

221 *Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles & Infant Foods*, SRAVANA 20, 1914 (SAKA) (Reg. of Production, supply & Distribution) Bill will be at the following rates:-

- (i) State pension @ Rs. 400/- p.m. as against Rs. 250/- p.m. at present.
- (ii) Rs. 250/- in case of those freedom fighters who are at present getting Rs. 100/- p.m. In addition to the Central Pension.

It is proposed that this increase be effected immediately. By this small token the nation renews its gratitude and respect to those who dedicated their lives to the cause of achieving India's freedom.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): Sir, kindly allow me one minute. What about the pending cases which are accompanied by adequate documents? Please given an assurance on that...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing goes on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seats. Let me run the House according to the procedure and rules. Madam, you are a pretty Senior Member of the House. You know the rules. Please take your seat.

Now we will continue with the item no. 27-

17.18 hrs.

INFANT MILK SUBSTITUTES, FEEDING BOTTLES AND INFANT FOODS (REGULATION OF PRODUCTION, SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION) BILL

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Girija Devi.

SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI (Maharaj Ganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, no doubt the *Not recorded.

question of Freedom Fighters is an important one but the question of mothers and the posterity is more important. Therefore, I wish you to maintain the dignity of the House and permit us to say something in this regard.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to welcome and support this Bill. This Bill aims at maintaining the dignity of motherhood and also at envisaging the protection of posterity. It is really something pinching that in our country where mother is considered greater than God, a Bill regarding breast-feeding has to be brought. But what has been provided in this Bill, clearly shows that the Government has shown a responsible attitude. But as an hon. Member has already said that the mother who do not breast-feed their infants include the educated mothers and working mothers. This may be a topic for reserch for newspapers. I am speaking here as a mother and I am saying on the basis of what I have gained through my life time experience.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the provisions of this Bill are good as it has opposed the promotion of sub-standard milk and milk powder among mothers through advertisements by exploiters who no only exploit mothers inducing them to squander their money but also deprive the posterity of health. This is a welcome step. But what led to this situation? This aspect has not been given much thought. The presentation of this Bill took a very long time. In 1981, the then Prime Minister Late Smt. Indira Gandhi signed an agreement with the World Health Assembly and at that time we made our presence felt there that we prefer breast: feeding to powder milk. But this decision of ours and that of UNICEF could not be enforced on manufactures of infant milk substitutes so far. And to what extent it will be implemented after this Bill is passed is to the seen. In 1983, some efforts were made in this direction and a Bill to this efect was brought in 1986. But after being passed in the Rajya Sabha, that Bill could not be passed in the Lok Sabha. Since then we have been observing that there has been laxity on the part of Government on such an important issue or task for the last eleven years and today we are going to pass this Bill unanimoously. Today everybody is eager

[Shrimati Girija Devi]

to pass this Bill in a responsible manner. Why do the mothers not breast-feed, there are so many reasons for this. In Italy a mother gets two months maternity leave before her delivery. She also gets four months' leave for breast-feeding her baby, which can be extended, if she wishes so. But what happens in our country? If she is a permanent employee, she may get a maternity leave for three months and if temporary, then she cannot get three months' leave. The mother joins her duty even after two days of her delivery so that she may earn her bread to enable her to breast-feed her baby. In this situation, if we say that in order to maintain the beauty, mothers do not want to breast-feed their babies, is a gross aspersion cast on them. Members may kindly give me, there may be some exceptions amongst mothers but when even an animal gets restless to breast-feed its baby, then why would a much more intelligent mother not like to breast-feed her baby? It is not merely a question of satisfying one's hunger but the Department of Health has proved that breast-feeding is quite useful for baby's health and life. It also prevents infectious diseases. If mother continues breast-feeding, it may delay the next pregnancy. But at the same time it also causes a great loss to their health. This fact has been included nowhere in this Bill. But some provision should be made to protect the health of lactating mothers.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, when the mother joins her duty in office or in college after a month's leave, she finds no room in such places where she could breast-feed her baby. She works in her office for 4-6-8 hours but there is no provision for her to breast-feed her baby. I recall a couplet:

"Tiff mein boo aye kyon maa baap
ke etbar ki,

Doodh dibbe ka piya, taleem hai
sarkar ki"

After all, it is our helplessness. The Government should think over the

circumstances in which the working mothers cannot manage to breast-feed their infants and should think as to what provisions have to be made for them. Just as the Government opens child care centres and provides many other similar facilities like lavatories inside the offices, it should provide clean retiring rooms where lactating mothers may breast-feed their infants. Relaxation should be given to lactating mothers in the duration of leave. If maternity leave is not extended for four to six months, then the period of casual leave may be increased. If not, my other suggestion is that they may be allowed two hours' or four hours' leave during their working hours so that they may go out of office and breast-feed their infants during working hours.

This is another important question. There are mothers who can afford to breast-feed their infants many times as they want throughout the day but fail to satisfy their infants because they themselves don't get nutritious diet to produce breast milk. In such a situation the baby goes on weeping and then the only alternative left for the mother is to use infant milk substitutes available in the market. In such a situation if this legislation is enacted, it will not be useful unless and until the prevailing situation continues and the mothers won't be able to breast-feed their infants unless they get nutritious food. This is a fact based on science and I am not talking anything meaningless since I am myself a mother. Therefore, the Government will have to take responsibility also. With these words, I support the Bill.

[English]

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARAYA (Jadavpur): Sir, this is a long awaited Bill and as the previous speakers have said, more than once it was about to be introduced in the House. There was also Private Member's Bill on this. But for one reason or the other, this Bill has been postponed for several years now.

The World Health Assembly accepted the International Baby Food Code in 1981

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and India was one of the signatories to that Code. Subsequently in 1983, India adopted a national code for the protection and promotion of breast-feeding. This long period between 1983 to 1992 has elapsed. But a Bill for the realisation of that Code, for the reinforcement of that Code has not been brought. I think that there is an implicit pressure at work behind this and that pressure represents a very strong lobby, the lobby of multinational producers of baby food who are trying to hard sell their products in the market. So I welcome this Bill.

