

that the Government should tell us in advance why the period was kept earlier as one year. Then, it has been changed to two years. Why has it been changed to two years? I feel and many Members have also given amendments that it should be three years so that proper justice can be done in respect of this Act.

Sir, with these words, I oppose the Government's addiction to the issuing of Ordinances. By and large, I would support the Bill. But I would do that afterwards, after the main speaker speaks.

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That this House disapproves of the Consumer Protection (Amendment) Ordinance, 1993 (Ordinance No. 24 of 1993) promulgated by the President on the 18th June, 1993."

13.00 hrs.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : I beg to move :

"That the Bill further to amend the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The objection raised by hon. Shri Ram Naik is more of a technical nature. I am grateful to him that he has pointed out certain matters, I will only respectfully submit that the Bill was moved in the Rajya Sabha and it could not be passed. The reasons are well-known to all the Members. They could not find time here, and with the result, it could not come here also. After that the Consumer Protection Council meeting was held and in that, the members said, "this Bill has been moved but it has not been passed. So, you now kindly issue an ordinance because otherwise the matters which have to be urgently taken up through the Bill will again take more time." It was mainly because of that recommendation of the Consumers Protection Council that this was done. And then consequent upon the promulgation of the ordi-

nance, certain action has been taken, for example, monetary jurisdiction of the various forums had to be taken and various administrative actions had to be taken by the State Governments. There were certain very pressing difficulties for which the Bill was brought.

I am sure that the hon. Members will agree with every amendment that has been there in the Bill because, by and large, there is a unanimity on the contents of the Bill and the measures that have been taken.

With these words, I request the hon. Members to carry through the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That the Bill further to amend the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE (Bombay North Central) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to welcome this Bill which has been brought by the Government. And I whole-heartedly support the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : You can speak after lunch.

13.03 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock*

14.06 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch of six minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

(SHRI NITESH KUMAR *in the Chair*)  
RE : JAIL BHARO MOVEMENT IN DELHI AGAINST ANTI-PEOPLE ECONOMIC POLICIES OF THE GOVERNMENT

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, a very serious situation has happened in the Capital of this country. Today, Sir, I mentioned in the House about the *jail bharo* movement, against the economic policies of this country, the anti-people economic policies of this country. A large number of people, working people, ordinary people

had gathered; Members of Parliament were there; and Sir, in a most unprovoked manner, without any reason, provocation, the Government almost ran amuck. There has been lathi charge, tear gas shells have been used and water-cannons have been used; our Members of Parliament also have been injured. What is happening in the Capital of this country, we would like to know. (Interruptions) What is this Government doing? (Interruptions)

**SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa):** We demanded that the Home Minister should come here now to the House. (Interruptions)

**SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE:** We want an immediate response. What is the position. Why is it happening? Why should the Government behave in this manner? (Interruptions) Sir, there has been lathi charge inside the Police Station also, Shri Hannan Mollah was there. (Interruptions)

**SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Ulu-beria):** Sir I was there.

(Interruptions)

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Please take your seats. I have allowed Shri Somnath Chatterjee to say. I have allowed him. Please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

**SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:** Sir, about 15,000 people from various mass organisations representing various trade unions, kisans, students, yuvaks and women were there. As you know, we announced this six months before; campaign was going on at the State level and district level. All over the country lakhs of people have already been informed. Today, they have courted arrest. In Delhi also, we planned the programme and about 15,000 people were there near Jantar Mantar. We were just walking. There was no arrangement. We thought that we will be arrested as usual, in Delhi also, as we have seen in the earlier period. We thought that we will be taken into police custody and we will be courted arrest. When we were just walking, some of our women who were in front, ran and immediately they started beating; and more than 600 to 700 people have been injured.

Shri Balaraman, MP from Rajya Sabha has his eyes still burning because of the tear gas shells. I also have problem in my eyes. About seven, eight MPs were there; Shri Indrajit Gupta was there.

When we went inside the *thana*, there was also a *lathi-charge*. Fifty to sixty people were injured there. (Interruptions) It is a barbaric situation.. (Interruptions)

**SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE:** We want Home Minister to be here. (Interruptions) We want an answer on this. (Interruptions) If this type of democratic movement is not allowed in this country, the House will not run.

(Interruptions)

**SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat):** Sir, you should know that it was sufficiently propagated. About six months ago, there was a national convention of all the secular and democratic mass organisations. It was decided from there that all the mass organisations will court arrest today, on the 19th August, peacefully non-violently—all over the country. The demand was: reversal of the anti-people economic policies and industrial policy of the Government.

We have got the democratic right to speak against the anti-people economic policies and industrial policies of the Government. Equally, the people outside have got the right to give vent to their feelings and express their opposition to the Government policies in a peaceful manner so that Government is forced to change the policy.

Are we in a fascist country? Have you decided that the people outside have got no democratic right to protest? If you have decided that only some people decide here something, if it is even against the nation's interests, the country will have to accept it. That stage has not yet come. That stage has not reached, that our people were allowed, that our people can assert themselves, our people are very much determined to protest and preserve the democratic rights as has been demonstrated today in Delhi and is being demonstrated all over the country.

