

Keeping this in view, M/s. Electronics Corporation of India Ltd started in 1982 manufacturing of TV sets at Tirupati and the production reached to Rs. 2.5 crores by 1984.

At the time of starting this unit in 1982, the Government promised to start VCR, VCP and colour TV units in Tirupati with a capital of Rs. 100 crores.

But, so far, nothing has moved in this direction. I request the Government of India to start production of colour TV, VCR, VCP units in Tirupati immediately.

- (viii) Demand for withdrawal of notifications which have done away with the concessions of excise duty given to small scale units.

SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER (Bangalore South) : Sir, the Government of India, by a series of excise notifications on 22-9-1987, withdrew the concessions given to the Small Scale Units. Already a large number of SSI units have become sick and consequent on the withdrawal of concessional rate of excise duty to SSI Units supplying goods to trade-name and brand-name manufacturers including Public Sector Undertakings, still more number of SSI units are going to become sick. The nationalised banks have given a huge sum to these Small Scale units as loan and if these units become sick, the nationalised banks will have to write off crores of rupees as bad debts.

In the interest of encouraging small scale units, it is necessary to immediately withdraw the recent notifications taking away the concessions given to SSI units.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now we take up Item No. 6 Statutory Resolution :

Shri C. Madhav Reddy —Not present;

Shri Syed Shahabuddin —Not present;

Shri K. P. Unnikrishnan —Not present.

Now I go to Item No. 7.

12.15 hrs.

AUROVILLE (EMERGENCY PROVISIONS) AMENDMENT BILL

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) : I beg to move* :

“That the Bill further to amend the Auroville (Emergency Provisions) Act, 1980 be taken into consideration.”

As a background for the consideration of this Bill, I should like to mention a few points which are directly relevant to the understanding of the situation in Auroville and the reasons why we are seeking the extension of the period of the Act for a further period of one year beyond 9th November, 1987.

As is well known, Auroville was founded on the 28th February, 1968 on the basis of a Charter which declares that it is the place of perpetual education, that it is dedicated to material and spiritual researches, and that its aim is to realise human unity. In India, we have held the ideal of the entire world as one family, and the aims and objectives envisaged for Auroville by Sri Aurobindo and The Mother are in full conformity with that ideal.

From 1958 to 1973, Auroville grew rapidly, and it was becoming more and more self-organised and self-sustaining. UNESCO passed three Resolutions urging the people and Member-States to promote the growth of Auroville. Things, however, changed after The Mother left Her body in 1973. The next three year were marked by various conflicts and, therefore, we had some trouble in running Auroville as wanted to. It was not possible to run Auroville as it was intended by The Mother. In the context of conflicts as also of complaints in regard to financial irregularities, the Central Government constituted in 1976 under the Chairmanship of the-then Lt Governor of Pondicherry, a Committee which gave a report in 1977 indicating a number of financial irregularities, improprieties. The Committee recommended

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

that the Government, among other course of action, could take over the management of Auroville for a temporary period. In 1980, this recommendation was given effect to, and under provisions of Auroville (Emergency Provisions) Act, 1980, the management of Auroville was vested in the Central Government in 1980 for a period of five years. However, the Act had been challenged in the Calcutta High Court and later in the Supreme Court. The litigation took quite a long time and, therefore, only in 1982 or in 1983, the Committee could function. Now the present position, in short, is that the conflicts that have been there are resolved. We are trying out very best. I am trying also my very best to talk to everyone concerned so that the management of Auroville becomes the business of Auroville people plus those who mean well for the development of Auroville. This is what we really want to do. We would like to get out of the management of Government of India as quickly as possible. I am quite sure now. In fact, I am much more confident than before, that things are shaping well. I have been talking to all concerned. Even today, I received a letter from Pondicherry from a very important member of the Sri Aurobindo Society saying that they would certainly cooperate in whatever efforts I make. I am happy to say that this is a matter of, maybe, a few weeks or months. Even it will not take one year although we have taken extension of one year under this amendment. So, this is a simple thing which is needed for the good management of Auroville as it was envisaged by The Mother to be an international centre where people come, where people meditate and study. There are lots of things that are going in Auroville. After the committee took over, lots of improvements have been made. I would not like to give a long list; but the development has been quite impressive. The Council found that a good deal of development has taken place in the Auroville in recent years. During this visit we visited the place and we initiated efforts to arrive at a consensus in consultation with the parties concerned — that is what I was just referring to.