I would also like to say that some of us have brought certain amendments to the Bill. But we have not brought these amendments to obstruct the passing of the Bill. We are very eager that the Bill should be passed and it should be passed today. We have brought these amendments only to strengthen the Bill and to give it more teeth so that it can be truly effective.

The need for the Bill lies in the media explosion which has taken place not only in our country but all over the world. The terrible power of multinationals to use the media to work upon the consciousness of possible consumers cannot be denied. And what these hard sellers do is that even before they sell their product, they have to sell through preaching the absolute necessity of a product. So, we are convinced through advertisements that if we do not use such and such shampoo or such and such soap or if we do not feed our children such and such brand of baby food, then we are leading useless lives. In this way the absolute essentiality of the product - which is not really essential - is preached through the advertisements. Baby food, of course, is a very special kind of consumer product. It is not just bought by individuals but it is also distributed through the health system. It is prescribed by doctors. It is given to the mothers through the agency of health workers. It is used in orphanages for babies who cannot have mother's milk in any way. As such there is need for a special Bill for the proper utilisation of baby food and to prevent the mis-use or the inappropriate use of baby food.

We find that it is not just milk powder which is produced by these big companies but also cereals and weaning foods are produced. It is very important that they need to advertise not only powdered milk for infants but also the cereals and the weaning foods which are propagated as being absolutely necessary for the health and growth of your child. Parents are very protective of their children. They think that their children are very special, the best children in the world. Therefore; this weakness in parents is used by the advertisers to convince us that the cereals and weaning food are essential for the children.

However, any qualified doctor can tell us that the cheapest and the best most nutritious weaning food can be made at home and it is not necessary to get from outside. Apart from the mystique of the bottle or the tin, there is nothing special about these tinned baby foods which home-made weaning foods cannot supply. As such it is necessary that not just powdered milk but also weaning foods must not be advertised in this way. It has been said that this powdered milk - or infant milk as it is called - is to be used only when mother's milk is not available. That is, in other words, it is not something absolutely essential where the mother's milk is available. It is not essential.

But there is another side to this. It is not just this that these baby foods are not essential. But under certain context, particularly in the context of a developing country where a large section of our population are still illiterate, still - through no fault of theirs - are groping in backwardness, in that context they can become positively harmful. Please think of the rural women who have been given these tins of baby food. You are supposed to mix one spoon of baby food to one ounce of water. That water has to be properly purified. Now without that kind of education of how the water is to be purified and how much baby food is to be added to how much of water etc., the children cannot be properly fed. As a matter of fact there are thousands of children not only in our country, but also in other developing

countries where this baby food is thrust down their gullets, but because of this inadequacy in mixing food or because of impurities the children suffer from malnutrition and from other health hazards, infections of all kinds.

Another point has been made by the previous speaker, I wholly agree with it, that not only is mother's milk is the best for the baby, but also when the mother feeds a child that also prevents certain diseases in the mother and it goes as a kind of natural family planning measure because so long as the mother is feeding the baby, pregnancy is not there. So, the intention of this Bill is not that these foods should be prohibited, but it has to stop unscrupulous and untruthful advertisement and promotion that the necessity of the Bill is there. At the same time, Sir, I would like to ask why is it possible for these big companies to promote their products so successfully. Sir, it is just the affluent families who use these milk foods, but also they go down to the poorer reaches of our social life. Among the middle classes, among the poorer sections of the population, what are the conditions in which woman live and work? Sir, 90 percent of our working women are in the unorganised sector. atermnity benefits even are nil, they do not get any leave from there work when they give birth. Again, the nutrition of the mother is something which is not provided for in our social system at all. It is very very inadequate. So, when the Women and Child Development Department has brought this Bill, at the same time it becomes incumbent upon the Department, it becomes a responsibilities on the part of the Government to ensure that mothers get sufficient nutrition so that they can feed their children, that in their working places they are allowed those kinds of benefits, those kinds of facilities which enable them to feed their babies.

Finally, Sir, I will talk about some of the amendments which we have brought. One of the amendments that we would like to move seeks a change in the title itself. Whereas the title is "Infant Milk Substitutes,

Feeding bottles and Infant foods". we would like to substitute this by "Infant Foods, Feeding Bottles and Pacifiers". And the other amendment, amendment No. 108, is related to this because here we are talking specifying the meaning of 'infant food' and we have said that 'infant food' shall have the same meaning as defined in the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954. Now in the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 certain kinds of complimentary food including substitutes of breast milk are included weaning foods are included and this infant food is a comprehensive term which is accepted by our legal system to cover all the different kinds of baby food including milk and weaning food whereas infant milk substitute is a vague term which is not really accepted in medical terminology. As such, we want a change in the title.

Secondly, the other amendment that we have suggested is amendmment No. 114. In that, we have suggested that:

"Provided that nothing in this clause shall apply to the donation or distribution through the health care system."

Basically this should be removed, because in accordance with the Indian National Code for Proection and Promotion of Breast Feeding, it has been said:

"No facility of a health care system should be used for the purpose of promoting infant formula etc."

We have suggested this amendment so that this Bill may follow this directive which is given in the National Code. We have given it also because the health system is likely to be misused by the promoters, by the producers of baby food.

Then, there are two other amendments. Amendment no. 123 is for the same purpose so that the health system cannot be misused for promotion of these products. This is why we have brought in this amendment.

Finally, the amendment no. 137 specifies

who are the people who make a complaint in writing against any violation of this code. The Bill says:

"a person authorised in this behalf under sub-section (1) of Section 20 of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954."

This is how it is present in the Bill itself. It is also Now Section 20. Sub section 1 of Food Adulteration Act says:

"No prosecution for an offence under this Act not being an offence under Section 14 or Section 14 (a) shall be instituted except by or with the written consent of the Central Government or the State Government or a person authorised in this behalf by general or special order by the Central Government or the State Government."

