

(vii) **Need to impose prohibition in Andhra Pradesh and Compensate the State Government against the losses of revenue arising out of implementation of Prohibition**

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE(Vijayawada): Sir, our Father of Nation had advocated for prohibition of alcoholic drinks as the intoxicants are partly responsible for the miserable conditions of the poor. Our Construction also envisaged that the Government will pursue it as one of the State policies and spelt out the same under Article 47. But several State Governments have not implemented this policy and have almost ignored it, while the sales-tax, which was initially introduced to bridge the deficit due to implementation of prohibition, is continuing even after lifting of prohibition. At the same time, the States are considering the State excise increase as a *Kamadhenu* as a result of which many poor people are not able to cross the poverty line. They cannot provide good education or medical facilities to the members of their families. Lakhs of women are fighting against the alcoholism in Andhra Pradesh for nearly two months. They demand from the State Government to prohibit sale of Arrack and other alcoholic products. All sections, including workers, self-employed, trade, intelligentsia, have supported this demand. Almost all political parties have also supported this demand.

The Union Government should immediately consider it and take necessary steps to introduce prohibition in Andhra Pradesh and help the State Government by reimbursing 50 per cent of loss of State excise revenue due to implementation of prohibition.

14.33 hrs

ADVOCATE (AMENDMENT) BILL

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COM-
PANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ):

Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Advocates Act, 1961 be taken into consideration."

A similar Amendment Bill was in fact introduced in Lok Sabha in May, 1990. With the dissolution of Lok Sabha in March, 1991 the Bill lapsed. Therefore, I have come before this august House for consideration of this Bill again.

The Advocates Act, 1961 was enacted with a view to amending and consolidating the law relating to legal practitioners and providing for constitution of Bar Councils. It was amended from time to time, taking into account, among other things, the proposals made by the Bar Council of India. Recently, the Bar Council of India and certain other bodies and individuals have made a number of proposals for further amending the Act. Based on the experience gained in the administration of the Advocates Act, 1961 and keeping in view the various proposals received, it has become necessary to further amend the Act with a view to enabling the Bar Council of India and the State the Councils to function more effectively for the Sections 6 and 7 of the Advocates Act, 1961 spell out the functions of State Bar Councils and the Bar Council of India, respectively. Amendments to these sections have been proposed with a view to empowering the State Bar Councils to promote the growth of Bar Associations for purposes of implementing the welfare schemes for advocates and to visit and to inspect Universities on the directions of the Bar Council of India, and to constitute funds for establishing law libraries.

It was found that certain Bar Councils do not hold elections in time. In the absence of regular elections, the elected members of the Council continue to hold office for indefinite periods and courts have observed that non-holding of elections in time is an undemocratic practice. After consulting the Bar Council of India, it is now proposed to amend Section 8 to provide for automatic