In view of this I would like the House to pass this Bill and give us one more year's time to settle all matters outstanding and to see that the management of Auroville is placed on a sound footing.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That the Bill further to amend the Auroville (Emergency Provisions) Act, 1980 be taken into consideration."

SHRI VIJAYA KUMAR RAJU (Narasapur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, Many aspects have been mentioned by the Hon. Minister regarding the Auroville. I would also like to say a few words in this regard.

The setting up of an international cultural township was a part of the vision of Shri Aurovindo and the Mother. This township was inaugurated by the Mother in 1968 and it was named as Auroville. Many nations participated in the inaugural ceremony.

The Government of India and the UNESCO welcomed the setting up of this township. At the instruction of the Government, the UNSECO invited members of Government and non-Government organisations to participate in the development of the international township. This was intended to bring together values of different cultures and civilisations in a harmonious environment. Shri Aurovindo Society was the channel to get the funds from outside and Central and State Government. This society is different from Shri Aurovindo Ashram or Auroville.

After the Mother left this world in 1973, there were complaints of misutilisation of funds. The then Lt. Governor of Pondicherry set up a committee under the chairmanship of Shri Kulkarni in 1976 to inquire into these things. Ultimately with this background, the management was taken over by the Government in 1980 by an Act for a limited period of five years.

Then the society challenged this Act in the Calcutta High Court and later in the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court upheld the validity of the Act in November 1982. Afterwards efforts were being made to place the management on a sound footing. This Act was amended in August 1985 for a further period of two years beyond 9th November 1985.

The Auroville International Advisory Council held its sixth meeting at Auroville in August 1986 and initiated efforts to arrive at a consensus in consultation with the parties concerned. It is felt that some more time would be needed. So, the management of Auroville should be carried on as per the Auroville (Emergency Provisions) Act which expires on the 9th November 1987. In view of this the President promulgated on the 28th October 1987, when the Parliament was not in session, the Auroville (Emergency Provisions) Amendment Ordinance 1987 for a further period of one year. This Bill seeks to, replace the above mentioned ordinance.

With these words I conclude.

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR (Hamirpur) : Sir, I rise to support the Bill introduced by the Hon. Minister for Human Resources Development for the extension of the existing Act by another one year.

Sir, as the Minister has rightly explained the Government has no intention of staying permanently as the agency to manage the Auroville affairs. It is only in order to set things right and to help the realisation of the dream which the Mother had for building an international centre dedicated to material and spiritual unity and welfare crossing the barriers of caste, creed and country and in order to view the humanity and all animate life as one single entity.

Sir, as is clear from the aims and objects which have been made clear in the Bill itself the Supreme Court decision upholding the Act as valid came as late as 1982 and though the Government has taken over the management in 1980 it was only towards the end of 1982 that the Government was able to devote any attention to the affairs of the Auroville project. Therefore, a little more time is needed and I welcome the Minister's statement that the whole thing can be resolved much earlier than expected and, as such, the Parliament is being asked to give extension for one year. The Minister hopes that Government will be able to arrive at a permanent settlement within less than a year. It is a welcome assurance and everybody hopes that the vision that the Mother had and the aspiration which Shri Aurobindo had would ultimately be realised in the dream city of Auroville which is an international project by any

standards and which can be regarded as a ray of hope for the whole mankind. Indeed for the future it will bring a dawn of new consciousness which transcends all kinds of pettiness, rancour, anger, malice and greed, as is evident from the percept of spiritual life, which is being followed in Auroville.

