDATION BILL - *Contd.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: We now resume the discussion on the Auroville Foundation Bill. Now Prof. Ranga.

PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur): It is a happy co-incidence that during the same Session, almost within the same fortnight, we have had before us the Bill dealing with *Jamia Millia Islamia*, and now this Bill about Auroville. We hope that *Jamia Millia Islamia* would rise to the same status, with regard to its special religious characteristics, as that attained by the institution in Egypt, from which Abdul Kalam Azad himself had drawn his inspiration.

I have had the privilege of visiting Auroville, and I bear witness to the fact that from out of a rocky jungle and useless area of land, we have raised a wonderful area of greenery, with trees, foliage and flowers. It is an achievement indeed, for human effort. But most unfortunately, like all other human institutions, it has also gone into the ways of struggle and strain, leading to bloodshed also, as between the adherents and follow-

ers of Aurobindo Ghosh and the Mother.

From the days of Upanishad seers and sages always differ from each other; sometimes they used to quarrel and fight; and the same thing had happened here also. But, at the same time, we are very happy that this Auroville was conceived and had been brought into existence as a great institution especially in India, because from all over the world, these students of philosophy and Aurobindo Ghosh School of thought gather there to carry on their researches into Indian philosophy as well as Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist and all other Asian philosophical studies. So, it is a matter of honour for India to have these people coming, highly educated, speculative seers, from all over the world in order to carry on their own researches in practical life as well as intellectual sphere. Therefore, it is the duty of the government to ensure proper, progressive, peaceful and happy environment for these people and then help them also not to get at each other's throats not to see each other's blood, but, learn to live together in harmony with each other through fraternal discussion and debates and in that way make their own contribution as the ancient seers had done to the philosophy of life, philosophy of humanity.

Aurobindo started his life as a nationalist and went to the extent of being a terrorist and having found that terrorism was of limited use, nationalism also was not so very universally acceptable and agreeable and useful for humanity as a whole, he came to the conclusion that the whole world had got to be treated as one unit and the whole humanity to be served, and enlightened, had got to be educated and helped to live within itself in peace. He believed, therefore, in world peace and then seers and sages of world peace had sent spiritual messages from all corners of the world with the result that come over here to Auroville to carry on their researches and studies.

I have learnt that the government has taken up the responsibility of affording them the necessary physical atmosphere of peace and harmony and mutual coopera-

tion. We all welcome this Bill. We are extremely anxious that government should go out of its way and afford them every possible physical facility for the gentlemen and women who gather there under the inspiration and the canopy of the philosophy of Aurobindo and Mother. I wholeheartedly support this Bill and I hope that the government would spare fund, if and, when needed, in order to help it to flower itself into an institution for furthering world peace and the unity of humanity all over the world.

SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH (Inner Manipur): Mr. Chairman, I welcome and support this important Bill. I do not like to dwell on the philosophy of Shri Aurobindo and the inspiration of Mother which has attracted people from all over the world enabling this historic experiment in an international township in Auroville.

I also had the privilege of visiting this Auroville experiment site and I was very impressed by the experiment that was being taken up there.

This Bill has provided a new turn to the old experiment. I hope that the measure that has been introduced by the Central Government will have its positive effect on this very important experiment.

I would like to express some points not necessarily doubts on which I will seek some clarifications from the hon. Minister. Here, in this Bill there are three bodies to help the administration of this Auroville Foundation, the Governing Board, the Residents' Assembly and the International Advisory Board. Here, the Governing Board is defined and it is described as though that is not going to be an executive body. The Chairman may be a functionary because some question of remuneration or allowances to be given to the Chairman of the Governing Board is mentioned here. The Governing Board itself may meet once a year. That suggests that it is not going to be an executive body.

Then the Residents' Assembly is going to be the most important body, although high

powers are not going to be given because it is the residents that will matter the maximum in this administration. Here it is not very clearly mentioned whether this Residents' Assembly will have a functionary authority, or an officer to arrange, to convene and also to maintain its records, for the way it is mentioned, this Assembly will have its permanent office secretary. Here it is mentioned that the Secretary to the Governing Board shall maintain the register of residents. But this registration of residents is a business of the Secretary and that goes with the powers of the Secretary to the Board.

Here it is not clearly mentioned whether the Secretary will be the administrative, permanent official who will convene the meetings and keep the records of the Residents' Assembly, and it is also not mentioned how many times and in what manner the Residents' Assembly will meet.

There will be a Working Committee also. In this working committee certain duties have been allotted and the same difficulty will arise that there is no permanent functionary attached to the Residents' Assembly.