This is left unspecified and in our amendment we have specified it. We have said it should be a representative of a registered voluntary organisation engaged in child welfare and development, child nutrition and consumer protection, so that the complaint which is lodged becomes a serious complaint. If you do not specify it, the rules may not be enough for giving us an idea as to the way in which the different consumer organisations, women's organisations who have been fighting for this cause for years together may intervene effectively and they cannot intervene in this if you do not take this amendment into this Bill.

With these few amendments, I welcome the Bill and I hope that everyone will join with us in ensuring that the Bill is passed unanimously and after the Bill is passed, we can indeed ensure better health, better nutrition for our babies and better working conditions, better living conditions for our mothers as well.

[Translation]

DR. G.L. KANAUIA (Kheri): Mr.

Chairman, Sir, it is a very important matters., I have been associated with it throughout my life. This Bill was introduced first in 1981 and then again in 1983 but could not be passed. All the hon Members including myself feel that this Bill should be passed, however, it has many defects if viewed from medical point of view. The Bill has been introduced when the current session is about to be over. Therefore, extensive discussion cannot be held on it. However, I would move only a few amendments before I support the Bill because it is already too late. When I read the Bill, I found a lot of shortcomings. I have been in Government service for 37 years. Food inspectors worked under me during all those years. I also held the post of Chief Medical Officer for 8 years in my own State.

There are different opinions in the world on the question of health. However, the effect of our modern science, advertisements of baby foods and the influence of foreign culture have diminished the importance of breast feeding, which was considered most essential so far.

I would only submit that efforts should be made to enforce the Bill effectively and convince the people of the important aspect of it. Mamata ji has said that the Bill was introduced first in 1981 and then again in 1983 but was not passed and that the Bill must be passed now. I understand her feelings. It is true that the mother is closer to her child. But the Government should also take the initiative in this regard and impose restriction on advertisements and sale of baby food with an assurance that fine will be imposed on infant milk substitutes.

I studied abroad for five years and still go there almost every year. I have seen the women in our country as well as those in foreign countries. As the hon. Member has already demanded that the working mothers should be given three hours interval in a day in the office to enable them to breast-feed their infants.

I would not discuss the matter pointwise because it will take a long time. I would like to conclude as early as possible. A specific

[Dr. G.L. Kanaiujia]

[English]

The inspector is not even a Gazetted Officer. He is a Non-Gazetted Officer.

[Translation]

My submission is that the accused, no matter he is a Class-1 Officer, should be given severest punishment. Nehru ji had also said that the food adulterators deserve to be severely punished. There may be other reasons behind the food adulteration when the infant is given infant milk substitutes but the private and multinational companies are deliberately involved in adulteration. Once Pandit Nehru had said that the persons guilty of adulteration should be tied to a pole and gunned down. It indicates that he considered adulterators as the most wicked criminals, and if taken from his point of view, the provision for punishment in this Bill is inadequate.

Secondly, as the hon. Lady Member has said that mother needs pre-natal and post-natal care but I would like to say that the mother should not take much rest before delivery.

[English]

That is the period when the mother should be much more active.

[Translation]

However, in addition they must lead tension free life and have good quality food because

[English]

She is feeding herself and to the child. It must be very good and a balanced one.

[Translation]

For this the Government should make the provision of subsidy allowance, two-three months in advance, for the expectant

point has been made and it has been proved scientifically that chewing of teat by an infant is harmful health point of view as it creates gastric trouble. Therefore, it should not be given. Some mothers give "ghutti" to their infants which is good from one point of view but harmful from the other-good because it contains morphia and thus it is disgestive but its over dose works as sedative. It also proves harmful when the child is unfed. Secondly, we will have to see how the proposed Bill will be implemented. Just now I was going through the Bill which reads.

[English]

"Any food inspector appointed under Section 9 of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954..."

[Translation]

Now, the matter to think is that what post the officer was holding at that time when the Act was enacted in 1954 and what post he is holding now.

[English]

"Any food inspector appointed under Section 9 of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 (Hereinafter referred to as the food inspector) or any officer not below the rank of a Class -1 Officer authorised in this behalf by the State Government (Hereinafter referred to as the authorised officer) may, if he has any reason to believe that any provision of section 6 or section 11 has been or is being contravened, enter and search.

[Translation]

What I mean to say is that we want to keep the inspector away in this matter pertaining to food. The class -1 Inspector in it.

mothers so that they can properly feed the new born infants.

Secondly, how will this be done? I have seen during my tour that still advertisements are being made to promote this feeling. Modern ladies, especially young girls are preoccupied with the feeling that breast feeding is harmful to their beauty and physique. I would like to submit that this view is totally wrong because breast milk supplies antigens and antibodies which are good for the child and this also develop strong bonds between mother and child. On this issue enough literature is available. Therefore, this feeling needs to be rooted out because breast milk is the best feed.

Thirdly, I would like to submit as statutory warning is just printed on the cigarette and liquor cartons regarding the adverse effects of their intake. Similarly message that the breast milk is the best feed should also be printed on the infant food cartons. No doubt the message is carried on the cartons but ways and means should also be envolved to enforce it. Fourthly, I would like to submit that we are hesitant to bring forward a modern comprehensive Bill in the name of modern civilisation and modern culture and also because we had been for a long time influenced by the capitalism, which has changed our food habits and lifestyle.

For shortage of time I would like to just submit that bottle feed in certain cases can prove to be substitute, but attention must be paid towards creating an awarness as to how to feed with bottle.

Regarding mother care, I would like to submit that it should not be ingrained among women that 4-6 months leave is essential, as in no other country such a long leave is granted. However, in some countries like France and England and recently in USA too it has been mandatory, that mother care upto two children is the responsibility of the State.

Similarly about family planning I would like to submit that ladies who breast feed their children have belated pregnancy less

children. This is good from this point of view also.

With these words, I support the Bill and also submit that these should be strictly enforced. In addition to it advise of the scientistis should also be taken on other remaining issues and implemented.

[English]

SHRI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I first thank our young Minister for officially being able to bring the Bill for its passage. On our part, we have tried to help; her because of the necessity of this Bill being passed in the World Breast Feeding Week which began in September. We also wrote to the Prime Minister. Ad I think, all of us together probably today have succeeded in getting this Bill brought in here.