Sir, Aurobindo had a unique vision. Whereas some seers of the past had denigrated the material life in order to promote the spiritual aspirations there were others in India and abroad who had just eulogised the material aspects of life and condemned the spiritual and religious aspects and described religion as opium. Therefore, the attempt to synthesise the two aspects—the material and the spiritual—is the only hope for mankind for the future. The production of an excellent book by the citizens of Auroville known as 'The aim of life' with selections from the richest extracts from the various religious scriptures like Isha Upanishad, Dhammapada, the Bible, Socrates and others is a unique collection with paintings and diagrams that offer some glimpses of the vision not in its entirety but some glimpses which anybody who wants to have it for himself can have it by going through the pages of the book.

Sir, as has been rightly said by the Hon. Minister it is a centre for continuing education but not education in the sense of restricted academic use of the word. It is education for life, education for living and I would just like to quote what kind of vision is sought to be offered from the Preface of this book. It gives an indication of what type of work is supposed to be carried on there. I quote :

"There are states and states of consciousness, there are profundities and widenesses, there are heights over heights to discover them one has to enlarge and explore ever-widening possibilities of psychological experiences. In the depths of being we may begin to integrate the threads and complexities of what we are and can become. It is there, perhaps, rather in books or preachings that we may begin to perceive and live what precisely is our aim of life.

"Free from dogmas and fixed beliefs, in the purity of experience, we may hope to discover the answer to the all-

important question : What am I to do ? What role do I have to play in the vast and mysterious universe ? What is the best and the highest goal that I should aim to realise ?"

The citizens of Auroville, drawn from all nations of the world, drawn from all strata of Society, drawn from all ages, speaking different languages, having different cultural habits, have come together to realise this object of Auroville—the dream-city of the future. I remember that Madam Indira Gandhi had once observed that nothing should be done by anybody, any society, any management or even the Government to interfere, which is vision of the future, in its realisation in Auroville. So, Auroville is a project and the Government has rightly stepped in to promote that very object which the Mother had in view. There are some material activities also being carried on. Some trees are also planted. I have personally visited Auroville about 3-4 years back and have been impressed by the work that is being done there. Some 1,500 persons have been employed in various activities. Some attention is also being paid to the paintings and other things which are so essential in material and ascetic life. But the main focus is on the combination and evolution of a spiritual effort that will envelop and embrace the whole of mankind.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House and would like it to join in eulogising this project and in avoiding all pettiness on all sides. Efforts of the Aurobindo Society to drag the whole thing into litigation rather than evolving a compromise for this purpose are not to be appreciated by anybody. When spirituality itself becomes a subject of litigation, it is as if some calamity has befallen this world of ours. So, let us realise the main aim, that is, the realisation of a dream for the future. Let us not do anything that soils it. Let us not do anything which spoils it.

Sir, the Government of India deserves all praise for entering into some sort of an effort for taking over the affairs of the Auroville project which has run into difficulties after the passing away of the Mother. I hope that Minister's assurance to this House that it will be possible to find a permanent solution to the management and also that

he had received a letter from one of the important members of the Aurobindo Society offering cooperation for this purpose, would be welcome steps. I hope the assurance would be fulfilled. Before long the affairs of the Auroville Project could be managed by the people who are actually living there and who are themselves engaged in the task of evolving a system which is for the betterment of humanity. Let us have hope and faith in them. Let us trust that those who are trying to evolve a pattern for the entire mankind for entire cosmos, are also able to find a permanent solution with their own efforts through cooperation, love and harmony for the management of the project. Let the Aurobindo Society also avoid bickerings and bitterness of the future and advance this step in the direction which is pointed out by the Hon'ble Minister Shri Narasimha Rao. With these words, Sir, I support the Bill.

DR. SUDHIR ROY (Burdwan) : Sir, I welcome the Bill because it seeks to extend the period by another year. The Act was originally passed in 1980. Then it was said that it would take maximum five years to complete the task. But because of litigation, because of cases in the Supreme Court and High Court, the Government could not act before 1982. In 1985, this Act was again extended for two years. Now, the Government is seeking to extend the period of take-over by another year. This Auroville project was started amidst much pomp and publicity. UNESCO sponsored the project in 1965. In 1958, the UNESCO called its Member States and other non-Governmental agencies to participate in the project. In 1970 also they gave the same directives. But what happened ? We find that Auroville turned into smugglers den. Its funds were embezzled and all sort of spies made a beeline for the Auroville Project. The Aurobindo Society which was in charge of the project received huge funds from different State Governments and Central Government. They also received funds from different international agencies but they simply mismanaged the affairs. There was fractional squabble and consequently it became a project of ill-repute. The people of Pondicherry were simply sick of this project of Auroville.