Then we have the International Advisory Board, which is also a remote body, which will be helping in many ways. The membership will be drawn from a wide range of fields, from a wide range of geographical regions and the utility and the desirability is understood. But the point is that the Government Board itself has a Chairman to control its functions and then the Central Government is nominating its nominees from time to time in order to keep track of the activities from the side of the Central Government, that is quite good. But in the absence of a liaison between the Governing Board, the Residents' Assembly and the International Advisory Board, — of course that is not a very essential — as I had expressed earlier, the Residents' Assembly will have to be provided a permanent liaison with the Governing Board, if it is not there.

I have seen the rule making provisions.

[Sh. N. Tombi Singh]

In this rule making power is not clearly mentioned. Perhaps it is given in Clause 31 which deals with the power to make rules. In sub-clause (h) it provides "any other matter which is to be or may be prescribed." Perhaps, the need to make rules for the Residents' Assembly may be governed by this; otherwise, there is no mention anywhere how matters are to be conducted with relation to the Residents' Assembly. As it is, I see certain lacunae in the drafting of the Bill. If it is so, perhaps, the Government may see that these lacunae may be eliminated because this experiment in international cultural township is going to be a very critical test. When it comes to philosophy it is all right. But it is going to be philosophy plus material consideration because it gives to administration a small world by itself although it is a big world because people will be drawn from all over the world representing different faiths. They will, no doubt, be attracted by the philosophy of the Mother and Sri Aurobindo. Already we have seen in the past that there has been a dispute or difference of opinion on matters of finance, power and other things. Unless these are tackled properly, this is going to create some problems. Government has good intentions that this legislation will remove the difficulties. Unless there is a proper liaison between the Government board and the Residents' Assembly, this problem will not be solved; rather it may invite criticism.

With these words I welcome this Bill and request the hon. Minister to kindly give clarifications in his reply.

[Translation]

**SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV (Alwar):** Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Auroville Foundation Bill, 1988.

Hon. Chairman, Sir, in 1972, as the Deputy-Speaker of Rajasthan Legislative Assembly, I had the opportunity to visit Pondicherry Ashram and International Auroville and to see the late Mother which gave a new experience of the culture, atmosphere and spiritual knowledge of that place. I cherished hope that the international Auroville

which was being constructed at that time, will be a model institution of world peace in the international field and will work as a coordinating force between the various civilizations of the world. But it is a matter of regret that after some time i.e. in 1968 several disputes cropped up about the property and powers and in 1980, an Emergency Bill was brought in this House. But today the situation has worsened to such an extent that even with the provisions of this Emergency Bill, We cannot manage the affairs of the institution properly and that is why this Auroville Foundation Bill was necessitated to be introduced in this House. I thank the hon. Minister for taking a timely step. Infact, Aurobindo Ghosh was a great son of Mother India, was brought in a spiritual and political revolution alongwith an spiritual upsurge in the entire country and with his spiritual messages he wanted to put an end to the exploitation and harassment in this world and to build such a society where people could live with a feeling of universal brotherhood and mutual harmony and which could bring the people nearer to each other. Besides this the high ideals of secularism and equality of all religions of Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru and Mahatma Gandhi were given a practical shape through this Pondicherry Ashram. As Mahatma Gandhi taught everybody to become self-dependent in life. So also the persons who lived in Pondicherry Ashram worked hard to manage food and clothes for themselves. It was so expected of them. But gradually there crept in such unwanted things that the people started feeling disgusted with such activities and due to which the vision of Shri Aurobindo Ghosh could not be realised.

Today, it is a matter of pride for us that in 1980, the Government tried their level best to protect this institution, which was on the verge of its decline. But when the Government found that the provisions of this Emergency Bill are also not adequate to serve their purpose, then this Bill was introduced in the House in its original form.

There is a provision in this Bill about which many important Members have spo-

ken. It has been provided in the Bill that the meeting of the Governing board should be held at least once in a year. But the Government Board is an apex body and it should meet at least twice a year. From time to time some guidelines should be issued about the formulation of new policies and the inclusion of various objectives therein. It does not appear to be feasible for the Governing Board that it would be able to contribute something significant towards promotion of international understanding, world peace and development of international culture and further pursuance of spiritual and other studies along with the studies in the Indian philosophy and various other streams of philosophy by holding only one meeting in a year. You may, therefore, please re-consider it. You have provided in the Bill that the meeting of the Governing Body must be held once in a year. The Governing Body cannot hold more than one meeting until and unless special circumstances demand so. You should think over it.