First thing is that this breast feeding is our own culture very much. And it is strange that the West is falling it and they are declaring first the World Breast Feeding Week. We are pround of our national tradition, And I think, those who would support this Bill should support with that idea and also with that idea of getting it executed.

I would not repeat many things which have been said very congenly by most of our colleagues. But I shall point out one or two things. Firstly, I will point out that according to the UNO estimate; in the under-developed countries one million death of infants per year takes place because of health associated problems with bottle feeding. Imagine the seriousness. I would like to mention that in our country Nestle is one of the multi-nationals; Glaxo is the other multi-national. But Gujarat Amul is no less in this regard. All these industrialists have combined in this affair. I think, here itself we have to be careful about certain things. I am not repeating the amendments which have already been mentioned by Malini ji. Another thing which I am saying is about the deterrent punishment. We have suggested that the punishment has to be more. With all respect to feeding inspectors, our experience with

[Smt. Geeta Mukherjee]

the Adulteration Act and the adulteration is not very good. Therefore, they must understand that if they go on with such things, then they will have to pay heavy price. This is very necessary.

The other thing is the question of monitoring it. who will monitor it? Ultimately the result of the Bill will depend on the monitoring machinery. I hope that this monitoring machinery will be thought of very seriously so that this Bill can be effective. Thank you.

18.00 hrs.

SHRI ANANTRAO DESHMUKH (Washim): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this Bill seeks to promote the breast-feeding and prohibiting the excessive use of infant milk substitutes and feedings bottles and infant foods. If you go through this Bill, you will realise that there are three objectives which are envisaged in this.

The first objective is prohibition of certain incentives, donations, information, samples etc which are usually used for promoting the sale of infant substitutes. That is one objective.

The second objective is when marketing of these infant milk substitutes usually takes place in the market, it should not carry an impression that it is better than the breast-feeding.

The third objective is, Government has envisaged some deterrent by which Government wants to ensure proper compliance of this legislation.

Sir, if you go through the Bill, clauses 10-26 are provided only for the deterrent measures. Now, as you know, in our Indian system, the deterrent measures are definitely going to involve lot of court litigations and the court litigations are a time consuming process. Therefore, if you rely on these clauses, over sometime, this may loose its edge over achieving the objective. Therefore,

I feel that we should give lot of emphasis on the second objective, that is creating an awareness among the women.

Sir, as Geetaji has rightly pointed out this is going to involve lot of multinationals also and Government should be cautious on this point as there is going to be lot of pressure on the Government, as is evident from the fact that 11 years have elapsed since India had voted in the World Health assembly on International code marketing these baby foods, wherein they had promised that they would bring the Indian legislation for regulating the marketing of infant milk substitutes. On two occasions, this Bill was almost passed but, somehow or the other, it was kept in abeyance. And obviously, everybody feels that it is because of the pressures that was affected by the multinationals.

So, I would like to caution the Government at this point that they should specify the exact date on which, when this Bill, after enactment would be made applicable. There have been instances in this House, when the Bill which has been passed in this House and also in Rajya Sabha, and also it had given assent by the President but it was not made applicable. This also we have seen. That is why I want to tell the Government that they should specify the exact dates.

I donot know whether earlier, Members had taken up this point, but similar problems had also arosed in Latin America, and in survey had pointed out that almost 70 per cent of the mothers, they were using the infant milk substitutes and feeding bottles. And there was a tendency to water it down because of the excessive cost of the infant milk substitutes. So, it had an adverse effect on the health of the infant. Many times, it was hazardous also. I think in West Bengal also, in a recent survey it was observed that almost 64 per cent of the mothers who are using these infant milk substitutes, there also, there is a tendency amongst them to dilute it because of the cost and of course, it is going to have its adverse effects. In Liatin Amercan, what they did was they had

undertaken vigorous campaign- two years campaign - wherein help of UNICEF was sought, the Doctors were involved, the community was involved, the health centres were involved and everybody was involved and a vigorous campaign was undertaken as far as creation of the awareness is concerned. And you would be surprised that almost the percentage came down to 20 per cent. This sort of efforts actually are required in this country also.

Therefore, I would propose to the hon. Minister that they should give stress in the second objective.

It has been observed by a paediatrician that:

"Studies reveal that with breast-feeding 98 per cent guarantee is assured for family planning. It is estimated that in India five million births per year can be prevented if mothers breast-feed their infants"

If this is true, this is going to have a very positive effect on the family planning programme of this country.

Even in the Latin American countries while creating an awareness amongst the mothers, they also had actually harped on one point that they want to increase the duration of breast-feeding. It amounts to the same thing. This is going to have a very positive effect as far as the birth control programme of this country is concerned. Therefore even investments in this area to some extent is not going to make a lot of difference.

Here we are lucky, as Geetaji has rightly said, that this was a part of the Indian culture. This part of the Indian culture can now also be seen in the rural areas. We have this problem only in the urban areas. Therefore we have a target of only 35 per cent while in Latin American countries, it was a target group of almost 70 per cent. So tackling a group of 35 per cent who are mostly residing in the urban areas is not going to be a problem. Therefore the Government has to

take a vigorous campaign as far as tackling this problem is concerned.

I would like to make one or two suggestions before I conclude. I have already said about announcing the exact date on which you are going to make this legislation effective because cloud of suspicion still hangs on this Bill. As I had said earlier, eleven years had elapsed when we had promised in the world health assembly that we bring this legislation. Therefore announcement of the exact date is very essential.

The second aspect that I want to mention is, if you go through the clauses of this Bill, a lot of importance and stress is given on the voluntary agencies and their participation. When I say that the second objective of creating a social awareness among the mothers is important, then the role of voluntary agencies must be defined and a greater role should be assigned to them.