Therefore, it was very good that the Government tookover the management and

w: believe in the assurance given by the Minister that within a year they would be able to normalise the situation because it is desirable that the people of Auroville themselves should manage the affairs. But Sir when Auroville started, it was proclaimed that it would be a confluence of all the cultures of the world; it would be a city of constant youth which would never age; it would be a city of peace where people from all parts of the world could come and live in peace and they would follow the ideals of Shri Aurobindo and other great civilisations. But I think that all these are mere Utopias because in the 19th century, many European thinkers like Mr. Robert Owen, Mr. Charles Fourier and Mr. Saint Simon tried to build up such societies. They also tried to start some communes where people would lead a more honest life; where they will be assured work shelter, etc. But those societies could not succeed. In an otherwise imperfect world, imperfect social system, we can never visualise that such a society would thrive. Often we find that such societies degenerate into some sort of Rajneeshpuram that has earned enough notoriety in the world or they received so much money that quarrels started among the followers and they engage in fractional squabbles. In India, many institutions which receive plenty of Government money do not deserve that money. They misuse funds. Government should be cautious in granting huge funds because there is a fear that funds may be misused. Not only this, we find that this sort of society or commune which started, turn out into museum pieces or they simply cease to exist. In the Seventies Auroville earned bad reputation because all sort of drug addicts, spies and persons indulging in embezzlement of funds were there. Therefore, Government should think twice before handing over the powers to a body. Whichever that body may be but it must represent the people of Auroville. It must be a democratically elected body. Secondly, the Government should be cautious in advancing huge sums for this project. Finally, I should say that those who are accused of embezzlement of funds, they must be brought to book; they must be punished. Sir, with these words, I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT
(Nagpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise

to support this Bill. It is a matter of great satisfaction to us that this project and the future of this society is secure in the hands of Shri Rao. He has great faith in the Aurobindo Society and the Aurobindo Ashram. There are about 400 centres of the Aurobindo Society in the whole country. When the Bhoomi-Poojan function of this society was held at Nagpur, the Hon. Minister had then spared time for it and attended the function.

It is certain that it is the duty of the society and highly good institutions to create spiritual awareness among the people. The Government on its part cannot discharge this responsibility smoothly. Every citizen in the country owes reverence to the Aurobindo Ashram. The Mother of Aurobindo Ashram is worshipped by lakhs of families in the country with devotion and reverence. Whatever has happened in the society is undoubtedly very unfortunate. Many charges have been levelled against this society and many irregularities are being committed there. Funds are received from foreign countries and these are being misused. C.B.I. raids were conducted in this regard and the C.B.I. filed a number of cases in the court. As the Hon. Minister is aware, the court passed some strictures against the Government and termed the defaulters as innocent. The Aurobindo Ashram had been established for the welfare of human beings and it is essential that its objectives are fulfilled early. This should not happen that such persons find entry into it who try to create trouble in the name of foreigners or who are spied from other countries. In future you should keep surveillance over it to ensure that the atmosphere of that place is not vitiated. People from other countries may not be able to spoil the discipline and pious atmosphere of that society. If you find something suspecting about those persons after scrutiny, they should not be allowed to enter that place.

This institution has been running for the last seven years or so. I would not say that Government has not done good work. The Government has rather done very good work. I would, however, like to bring to the notice of the Hon. Minister that I am not at all satisfied with the present arrangement. The responsibility to look after the project has been entrusted to a retired judge of

the Allahabad High Court who is 80 years old. This is a very big and an important project and 2200 acres of land have been acquired for this purpose. It is beyond the capacity of a 80 years old judge to look after this project. This has been brought to our notice that nepotism is going on there and they are giving entry to their own people and such things are going on there. The Hon. Minister has just said that the Government is seeking extension only for one year and some way out will come out in some weeks or months. I would like to suggest that the Government should constitute a management board consisting of 11 to 15 members to be selected by the Minister himself who can take interest in the work and achieve good results till a permanent measure is adopted. That board should carry out the work with greater speed and smoothly keeping in mind its pious atmosphere and all these things. We will be grateful to him if he saves this institution. It will be a good step from the point of view of humanity and only then this institution will move forward speedily.

