

Page 1, line 4,—

The Long Title was added to the Bill.

for "1992" substitute "1993" (3)

(Shri Jagdish Tytler)

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Sir, I beg to move:

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

"That Clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

The motion was adopted.

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The motion was adopted.

Enacting Formula

Amendment made:

15.09 hrs.

Page 1, line 1,—

JUTE MANUFACTURES DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL

for "Forty-third" substitute —

"Forty-fourth" (2)

[English]

(Shri Jagdish Tytler)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): Sir, on behalf of Shri G. Venkat Swamy, I beg to move:

"That Enacting Formula, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

"That the Bill to amend the Jute Manufactures Development Council Act, 1983, be taken into consideration."

The Enacting Formula, as amended, was added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the long Title stand part of the Bill".

Madam, the Jute Manufacturers Development Council, set up under the Jute Manufactures Development Council Act, 1983, was following a Jute Year for its accounting purposes. The Jute Year is

The motion was adopted.

from July to June of the following year. There have been certain difficulties which have come to the notice at the time of accounting and in view of these difficulties there is an amendment which has been suggested to this Act. It is considered that the Financial Year should be incorporated instead of the Jute Year and the proposed Bill, therefore, seeks to modify the definition of year, given in Section 2(f) of the Jute Manufactures Development Council Act, 1983 to mean instead of Jute Year, the Financial Year. This is the substantive portion of the amendment which is sought through this Bill. I would request the support of hon. Members.

MR. CHAIRMAN: *Motion moved:*

"That the Bill to amend the Jute Manufactures Development Council Act, 1983, be taken into consideration."

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj): Madam, Chairperson, I welcome the Bill and I rise to support the Bill. But I take this opportunity to draw the attention of the Government briefly to some aspects of the jute industry and the condition of the jute cultivators.

Madam, I would suggest that now a decade has passed since the Jute Manufactures Development Council was created, I think it is time that the Government should go into the working of this council as to how far it has benefited the jute industry, the jute cultivators, the jute growers and how far it has facilitated the absorption of new technology and the modernisation of the industry. It is because, we know that the jute industry is facing a grim competition all over the world and therefore, I think the development Council was created with a specific purpose to make it more competitive *vis-a-vis* the alternatives and

the substitutes that are coming into the market. I would like to have a report from the Government as to how far the Council has succeeded in meeting this objective.

Madam, my second point is with regard to the working of the Jute Development Fund that was created both to finance the industry as well as to provide research benefits, extension services and cheaper inputs to the jute growers. I have my doubts, Madam, because I represent a jute growing area, whether adequate benefits under the Jute Development Fund have reached the growers. I would not be able to say too much about the industry but I do know that in the North-East Bihar, two out of three jute mills are sick and are lying closed. As far as I remember the figures, the Fund has not been fully utilised. The Fund is being under-utilised and the Government ought to come up with some schemes to see to it that the Fund that was created with great hope and expectation really leads to the modernisation of the industry and provision of extension services, research benefits and cheaper inputs to the jute growers.

The another problem they face is that the purchase centres are so far away from the farmers viz. 50 kms. or 60 kms. that it is impossible for them to go to the next purchase centre, spend overnight and get their Jute accepted. There are also many procedural complications. I would suggest that the Government should consider that the Corporation should appoint the Panchayats in the growing areas as their agents, provide them with necessary funds and the surplus jute that any farmer wishes to sell can immediately be sold to the Panchayat which can act as an agent of the Corporation. Then, subsequently,

[Shri Syed Shahabuddin]

whatever price is obtained in the market, that extra amount can again be cycled back to the farmers. I think, a system as this can be evolved. I would like that the Government should consider this seriously because, the Corporation, as it stands, will not be able to reach the farmers and fulfil the promise of the Government that every ounce of jute—that is the promise given on the floor of the House by the late Prime Minister—which is offered by the farmers shall be purchased by the Corporation. We know that it is impossible. It has never happened and it will never happen unless some mechanism is developed whereby the purchaser appears at the door-steps of the growers. That should be looked at.

My final point, Madam, is about the support price. I am afraid that the support price is not commensurate with the labour and the cost of the inputs involved. In fact what is happening today is that jute acreage depends upon the support price. If the support price is high or the market price goes up, then, in that case, jute acreage goes up. If the market falls, the jute acreage falls. It is because, if the grower does not even get enough return to keep his body and soul together, surely he is not going to grow jute.

Therefore, I would suggest that, with the help of the Agricultural Prices Commission, a more adequate formula should be evolved for fixing the support price for jute.

These are four points with regard to jute and jute industry that I would like to place before the Government for their sympathetic consideration, while supporting this Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN (Murshidabad): Madam Chairman, it is a small Bill relating to the Jute Industry. If we put up questions in this regard then who will answer them? I can ask a number of questions, relating to the Jute Industries. Jute producers and Jute Mills both are involved in corruption. The J.C.I. which has been constituted is not working properly. Although there is a cadre to purchase the jute from the jute producers in West Bengal but the employees of the J.C.I. comes to purchase the jute only after the cell is over and then what is the use of them? The arrear of farmers are always due towards the J.C.I.

The second problem is regarding the closure of the jute mills one after the other and what steps have been taken by the Government in this regard? In my constituency Vactoria Jute Mill has been closed. What steps are being taken to reopen it? The owners of this mill are Britishers and the Chief Minister of our State and the workers are requesting them to come, but they are not coming. This would be possible when they would get the assurance in this regard. The reason for all this is that the arrears of bonus, salary and provident fund amounting to Rs. 190 crores is due towards them. If the Government of India makes any efforts in this regard then it can be possible. Thousands of workers have become jobless. Political parties are taking maximum advantage of this situation. A Member of Parliament of our area sat on strike and when she felt hungry, she ended her hunger strike. This was like a dramatic exercise. We have been calling their attention on a number of occasions but of no avail. The concerned Minister is not present here at the moment. What should I ask from Shri

Mukulji, who has no information in this regard.