You have constituted a 'Resident Assembly' and all the resident's of the township will become the members of the Assembly. There should be an institution which may exercise control over the Resident Assembly. By virtue of my personal experience, I could say that anybody could go there and register himself as a member and live there. There should be some provision in the Bill to prevent the undesirable persons, whose stay in India are not in the country's interest, from staying there as their stay may not liked by the Government of India and the community there. There should be some sort of a body which may look into such cases. The body will decide the suitability of persons who could be granted permission to stay there. Those who are not eligible should be removed from there and the foreigners should be deported to their respective countries. These provisions must be made therein. In between some such activities were noticed there which created apprehension, and prompted in bringing this emergency Bill. The Government should ensure that no person belonging to any intelligence agency like the C.I.A or any other agency

gain entry into it in the pretext of cultural or some other activities and defeat the very objective of this institution. It is, therefore, necessary that the Government should be very cautious with regard to selection of persons to be recognised by the Residents Assembly. A monitoring body or some controlling agency must be there to regularise such activities. At the same time the penal provisions made in the Bill indicate that taking of documents, literature, plans etc. by the persons who are in possession of such things are considered very important, will not be in the interest of the country. But the rules do not specify the time by which he can give. It has been stated in section 8 that if the person will not handover them, the Government will take away the documents from him.

[English]

"8 (1) On the vesting of the management of the undertakings in the Foundation or on the appointment of a Custodian under Section 7, all persons in charge of the management of the undertakings immediately before such vesting or appointment shall be bound to deliver to the Foundation or Custodian, as the case may be, all assets, books of account, registers and other documents in their custody relating to the undertakings.

(2) The Central Government may issue such directions as it may deem desirable in the circumstances of the case to the such Custodian as to the powers and duties of the Custodian and such Custodian may also, if it is considered necessary so to do, apply to the Central Government at any time for instructions as to the manner in which the management of the undertakings shall be conducted or in relation to any other matter arising in the course of such management.

(3) Any person who on the appointed day, has in his possession or under his control, any books, documents or other papers relating to the undertak-

[Sh. Ram Singh Yadav]

ings should be liable to account for the said books, documents or other papers to the Central Government or the Foundation, as the case may be, and shall deliver them up to the Central Government or the Foundation or to such person or body of persons as the Central Government or the Foundation may specify in this behalf."

I think when the Bills passed and the assent of the President is received, then that person is under obligation to hand over all those papers, the documents, the bank accounts and all those things should be handed over to the Government of India or to the Officer being appointed on behalf of the Government.

[*Translation*]

At the same time I would like to submit, as has been said by Shri Ranga in the House, that the Government should accord the same status to this institution as has been given to the Jamia Millia University because this institution has also been set up in the memory of Shri Aurobindo Ghosh, a great son and spiritual leader of the country. We can be able to preserve the spirit and the sanctity of his gospel only when arrangements are made to undertake special study of his teachings, philosophy, gospels and thoughts, for which not provision has been made in this Bill as to how the residents of the township who are living there under such an atmosphere would be inspired for this.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it possesses properties worth crores of rupees for which funds were donated by the Government of India, many State Governments and foreign institutions. They contributed not only monetarily but in terms of literature and thoughts also. Some eminent personalities from abroad have also contributed to enrich its literature. We should make such a provision in the Bill which may inspire the young generation and coming generation to follow the principles of Shri Aurobindo so that they could lead a

peaceful life, a life which Shri Aurobindo had dreamt of. It is absolutely necessary to embody these sentiments in the Bill. I am hopeful that the philosophy, the principles and teachings of Shri Aurobindo will find berth in the Bill and the imaginations of this great sage will be fulfilled. It will provide soul to His soul and fulfil the mission he had started. With these words, I once again express my thanks for bringing forward this Bill.

[*English*]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I whole-heartedly welcome this Bill, the Auroville Foundation Bill, 1988.

Sir, as you know, Auroville is a well-known international cultural centre and it is in the process of being built up, it is in the process of construction and so many obstructions came up, I am not going into details. Thanks to the Government of India, they have intervened at the appropriate time and after their intervention also a lot of developmental activities have taken place there and now they have come before the House with this Bill to create a Foundation, the Auroville Foundation, which will remain in the overall charge of this International Cultural Centre. And the Bill also seeks to acquire all properties etc. which are controlled or owned by several trusts, several organisations that will be put together here without paying any compensation. This is a welcome feature in this Bill.

As you know, this Auroville is associated with the sacred memory of Sri Aurobindo. We are proud of Sri Aurobindo that he was born in our country. India is famous as a land of rishis hermits and great saints and Sri Aurobindo was really a rishi in the modern sense of the term. He was a nationalist, he has contributed a great deal to our freedom movement. You know the famous Alipur case, and in the Alipur jail, he has himself written that he was Sri Krishna in person and talked to him face to face. That had great impact in his mind and he has

clearly stated in his writings that India was destined to achieve Independence.