With these words, I again support this Bill.

*SHRI P. SHANMUGAM (Pondicherry) : Honourable Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Auroville (Emergency Provisions) Amendment Bill, 1987. The Late Holy Mother desired to set up an International Cultural Centre to foster international brotherhood and got the approval of the Central Government for establishing the same in Pondicherry. The people of Pondicherry had high hopes that Auroville will be set up at an early date. Till today, their aspirations have not been fulfilled. The Aurobindo Society, entrusted with the task of establishing Auroville in Pondicherry, was not functioning in the right direction. They delayed the establishment of the International Cultural Centre. The noble objectives of the Holy Mother remains unfulfilled. There were serious complaints about the functioning of the Society and the Central Government had to intervene. By an Act of Parliament, the Central Government took over the administration of Auroville. The Central Government constituted an Advisory Council to run the administration of Auroville. The administra-

tion was taken over for five years in the first instance and it was extended for another two years in 1985. The present Bill seeks to extend the operation of the Act by one more year. I do not favour such frequent extensions for one or two years. A permanent solution must be found to the deadlock. A high Level Committee must be constituted for early settlement of the problem so that the dreams of the Holy Mother could come true and the promised international Cultural Centre comes into existence. Hon. Minister and the Central Government must take necessary steps in this regard.

The Advisory Council was appointed by the Central Government. During the past years, it has functioned efficiently. Many of the drylands around the locality have been turned into green pastures. The Council has given a fresh life to the poor and unemployed farmers in that locality. A unit manufacturing software equipments has also come up. Many art, handicrafts and other industrial centres have also been set up to provide employment opportunities to the unemployed. Educational and other sports centres have also sprung up in the vicinity. The Council has taken all efforts to provide employment opportunities to the people in the locality and also sees to it that Auroville flourishes as a centre of peace and tranquility.

The residents of Auroville are hard working and are endowed with many capabilities. They have brought prosperity to the area. I congratulate the Central Government and the authorities concerned for creating conditions conducive to further development of Auroville.

However, I once again request the Hon. Minister to constitute a High Level Committee which should find a permanent solution to the problem so that the administration of Auroville is carried on more efficiently.

I thank you very much for the opportunity given and conclude.

[English]

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose the Motion placed before us

* The speech was originally delivered in Tamil.

by the Hon. Minister, primarily because I do not have the confidence that he shall be able to accomplish in the next one year, far less in a few weeks that he has suggested, what he has not been able to achieve in seven years. The Auroville Project was indeed a hope of mankind. It symbolized a dream of universal unity, a vision of human perfection, a message of integral humanism. It became an international project and I do recall my own very humble contribution in promoting it on the international horizon. One feels, however, today, after so many years have elapsed that the project seems to have lost its way somewhere. That is a very sad thought for many of us. The vision appears to have gone, but we should not allow this dream to turn into a nightmare. We should not permit this message to become meaningless. We should not allow this stream to lose itself in the dreary sands of routine bureaucracy. We know that the wheels of bureaucracy move slowly. But they move still slower when there is a motive. I will not go into the details because I do not think we have the time, but the Hon. Minister will appreciate this point I am making that he has to make a very special effort to see to it that the bureaucracy does not permit itself to be entrenched in this project and that the wheels start moving.

I would like to say a few words about the present administration. There is an Administrator, and there is a Deputy Administrator. Both happen to be retired, aged individuals. I have nothing against them, but what I am saying is that they are not in a position to give the time that a project of this nature demands. The expenditure on the administration has been, to my mind, rather high, and there have been instances of mismanagement. Again, we do not have the time to go into details, but there have been cases of questionable mortgage of property belonging to the project, there have been questionable write offs of advances and monies, there has been a certain degree of unreasonable constraint on the freedom of visitors to visit various places in Auroville. There has been a rather loose control on the activities of foreign residents in this area. Therefore, I do not think that the Minister has a case that the present arrangement which, admittedly, is an interim arrangement and which, admittedly, is not expected to be a permanent prescription for Auroville, is in

a satisfactory state. I think he should apply himself more to see to it that these irregularities and this maladministration are not so frequent—because, primarily, why did the Government take over this project in 1980? It was done because there were allegations of serious malfunctioning. I am advised of mismanagement, of financial irregularities, and of diversion of funds. I shall come to them later; but if after the Government's take-over and under the present management, again we are faced with the same situation, then surely the Act has done no good to anybody, nor to the project itself.