Madam Chairman, after consultation in the chamber a Committee was constituted and Shri Amin, Member of Rajya Sabha had given one suggestion which has not been implemented so far. What I want to say is that, there are four jute mills in my constituency. One of these mills *i.e.* victoria Jute Mill is going to be closed down, then what would happen to other three mills? We have been told that the mills would be reopened after the retrenchment of 1000 workers and that Rs. 400 would be cut from each worker's salary. Therefore, change the Jute Year. There is no objection on this point. But the system or the NGMC which has been formulated is working satisfactorily? JCI owes crores of rupees to farmers, what do you think in this matter. Deputation after deputation came in this regard, but nothing has been done. Therefore, I oppose this Bill. Will you be able to issue any directive today as to what would be the role of the Government to reopen the closed mills? What steps are you going to take regarding thousands of workers, who have become jobless, and where proper record of Provident Fund has not been mentioned and who did not get their bonus even during the last year. I want that you give a clear assurance in this regard. I am not opposing the minor amendment of this Bill. If there is no clear response from your side then it will be very difficult and the jute industry would be ruined completely. It will be shifted to other countries.

The jute market is increasing year by year. Earlier its demand was reduced certainly for some time but now again its demand is increasing. Under such a condition. if you do not give due attention to it and not try to save it, then the entire

jute industry will be ruined and since you have signed the Dunkel proposals so they will do as they wish. They will finish our jute industry and it will be shifted to other countries.

[English]

SHRI MU'KUL WASNIK: Madam Chairperson, I have noted down the suggestions expressed by Shri Syed Shahabuddin and Shri Masudal Hossain. At this point of time, I would only like that the proposed amendment Bill is only for a limited purpose and as I said in the very beginning, it is only dealing with change in the year from that of Jute Year to that of the Financial Year.

Shri Hossain has talked about the closure of the Victoria Jute Mill and other mills and the situation in general which is prevailing in jute industry. I can here say that as far as the Victoria Mill problem is concerned and as everybody is aware that it is a private mill. There have been some problems about labour relations. The Government of West Bengal has already taken up the matter with the Department of Labour as well as at the level of Chief Minister of West Bengal. From the Centre also the Textile Minister, Shri Venkat Swamy has taken up the matter with the Government of West Bengal. I think the hon. Member who has taken up the issue is well aware about the state of affairs and the progress which is being done as far as this particular matter is concerned.

There are about 23 jute mills which have been referred to the BIFR for their revival, which includes, apart from the private mills, 6 public sector units also. The Government is concerned that these mills should be revived and with this purpose in mind 23 jute mills have already

[Shri Mukul Wasnik]

been referred. Shri Shahabuddin has pointed out..

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA (Jadavpur): Madam, I have a question to ask. The Jute Packaging Material Order is being violated by the industries and because of that the jute industry seems to be in a crisis. The industries have to use jute packaging material for their goods. Will the Government ensure that this will be abided by?

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK: I am afraid, Madam, that I will not be able to give an immediate response on this specific query but definitely I can get back to the hon. Member after...

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN. Mr. Minister, please give us assurance, will the Central Government intervene in this matter?

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK: I will definitely get back to you.

As far as the procurement is concerned, it is also done through cooperatives. But we can definitely examine the suggestions which Shri Syed Shahabuddin has made while speaking on this Bill. There have been several other things which have been taken up.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN: No assurance is coming from the hon. Minister.

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK: In any case, I want to clarify that this Bill is dealing with a very very limited issue and if we are going to have a complete discussion as far as the jute industry is concerned, I am afraid, we will not be able

to respond immediately to the clarifications which have been raised. Definitely we CAN GET back to the various points which have been raised; that much I can assure the hon. Members.

At this point of time I thank the hon. Members who have taken a keen interest and participated in this discussion. I request that the Bill may be passed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

'That the Bill to amend the Jute Manufacturers Development Council Act, 1983, be taken into consideration.'

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The house will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

'That Clause 2 stand part of the Bill.'

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause — Short Title and Commencement

Amendment made:

Page 1, line 4,—

for "1992" substitute "1993" (2)

(Shri Mukul Wasnik)

MR CHAIRMAN The question is

That Clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill'

The motion was adopted

Clause 1 as amended was added to the Bill

Enacting formula

Amendment made

Page 1, line 1

for Forty-third substitute

Forth fourth 1)

(Shri Mukul Wasnik)

MR CHAIRMAN The question is

"That the Enacting Formula as amended be added to the Bill

The motion was adopted

The enacting Formula as amended was added to the Bill

MR CHAIRMAN The question is

That the Long Title stand part of the Bill'

The motion was adopted

The long title was added to the Bill

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK I beg to move

That the Bill, as amended, be passed "

MR CHAIRMAN The question is

That the Bill as amended be passed'

The motion was adopted

15.34 hrs

SICK INDUSTRIAL COMPANIES
(SPECIAL PROVISIONS)
AMENDMENT BILL

As passed by Rajya Sabha

[English]

MR CHAIRMAN The House will now take up the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Amendment Bill

Dr Abrar Ahmed

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR ABRAR AHMED) beg to move

That the Bill further to amend the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration " (*Interruptions*)

SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADYAY (Krishnagar) Madam Chairperson, we have not agreed for taking up this Bill at this time. The discussion under Rule 193 was scheduled to start at 3 o'clock. Now, it is 3.35 p.m. (*Interruptions*)