Many things have been mentioned about the type of letters to be given and the type of advertisements to be followed. As everybody knows, we had also undertaken a programme which was called Anti-Smoking Drive. I would most humbly suggest to the hon. Minister that this programme should not become another Anti-Smoking Drive. We see the advertisements on the TV wherein a particular brand of cigarette is shown to be very good by some persons and the statutory warning which is supposed to form a major portion of the advertisement that cigarette smoking is bad for health is nowhere to be seen. Therefore I would urge upon the Minister that he should ban the advertisement of this infant milk substitute in the TV advertisements. If you are going to lose some revenue, that would off-set because earlier I had pointed out that this is going to have a very positive effect on the family planning programme of this country.

The Government should make efforts to show that breast-feeding is better than the infant milk substitute and the use of feeding bottles. You have a lot of infrastructure, you can prepare documentaries and you can

show them on the TV. Then only can you create this awareness.

If you go through these clauses, particularly clauses 6 and 7 of the Bill are worded in such a way that it gives a scope for ambiguity. If you go through Clause 6, it has been given that a particular manufacturer can undertake an advertisement provided he complies with all these things. It means in a way if he follows all these things, he can advertise. As you know, these manufacturers can always find avenues and loopholes to use them to their advantage. So proper precaution has to be taken.

The last point which I would like to make is that we have to evolve an effective mechanism which would monitor the sale of the infant milk substitutes and feeding bottles periodically. This is going to be the indicator. After taking all these measures, if we discover that the sale of infant milk substitutes and feeding bottles does not come down, then it means that we have to undertake review of everything. We have to think in fresh terms; and if the sale does not go up, then we can say that we are in the right direction and only vigorous efforts are essential so that we can solve this problem. Therefore, I would urge upon the Minister to have an effective mechanism which is the must to achieve the objectives of this Bill. An effective mechanism is a must and the Government should definitely consider all these suggestions.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATISAROJ DUBEY (Allahabad):
Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all, I would like to thank Kumari Mamata Banerjee for introducing this Bill to safeguard the future of children of India. The Government has tried to establish emotional bonds between mother and child through this Bill. In addition to it, it will be a lesson to the modern mothers, born and brought up under the influence of Western Culture, who consider the breast feeding demeaning. In 1981, the former Prime Minister, late Shrimati Indira Gandhi, raised her voice in support of it while addressing the WHO wherein a resolution was passed for

initiation of steps to promote breast feeding and to discourage the use of infant milk substitutes so as to safeguard the health of infants. Unfortunately, since 1981 despite the introduction of this Bill, time and again in the House it could not even cross the preliminary stage even though once it was passed by the Rajya Sabha. Today, on the last day of the current session this Bill has been introduced. On such an important Bill there should have been comprehensive discussion in the House. However, better late than never. All of us welcome this Bill from the core of the heart because it tries to reverse the trend of the deviation of our society from its traditional cultural roots and the weakening of the mother child emotional bonds in India. This will also succeed in putting check on the artificial culture being developed in the society.

Under the influence of education and Western culture mothers in India consider breast feeding as a symbol of backwardness. Many misguided mothers shy away from breast feeding with a view to preserve their beauty and physique. Many mothers under the influence of advertisements of infant milk substitutes available in the market and the message engrossed on the cartons that it is more effective than mother's milk, do not breast feed their children.

I would like to submit that though enough provisions have been made in this Bill to safeguard the health of infants through quality feeding yet a mass movement would have to be launched to change the psyche of mothers so as to encourage them to breast feed their children. In this endeavour the Government will have to seek the help of women and voluntary organisations. It will be a long drawn affair to change the psyche of the people in the country. Otherwise this legislation also like the other legislations on women will remain unimplemented and the children will continue to die of malnutrition. Attractive advertisements must be banned. The views of women and voluntary organisations should be ascertained and included in this Bill after due consideration. Mere enactment of legislation to promote breast feeding will not serve the purpose.

India is poor and women in the country can be divided into various categories. Many ladies of uptodate and affluent families do not believe in breast feeding because of their extra fashion consceiousnss and in the name of modernity. Working ladies of middle class cannot breast feed their children because they remain away from children at their places of work. Once they leave for office in the morning, leaving behind their children, the other members of the family somehow satisfy the hunger of children by milk powder and cow's milk. As the other hon. Members have suggested that in all the Government and private offices Mother-Child Welfare Centres should be set up so that mothers after every 3 hours can breast feed their children.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the schemes for improving the health of mothers, being run by the Mother and Child welfare Centres require to be improved a lot as you know that through Aanganwadi programmes and Mother and Child Welfare Centres, attention is being paid towards improving the health of the mothers in each and every village.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Maternity Benefit Act has come into existence but it needs some amendments as you know that these all programmes are on papers only. It requires monitoring to implement these programmes in the rural areas, then only we may expect some improvement. We will also have to consider about those mothers who are invalid and unable to breast feed their babies. Presently, baby foods are very deer in the market and poor people are not in a position to buy them. You will have to seek a technology which can make baby food available at cheaper rates. So that the poor can use it as an alternative. As per your arrangements, arificial milk can only be given to the babies on the prescription of the health visitor. But you will have to ensure that no fake certificate is issued in this regard and the relation between mother and her baby remains intact.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the companies which manufacture the artificial milk, if they violate the prescribed rules, are subject to stern

action. I am told that at the place of manufacturing baby foods, a inspector is deputed there to keep a vigil. But this is entirely an inadequate arrangement. You will have to make a group for this purpose. We can not entrust the future of children of India merely on the responsibility of a person. For this purpose you will have to constitute a committee, who will monitor it and then only you will get the right thing.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we do not telecast foreign illusory advertisements. As Sri George Fernandes has told that most of the foreign advertisements have a dazzling effect. We will have to put curb on them as they are misleading. If you do not stop telecasting them then people will continue to be misled by them and the babies will have to depend on baby foods only.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in our country we just now in the name of the mother. We invoke in the name of mother's milk. We are sentimentally attached to mother's milk. In the name of the mother's milk we are ready to sacrifice our lives, so in order to preserve that culture and to maintain that close affinity we will have to encourage this thing. I welcome the bill presented by you and hope that it will be implemented in a proper way so that the aim with which you have presented this bill is fulfilled in an earnest way. The children of today may become good and healthy citizens of tomorrow and earn laurels for the country.