I am afraid that today the way it is functioning, the entire project has been turned into what I would call something like an Attached Office of the Government of India. Almost every matter of import is decided here in the Central Secretariat. I am told that locally, the so-called foreign residents of Auroville exert an undue influence. Whatever be our criticism of the Aurobindo Society, one cannot ignore this fact namely, that it is the Aurobindo Society which initiated this project; and the role that was played by the Mother. That is also part of history. I do not think the Minister is being fair when he does not disclose to us, from the official records that are available with him, that the cases that were brought against the Society by CBI, after due enquiries of the allegations against them, were dismissed by the court. This is not mentioned anywhere.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO : I advisedly did not go into the details of litigation, because digging up those things today would make my future or the immediate effort even more difficult.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : I see your point. I just said that it would have been in fairness if only it was mentioned—what happened to those CBI cases. I shall also not go into those details. But what is more painful to me is this, that the Aurobindo Society, as a society, has been making desperate efforts to be heard; and it is not being heard. They wrote letters to the Prime Minister, to the Hon. Minister.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO : Again on a point of information: It is very well being heard, heard personally by me.

Mr. Narayanan, who happens to be the Chairman of the Society and is a resident of Malaysia, came only last month. In fact, if the Parliament Session had started on the 19th or 20th of November, as generally it does, maybe this Amendment Bill itself would have become unnecessary. I said that even today I received a letter of full cooperation, offering full cooperation from a very important member of the Aurobindo Society who had come to see me along with Mr. Narayanan. I am on the best of terms with them. The only difficulty has been that it is an international committee. Mr. M'Bow for instance, who is a member, happened to be the Director-General of the UNESCO. Madam Zhivkova who unfortunately died, had to come from Bulgaria. Mr. Narayanan had to come from Malaysia even for a meeting of this type, a consultation of this type. It takes time. Therefore, we are trying to expedite it as far as possible. I would like to assure you that there is no question of my not hearing them or not being available for consultations.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : I am happy about this information. What I had in mind was that the Society had officially addressed letters on September 30, 1985 to the Prime Minister suggesting a certain course of action and then subsequently in 1987 to the Hon. Minister. What I had in mind was that these letters perhaps had not received the attention that they deserved.

It has been said in the Hon. Minister's Statement of Purpose that it is this International Advisory Council which is now seized of the matter or trying to work out a proper settlement as to how this project should be run. Now I wish them, God's speed and I do hope that you shall have formal exchange of views, formal negotiations with the Aurobindo Society and work out something on the lines broadly I submitted to you for Government's consideration that there should be an independent trust for Auroville where we should have representatives of the international community, of the Government, of the Government of Pondicherry where it is located, of the people who are residing in the Auroville, and of the Aurobindo Society. I had, of course, my views about the representation of the Aurobindo Ashram as such because to my mind Aurobindo Ashram and the Aurobindo Society are not different from

each other; they are broadly two faces of the same coin. So, I would suggest to the Hon. Minister through you that this particular idea of creating a permanent trust with representation from all concerned should be given due consideration and prompt attention.

Finally, I would suggest that we cannot permit Auroville to become a sort of foreign enclave with its own laws. After all, our sovereignty is supreme; it is an international project and it is a place where we would like to have an international community to develop a new way of life and a new human culture, and at the same time it must be seen to it that undesirable characters don't make their permanent abode there, that there should be some sort of screening of the people who are coming there; whether they have got religious and spiritual motive for coming there; whether they have got any type of motive for coming there; that should be a look out of the Government and we should see that only right elements are admitted to the holy precincts of Auroville and even given a hand in the administration. I would certainly welcome the Hon. Minister if he comes to us before one year passes and tells us that he has been able to achieve a permanent solution of the problem and that he has been able to instal a permanent machinery which would once again put the project back on the rail and with a motive force to drive it forward to its destination the realisation of the great dream of Auroville. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We now adjourn for lunch and will re-assemble at 2.05 P. M.