16.38 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

No force in the world could prevent India achieving her Independence, but independence or freedom was not an end in itself. A lot more has got to be done according to him for the emancipation of human beings individually and human civilisation collectively and thus he went to Pondicherry, founded the Sri Aurobindo Ashram there. (*Interruptions*).

You' now how he engaged himself with long meditation for this purpose and, Sir, as you know, he was a great philosopher and he was a great spiritual leader, a great leader of spiritual movement of the entire world, not only India. He was a great spiritual leader and he was a philosopher. His philosophy was the blending of science with spiritualism. It was also so to say a meeting ground of western and eastern philosophy. We are right in giving our tribute a befitting tribute to Sri Aurobindo - we have had his statue at the entrance of the Central Hall of Parliament. So, Sri Aurobindo was a great leader of the spiritual movement of the world. He believed in the world family *VASUDEVA KUTHUMBAKKAM*. He believed in *Divya Jeevan* divine life. According to him, we human beings are not complete and the process of evolution is going on and the supramental power will be descending on the earth to effect great changes in human life.

Sri Aurobindo was joined by the Mother in the Ashram. She was next to Sri Aurobindo as long as he was there. On the 28th February, 1968 she founded Auroville. She conceived of this project in furtherance of Sri Aurobindo's philosophy which is to be looked upon as a vision. The vision was provided by Sri Aurobindo and the Mother. Auroville has to provide the infrastructure for a better divine life for a better tomorrow for everybody.

One again, I welcome the Bill. The

Government of India had taken over the management temporarily from Sri Aurobindo Society, after great turmoil there, after the death of the Mother. In the Bill, there are provisions for Resident Assembly Board of Governors etc. But how these organisations will be managed, how the members will be selected. About this, there is no mention. I would like to seek clarification on that. These organisations should be given full freedom and, of course, the Government of India should watch from outside autonomy and give necessary monetary support and other support for Auroville to come up, according to the vision and concept of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother.

SHRI L.P. SHAHI: Sir, some apprehensions have been expressed during the discussion by various Members. One of the apprehensions was made that the Governing Body was to meet only once. But it is not so. The provision says that the Governing Body must meet at least once a year. It does not debar the Governing Body meeting 3 times or 4 times or as and when the situation so demands.

So far as other difficulties which have been expressed by some of the hon. Members are concerned, I would only say that we are having this Bill and this will be passed into an Act. After that rules will be framed for day to day running of the whole affair. So, rules have to fill up the gaps, if any. Everything cannot be brought on the statute book itself. Certain portion of the work is always left for the rules to complement the same.

So far as Resident Assembly is concerned, some of the Members have expressed their apprehension that some anti-social elements may come in. The anti-social elements have to be taken care of by the normal law and order authority, not by the Foundation itself. It is because, it may be a difficult task for the Foundation whereas our Home Ministry and other agencies which are engaged in watching the anti-social elements have always the authority to pick up such persons who indulge in anti-social activities and they can be turned out, not only

[Sh. L.P. Shahi]

out of Pondicherry but out of the country, if and when it is needed. So, that apprehension need not be associated with the Foundation of the Auroville.

He has been expressed by Prof. N.G. Ranga and Shri Aziz Qureshi, Shri Panigrahi, Shri Ram Singh Yadav and others, Auroville is a concept, is a vision, which has to be attained and, for that, continuous and systematic working is to take place by the Members of the foundation, members of the governing body, the Legislative Assembly and all those who constitute Auroville from now on. For that, we have to wait and see. We have to watch the working of the foundation from now on. In this way, we have been able to eliminate the different warring camps so far, who were engaged in disputes of ownership of property and all that. Now that no previous Trust or Body will have any lien over the foundation, I think, the foundation will work in a free and better atmosphere than before and they will be able to achieve their objectives.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the acquisition and transfer of the undertakings of Auroville and to vest such undertakings in a foundation established for the purpose with a view to making long-term arrangements for the better management and further development of Auroville in accordance with its original charter and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up Clause by Clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That Clauses 2 to 34 stand part of the

Bill"

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clauses 2 to 34 were added to the Bill.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is :

"That clause 1, the Schedule, the enacting formula and the long title stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted*

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

SHRI L.P.SHAHI: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

*The motion was adopted*

16.47 hrs

[English]

STATE OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH  
(AMENDMENT) BILL

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI  
SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the State of Arunachal Pradesh Act, 1986 be taken into consideration."

The Bill seeks to provide for sixty seats in the Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly by amending Section 10 of the State of Arunachal Pradesh Act, 1986. Section 10 of the that Act provides that the total number of seats in the Legislative Assembly of the