[English]

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada): Mr. Chairman Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to say a few words on this Bill. We extend our whole-hearted support to this Bill moved by the Hon. Minister for Human Resources. Several hon. Members who preceded me, especially the honourable lady Members, said many things. I will not, at length, go into what they have already said. But I would like to say that the Government must take all-out efforts to see that the child is fully protected. They are the future citizens of this country.

Unless their health is good and unless we decrease infant mortality rate, it is going to have adverse effect on population control also. When we bring down the infant mortality rate to a very very minimum level, as is happening on other countries, the parents will definitely have a confidence that their children, either one or two, will survive and they will definitely; take all necessary steps to plan their family. In this context, the objects of the Bill are fully justified. Several provisions that have been made are good. This Bill ought to have been brought long back. Though the Government of India has recognised the code and adopted it as far back as 1983 and though it was passed in Rajya Sabha in 1986, unfortunately, this Bill lapsed and now it has been brought forward. We extend our fullest support to the Bill. Apart from prohibiting the manufacturers of the milk products from advertising, I suggest that the Government should enhance more funds to the mother and child care so that the mother who is poor and needy will be healthy at the pregnant stage. She must be healthy so that she will be feed her child and bring up a healthy child. it is most unfortunate that even today, after nearly 45 years of self rule, thousands of children are dying. Especially babies at a very infant stage so that the babies are grown up in a very healthy condition and it should also take steps to help both the mother and the child. I do not deny that there is a programme in this regard but much more funds should be allocated for it.

[*Translation*]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today we are discussing an important bill. I do not want to say much about it but it is certain that the way infant milk is discussed or advertised these days, is a matter of concern for all of us. At present, about 60 thousand metric tonne infant milk is being produce by all the companies in this field. On the basis of a market survey which was conducted sometime back it is evident that its production has increased by ten percent during the last two years, which shows that infant milk's consumption is increasing by and by. Apart from two prominent companies Amul and

Nestle, 25 other companies are engaged in the production of such milk. What is their position? The criteria adopted by them for producing infant milk is not known.

It is true that now we are going to control them in one way or the other. This bill provides for a statutory warning like the one written on the cigarette packets that smoking is injurious to health, like wise it will be written on the milk containers that breast feeding is best for the babies or infant food is not the only nutritious source. Although we are going to make this provision yet I felt that along with this step, there is a need of mass awakening in this regard. Unless we make the society suitable for that, we cannot make people understand that breast feeding is much better than the infant milk.

I would like to draw your attention towards one more important point that in 1981 there was a: International Conference on this subject. An International breastmilk Substitute Nutrition Code was made. A lot of points have been mentioned in that code. I would like to conclude my speech by referring some of the points of this code.

I do not know how far this Code has been implemented and I do not want to repeat those facts that breast-feeding promotes the health of children. I am a doctor and I know that artificial feeding may cause common diarrhoea, gastroenteritis, eczema and other diseases. But breast-feeding will save the children from these diseases. Children can be prevented from falling prey to these diseases because it increases the immunizing capacity against these diseases in children. But the artificial feeding with packet-milk available in market cannot increase their immunizing power. It is, therefore, essential that emphasis should be given on breast-feeding and people should be made to understand that breast-feeding along is suitable and fit food for children and it alone can develop emotional bonds between child and its mother. Women too should think over it and believe that breast-feeding does not affect their beauty. From every point of view, the development of child is essential. Therefore, I would like to let you know about that Code here. It reads;

1. Information and education - should be scientific and factual:
 - should explain the benefits of breast feeding and the costs and hazards of artificial feeding.
2. Central Public and mothers
 - No advertising to the public
 - No free samples
 - No promotions in health care institutions
 - No company nurses to advise mothers
3. Health workers
 - No gifts or personal samples
4. Labelling
 - No words or pictures idealising artificial feeding.
5. Quality
 - All products should meet BIS standards.
6. Implementation
 - All Manufacturers and distributors of products within the scope of the Code, non-government organisations, professional groups, institutions and individuals concerned are responsible for the implementation of the Code. Violation should be reported to the Government authorities.

[Translation]

I want that every person and institution should work to popularize this Code. All

voluntary organisations, medical institutions, paediatrics and nursing homes should be encouraged to promote such attitude regarding breast-feeding, so that we may use them to the best of their capacity for attaining our objective and encouraging the tendency of breast-feeding. Unless such a healthy atmosphere is created in our country, we will not be able to attain our objective and we cannot have healthy babies. Bottle-feeding is not good from any angle, because one has to take care whether the bottle is clean or not, whether the nipple is good or not etc.

Similarly, our hon. member Shri Ram Naik had introduced a Private Members' Bill in this House, and today it is materialising which is of course a matter of happiness for us. I want that this government Bill be passed so that we may be able to take further action immediately in this connection. Though this Bill has several flaws, yet I think those flaws can be removed afterwards. But today it is very essential to pass such a Bill in the House and it should become an Act so that people of our country could know the utility of breast-feeding. It should be implemented effectively and wide publicity should be given to it.

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha):
Mr. Chairman Sir, I fully support the Bill and I welcome the way in which it has been brought. I am happy that in this Session itself, this Bill is being brought and is going to be passed now. I have moved amendments. But I am not going into the details of the amendments.

As already stated by many of the hon. members, breast feeding is highly necessary not only for the physical development of the child, but also for its mental build-up. This is a basic fact. So, it is in the interest of the child as well as the future of India that this Bill has been brought and I urge upon the Government that all steps be taken to see that the implementation of this Bill is properly supervised. The Supervision or monitoring of its implementation should be done in a very strict manner.

As regards the punishments stated in Section 18, I feel that there must be some change. A mere fine of Rs. 500 for some of the offences committed, is too inadequate and I feel that it should either be clubbed with a mandatory provision for imprisonment of there may be some other punishment more stringent than what is envisaged in this clause.

With regard to another section of the Bill which deals with confiscating the articles, substituting items of food, etc. there is a proviso which says that after 90 days, they may be returned. I request that this proviso should be withdrawn because this will lead to many loopholes and there may even be a lot of corruption. Therefore, at this stage itself, this aspect should be considered very seriously and the provision which says that after 90 days the confiscated goods should be returned, must be withdrawn.