13 03 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha adjourned for lunch
till five minutes past fourteen of
the Clock*

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

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

AUROVILLE (EMERGENCY PROVISIONS) AMENDMENT BILL—Contd.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Hon. Minister.

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I am grateful to the Hon. Members who have participated in this debate and I would like to assure them that the warnings given by them, the advice given by them and the analysis given by them will certainly be kept in view while we are dealing with this problem.

I would certainly have agreed with Sri Syed Shahabuddin when he said that if it could not be done in seven years, how it could be done in one year. But I would like to point out that our efforts at conciliation started only a few months back and that is why we are falling short by a few months. So, with some amount of confidence, I told the House earlier that I may not even need full one year. I know that if we cannot do it in one year, we cannot do it in five years hereafter. But so far as the past is concerned, two years went by in litigation, five years went by in a holding operation during which time a lot of work has been done and now we are in a position to say that Auroville as it now stands has come to stay. It has now earned a reputation internationally because of the personalities and because of the way in which we dealt with the problems without getting involved in local squabbles. So, we are now at the take-off stage when we can have a local or responsible Committee to run it without our being there all the time. This is my fervent hope. I am glad that all the Members in addition to their advice and suggestions have wished well to this idea. The idea may or may not have succeeded elsewhere, but India is a country where we have the maximum scope to make this succeed. That is what we have been priding ourselves on because this is a country where all cultures have flowered and all cultures can flower at any time.

I would like to thank the Hon. Members once again and request the House to pass this Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill further to amend the Auroville (Emergency Provisions) Act, 1980, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We shall now take up Clause by Clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is :

"That Clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

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

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That the Bill be passed."

[Translation]

DR. G. S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit only two or three points before you. Although nothing is left to ask after the statement which the Hon. Minister has given but I would like to bring to his notice that in 1985 when an amendment to the Bill was being discussed in this House. Shri K. C. Pant, who was piloting the Bill, had said that they would not need further extension any more. Even then the Government had come forward to seek extension for one year more and even today the Hon. Minister has said emphatically that they are fully hopeful that the state of affairs there will be set right soon. We also hope so but I would like to submit that in case things are not set right even after handing over the management to them, then the Government should not hesitate to take over its management again because what has appeared in the newspapers during the last few years is not a good thing. The aim with which the mother established

the Ashram and what good things UNESCO has said about it, all hopes have now been dashed to the ground. Now many bad things are being said in regard to the Ashram. I would not like to repeat what has already been said and neither I am submitting on which stage negotiations are going on and that what is happening there. I would only say that the Government should carefully think before banding over the management to them. It has been our experience that once the Government take over some society or organisation or company, a certain pattern is set and when it is again banded back to the private hands the evils from which it was plagued earlier re-appear. Then the Government has to think what should be done. A lot has been come out in regard to the Aurobindo Ashram. So I would request that the Government should carefully think before handing over the management to them.

[English]

SHRI GOPESHWAR (Jamshedpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have nothing further to add particularly when the Minister has assured this House. I had an occasion of meeting the Prime Minister, alongwith Dr. P. P. Narayanan, some time back when we had pointed out certain serious irregularities going on even under the Government administration. There is a philosophy which is being practised in Sri Aurobindo Ashram and I do not think any government machinery can administer it. The earlier it is taken over by some other agency, the better.

As the Hon. Minister has assured that he is anxious to give it to certain body and not to manage it through the Government machinery, I would only seek some assurance from him. In between this period, certain things are being done, lands are being mortgaged, and even the money that is being given by the Education Ministry is not being routed through the Administrator but through certain other means. The activities, the grabbing attitude of some of the persons there must be taken care of. The Government has to be very careful. I would suggest that some Government officer in active service, instead of having a retired person for certain considerations, should be entrusted this task before it is handed over to certain body. I would further suggest that there

should be a Trust where the representatives of the people, of the Aurobindo Society, of the Tamil Nadu Government, of the residents of this Ashram, and such other interests should be there, and that Trust should take over this Ashram. I hope that this Ashram or this village will then come to its old glory. I am rather pained to hear some persons who said that this system had been adopted some time back in some other European countries. We belong to India, we look to the philosophy and the systems that have been tried out or enunciated in our country. The failures and successes and the excellence of that system remains in our own tradition, not that certain things were experimented outside. I very strongly object to any comparison with Rajneeshpuram or anything of the kind. We should understand that a very great philosophy was enunciated by Shri Aurobindo and was put to practical system by the Mother. I hope the Government will hand it over to a certain responsible agency and it will not take months or years. As the Minister said, it should be done within weeks or a month. This is very important and I hope that any kind of litigation and other things will not be there. With these words, I support the Bill.

SHRI LALITESHWAR SHAHI (Muzaffarpur) : Sir, at this stage of the Bill, the position is very much simplified. I have stood up not to level charges against either the Society or the Aurobindo Society. That is not my intention because that will complicate the matter. But what we have to see is this that he had spent seven years and one year extension is needed in order to settle the issue. That is a very simple proposal and I think the House will endorse it in the interest of the Society and in the interest of Shri Aurobindo and the Aurobindo Society. As it appears, it is an attempt an idea, a vision to bring a confluence of his ideas, past and the present, the spiritual thing and the material. That is a good idea in this and all of us should endorse it. So far as Government of India is concerned or this House is concerned, we have given the best among us and that is what the Minister of Human Resources should look into and I am quite sure that under his leadership when he stipulated the time, things will settle down. It is not a question of having propriety right over a land or a building. It is an idea which has to be given to boost by

the Society, by the Government and I am quite sure that Government as such cannot move, cannot keep the spirit. It is difficult for the Government to keep the spirit moving as the Government is run on the basis of L.C.M.—Lowest Common Factor. But here the specialised people are needed people with ideas and vision are needed and I am quite sure that Government will look into that. I support the Bill.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO : The additional suggestions have come. I entirely agree with the approach which has come out in the debate, in the speeches. It is true that when we hand over this body to another body, we cannot hand over it in a situation where that body will find that it has inherited something unmanageable. Naturally we have to look into it and the suggestions that have been made specifically will be looked into, Sir. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

“That the Bill be passed”.

The motion was adopted.

14.24 hrs.

**STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DIS-
APPROVAL OF CONSTITUTION
(SCHEDULED TRIBES) ORDER
(AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1987**

AND

**CONSTITUTION (SCHEDULED
TRIBES) ORDER (AMEND-
MENT) BILL**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, we will take up the next item that is Items No. 8 and 9. Mr. C. Janga Reddy— He is not here. Then, Dr. Chinta Mohan, are you moving the Resolution ?

DR. CHINTA MOHAN (Tirupati) : I move my Resolution.

**SHRI C. JANGA REDDY (Hanam-
konda) :** Sir, I have come. I will move my Resolution.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Just wait. I called your name, but you were not in your seat. That is why I called Mr. Chinta Mohan and he is on his legs. Please take your seat.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : Sir, I am sorry to say that I am not allowed to move my resolution. I was entering the House when my name was called and I was just coming before the mike to speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please take your seat. When I called your name, you must be in your seat. When I am calling your name you should be in your seat and then only I can allow you.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : I was just entering the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : When the Bill is discussed you can speak. Please take your seat. Now, Dr. Chinta Mohan, do you want to speak on this ?

DR. CHINTA MOHAN (Tirupati) : Sir, I beg to move :

“That this House disapproves of the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Ordinance, 1987 (Ordinance No. 5 of 1987) promulgated by the President on the 19th September, 1987.”

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER Now he has taken the floor.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : I am very sorry, when I am coming here, before the mike, you called him.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have to be on the seat when I call you. You are just entering means I cannot wait for you.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : I am coming to the mike only. I am here.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No, no. Yes, Dr. Chinta Mohan.

(Interruptions)