I am not going into the other aspects of the Bill because of shortage of time. I congratulate the Government once again and I hope that this Bill will be passed unanimously.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would not like to repeat it what all has been said earlier. But I am feeling a bit unhappy because even after 40 years of Independence we are under the influence of same thinking of foreign countries. Geeta Didi has rightly stated that we have not yet come out of the feeling that we were once ruled by the English and we are still under the influence which the British's had left upon us. We have the mentality that our children should be foreign returned. We do not like the classical things of our own country, but if it is said that some foreigner has approved or praised these things we will readily accept it. If some foreign organisations appreciate breast-feeding then we consider it very good, and we accept it. Such tendency is the product of our mental-slavery. This is the reason as to way we remained mentally handicapped. Today the educated people say that breast-feeding is very essential

because it helps to develop the mind of the child fully. Amino-aceto, which is essential nutrition component for the development of the brain of a children, is available only in the milk of the mothers.

I support this Bill whole-heartedly. But I would like to point out that merely the introduction and our support of this Bill in the House will not serve the purpose. It requires two pronged action at least. We should ensure that after the enactment of this Bill no advertisement of baby-foods should be allowed to be made. It should also be ensured that women are properly educated about it because circumstances in our country are not congenial to such things. Since there is lack of education in our country. On the other hand a mother will have to keep at least three or four sets of bottles and will have to work whole day for boiling these sets of bottles and nipples. Then she will feed the child with the bottle she will give the support of a pillow to the child and then insert the nipple into its mouth. They go for their job. Thus, the children do not get the company of their mothers. But if the mothers breast-feed their children and they sit with them covering the children with her 'Aanchal' for 15 to 20 minutes after every 3 hours then an emotional attachment is established between mothers and children.

Today there is a sense of insecurity in society. Our youth feel a sense of insecurity today. They are not able to maintain their mental balance. Thus their problem can be looked upon from a psychological point of view also. Further, I want to state that advertisements regarding artificial feeding should be strictly banned and the fact that after breast-feeding cow-milk along is the best of all child-foods, should be given wide publicity. If due to certain reasons, the mother does not have milk or to breast-feed the child then the child requires extra protein and not baby food or baby milk. It is suggested to give baby food to a child after he crosses the age of 4 months. If the child takes the milk of her mother who eats food then the child gets extra protein from it automatically and it need not be nourished protein separately. This should be given wider publicity by the social organisations also.

After giving birth to a child, every mother should be granted leave for at least six months. In order to ensure that mother is not being malnourished Madhya Pradesh Government has made some provisions and accordingly to which every pregnant women is paid Rs. 500 a month. Every possible help is being extended to ensure that the mother must not suffer from malnutrition after giving birth to a baby. We are thinking over it very well after so many years, though belatedly. I want to offer my thanks. Both things should go together not because this thinking is gaining ground in foreign countries nor because foreign doctors are saying that there are meager chances for the mother to get breast cancer who breast feed the baby. I would like to say that we should proceed with the thinking embodied in our culture, which may along side, help in fostering national feelings.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): First of all I would like to thank all those Members who have participated in the discussion on this Bill and obliged me. I would like to congratulate Shri Ram Naik, Shri Deshmukh, Shri Rao Shri Thomas, Shrimati Gita Mukherji, Prof. Malini Bhattacharaya, Shrimati Girija Devi, Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan etc. I would like to congratulate them not because the Bill has been brought and passed but because we have to think today that the cases of malnutrition and infant mortality are increasing. Children are the future of the country.

[English]

Children are assets of our country.

18.39 hrs.

[MR SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

The Government had made efforts to

introduce this Bill on earlier occasion also. Shri Ram Naik had also made effort in this regard. But when Shri Ram Naik had made effort to introduce this Bill last year, I requested him that I would certainly bring this Bill. Therefore, I had introduced this Bill on the 8th May and it has been brought in the Lok Sabha today for passing. I would like to request the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, as Shri Deshmukh has said just now, that this Bill should be passed by Rajya Sabha also as soon as possible. The World Health Assembly had adopted a code in 1981 and the Government of India had adopted the Indian National code in 1983. In 1986, Rajiv Gandhi had thought about it. Today we are celebrating his birth anniversary. Today he is not amidst us. He always thought of the welfare of women and children. Introducing this Bill today itself we have paid him a true homage. He had convened a meeting in 1985, in which a decision was taken that we should do something in this regard. Therefore, he had introduced this Bill in 1985 but Lok Sabha was dissolved and the Bill could not be passed. The previous Government had brought this Bill in 1991 but Lok Sabha was dissolved and the Bill could not be passed. Saying unnecessary things in the House we waste time of the House but I request you that if any such Bill is introduced, it should be passed without any delay? Such Bill should not be left pending and should be passed as soon as possible because the future of country is linked with such Bill.

Shri Deshmukh, Shrimati Geeta and Shri Ram Naik have supported this Bill and said that this is an important Bill. They have also said that there should be an effective mechanism. I agree with them. I am thinking that monitoring Committees should be constituted at national and state levels. We can co-ordinate this committee. The Government enacts a number of laws but they are not implemented. The State Governments should lay more emphasis on the implementing authority. In this regard we will have a dialogue with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Law. The voluntary organisations, medical practitioners and UNICEF (New Delhi) are there. I would like to congratulate all the institutions, namely.

[English]

International Baby Food Action Network, Geneva, Association for Consumer Action on Safety and Health, Bombay, Voluntary Health Association of India, New Delhi Bengal Rural and Welfare Services, Calcutta, Kasturba Gandhi Memorial Trust Centre.

[Translation]

I want to congratulate all of them. We have introduced this Bill after consulting all these institutions. I am also thankful to all those members who gave their amendments which shows that they have taken interest in it. I am not against the Members who gave amendments to this Bill. As Malini Ji and Shri Ram Naik have said.

[English]

Pacifiers should be included. Inclusion of pacifiers would amount to interfering with the rights of women in rearing of their children.

[Translation]

This is included in the Bill but Shri Deshmuk, Sumitraji and Maliniji have said that there should be awareness also. I agree with them. A large number of illiterate people live in villages. This facility is not available to them while it is available to urbanites. They watch T.V., read newspapers but I would like to request all of you to make these facilities available at the grassroot level in villages. Geetaji has proposed that it should be linked with Literacy Mission. My department is competent enough to do this work. I would like to request the Ministry of Education in this regard. Maliniji has given amendment about infant food and infant milk substitutes. I am thankful to her but the consensus decision is that infant milk substitute and infant food are two different things. Therefore, they have been differentiated. Infant milk substitute is also mentioned in the Indian Code. An hon. lady member has said that it is not mentioned in the Indian Code but she may go through Article 3 of the Indian National Code for Protection and Promotion of Breast-Feeding. It has been clearly mentioned there.

We would like that we should promote breast-feeding instead of infant milk as breast milk substitute.

Besides, there should not be any advertisement for this, be they multi-national companies or any other companies. Those who give their advertisements in India will be punished. For it, it is essential to frame rules. That we will do, for it I want time. The Government has asked for identifying baby because a manufacturer can take undue advantage. They may write, "older than one year" and thus they will sell infant milk. That is why, the government has not given the definition of an infant. There is a provision of two types of penalty in the Bill. The first penalty is a fine of Rs. 5000 and a 3 years' imprisonment and the less penalty is a fine of Rs. 2000 and a 6 months' imprisonment. It is not a fact that there will be less penalty or no penalty for it but the reality is that we have reached such a stage that attention will have to be paid to the women and children. For this, a comprehensive programme-I.C.D.S. is going on in the country. You know, Madam Sarojini had said and Geetaji, Maliniji and Dr. Girija ji had also said that if our lactating mother did not get food, how the babies would get milk. That is way, we implement the I.C.D.S. programme which is the largest programme in the country under which the Government provides nutrition, education and referral services to 1.48 crore children including 0.39 crores mothers to whom nutrition and medical facilities are given under this programme. Therefore, the Government is making every effort in this regard but even if they want any amendment to this Bill, then I would like to tell them that you have supported this Bill and I have listened to all of your points and even if it is necessary to amend it for the sake of strengthening it, we are ready to do so. There is no difference of opinion in it because this issue relates to the future of our children. I humbly request the hon. Members of the House that today is the last day of the session of Parliament so, they may kindly withdraw their amendments. Ghulam Nabiji, after passing this Bill here, please get it passed in Rajya Sabha as soon as possible. With these words I thank you all.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I think you must compliment the Minister for making a good speech in Hindi.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: I am grateful to you, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put Amendment No. 1 moved by Prof. Rassa Singh Rawat to the consideration Motion to the vote of the House.

Amendment No.1 was put and nagatived.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the regulation of production, supply and distributing of infant milk substitutes, feeding bottles and infant foods with a view to the protection and promotion of breast-feeding and ensuring the proper use of infant foods and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take clause by clause consideration of the Bill. There are amendments by Shri Ram Naik, and Shri Thomas.

SHRI RAM NAIK: I would like to have a word so that I can try to find out a via-media. I have given 67 amendments. Some other Members also have given amendments.

Now, the hon. Minister has assured that if there are any shortcomings she would look into them. Now, I suggest that a small committee of members of Parliament may be formed. Some other voluntary organisations should be called in that committee and the Bill should be discussed in detail. If such a committee is formed by the Government, then we will not insist on the amendments. That Committee is necessary because there are so many shortfalls in these definitions given here. If this assurance

is given, then we will not insist on our amendments.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: I have already said that we are going to set up a monitoring committee.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Not a monitoring committee, there are so many medical points involved in this. You call a meeting for a discussion and if you find that some amendments are to be acceptable you can bring an amending Bill.

[Translation]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Mr. Speaker Sir, this comprehensive Bill has been brought forward carefully after having consultations with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs. Even if the hon. Members have some suggestions to make, they may send them to me. I will look into them.

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, there are so many amendments. The Minister can call the MPs, who have given their amendments and other Members who want to be associated with this matter, and sort out this matter.

MR. SPEAKER: Madam, you need not form a Committee. But you discuss with them.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: When we set up the Monitoring Committee, we can discuss with them.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Please call the concerned Members of Parliament and discuss with them.

SHRIMATIMALINIBHATTACHARAYA (Jadypur): What the Minister is talking about is different from the Committee suggested by Shri Ram Naik....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister can call the concerned members of Parliament for a cup of tea and discuss with them.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, in view of the assurance and in view of your good offices that you have used, we do not insist on our amendments.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): In view of the assurance given and in view of the tea that the Minister offers to us, I also do not insist on my amendments.

SHRIMATIMALINIBHATTACHARAYA: If the Minister agrees with the suggestion made by Shri Ram Naik, I have no objection in falling in line with other Members. I want that the Committee should be formed immediately.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister has agreed to call the Members who have given their amendments, gives them a cup of tea, hear them and formulate her opinion.

There are amendments to other Clauses also. Does this apply to other Clauses also?

SHRI RAM NAIK: It applies to all Clauses.

MR. SPEAKER: Sudhir Giriji, are you moving your amendments?

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI (Contai): Sir, I am not moving my amendments.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: My amendment is same as Maliniji's. Our is a joint amendment.

MR. SPEAKER: Now I put the Clauses to the vote of the House.

The question:

"That Clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is :

"That Clause 3 to 26 stand part of

The motion was adopted

Clause 3 to 26 were added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the long title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted

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

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is :

"That the Bill be passed".

The motion was adopted

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (Aonla): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Bill has been passed but I would like to make a submission which is not related to it but which is a matter of gross national insult.

Mr. Speaker Sir, when the delegation of Uzbekistan came here, one of our Ministers...

MR. SPEAKER: No, such defamatory matters can't be raised here.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: I am not mentioning anybody's name.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not forming part of the record. You cannot fling surprises like this. Please read Rule No. 353. I quote:

"No allegation of a defamatory or incriminatory nature shall be