We are not going to accept the Government's position or policies lying low. I think, this is an important development in the democratic movement in the country. Never, before has there been such a massive character of the movement. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota) : What had happened the day when women were beaten up in your area? Mr. Chandra Shekhar had said that you fired shots.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore) : Both of you are hand in glove because you belong to the same party.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please speak one-by-one.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Somnath Chatterjee has raised this question. We have allowed 2-3 members to speak. Mr. Mohan Singh may also speak if he so desires.

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : It is very significant that the Government of the day is unable even to think or respond in any matter of importance.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : I would like to strongly criticize it on behalf of my party. It is unjustified. This administration was aware three days in advance that some people of some organisations were going to stage a demonstration. Their 'Jail Bharo' campaign was going to be started throughout the country. The administration deliberately clamped prohibitory orders in the entire area three days in advance. There was no reason to do that. It is a democratic right of any organisation to court arrest and stage a 'Satyagrah' by informing the

Government in a democratic way. It was proposed to be a peaceful satyagrah. But to arrest the 'Satyagrahis' and lathi-charge them barbarously reflect the dictatorship and thus should be condemned. Sir, I would like to urge you to ask the hon. Minister of Internal Security to make a statement in the House and regret this action. I want to demand, through you, that the action be taken against the officials found responsible for this barbaric lathi-charge.

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK) : Sir, I would not like to arrive at any conclusion at this point of time but Mr. Somnath Chatterjee and all his colleagues have raised a matter which definitely needs to be taken care of. I can say, at this point of time, that I will immediately inform the hon. Home Minister the concern which the hon. Members have expressed about this. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hugli) : It should be condemned.

[*English*]

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : When the democratic process has been installed by lathis and water cannons, proceedings of Parliament cannot continue.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You raised your point and the hon. Minister responded to it. Now, I think nothing more needs to be said on it.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am on my legs. Please take your seats.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, it is a very serious matter and Members are very much agitated. The only support which the Government has is from the BJP. Kindly note that, Sir. (*Interruptions*).

**SHRI RAM KAPSE (Thane):** We do not support the Government. It is very rare. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Point is that you have raised this issue and I have given you permission to raise it. The Government has also responded to it. Therefore, you are requested to co-operate us in running the House smoothly. You have expressed your viewpoint. (*Interruptions*).

**SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR:** But we have not received any response on the issue. The issue that was raised has not been responded. (*Interruptions*).

**SHRI ASTBUHA PRASAD SHUKLA (Khalilabad):** We too condemn it. But it has become their habit.

**SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota):** We also condemn the deeds of the Government. It is certainly murder of democracy. On behalf of the BJP I criticise it.

[*English*]

**SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE:** Sir, I am thankful that at last some good sense has prevailed. The question is very important. I was trying to avoid a reference to a meeting held in the Parliamentary Affairs Minister's room in which the hon. Home Minister was also there. I had informed him about it. He tried to speak to the Police Commissioner; I requested him to come and tell the House as to what is the position and what action they are going to take. There are four Home Ministers in the Government and not a single Home Minister is present here.. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Here the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has promised to bring this incident to the notice of the hon. Minister of Home Affairs and an appropriate action would be taken accordingly. He has clarified all this. I do not think it proper to say anything more in this regard.

**SHRI MOHAMMED ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga):** The Minister of Home Affairs may be called in the House

and asked to make a statement.. (*Interruptions*)

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Do you want to say something only for the sake of saying. You have already expressed your viewpoint strongly and the hon. Minister has also noticed it and has assured to bring it to the notice of the Minister of Home Affairs.

[*Interruptions*]

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** You may please sit down. Shri Mohan Singh has already spoken on behalf of your party.

[*Interruptions*]

[*English*]

**SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE:** Notice is already there.

**SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY:** It has already been brought to the notice of the Home Minister. The Home Minister should come to the House. (*Interruptions*).

**SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum):** We have repeatedly stated in this House that...

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Nirmalji, at least treat him as a Minister.

**SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE:** I am treating him as a Minister. His name is Mr. Mukul who is a Minister. Now, we have repeatedly insisted that whenever such developments take place, before we are enabled to raise our voice, there should be a *suo motu* statement from the Government. He has already talked to him and right now, if he says that he will draw the attention of the Home Minister, then they continue to fail in their duty. That is why, we are suggesting that the Home Minister should be called here and till then, let the House remain adjourned.

**SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh):** Parliament is the supreme body of democracy and this House cannot be a silent spectator. (*Interruptions*).

**SHRI MUKUL WASNIK:** Mr. Chairman, Sir, When this matter was raised by hon. Somnathji, I myself was not aware that he had already met the Home Minister and expressed his concern. I did not know that there was a dialogue between them.

**SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE :** There was no dialogue at all. It was rather a monologue. He has stated that he would send the MoS. I have told him that if he could not send anybody, he himself should come to the House.

**SHRI MUKUL WASNIK :** But at this point of time if the hon. Member were to say that I should immediately go and summon the hon. Home Minister, I think it will be unfair on his part to expect such a thing. I have already stated that I would bring it to the notice of the hon. Home Minister. I will definitely inform him that the Members are very much concerned on this issue.

[*Translation*]

**MR. CHAIRMAN :** The incident he has referred to is a serious one. Many hon. Members were there in the procession. He has explained what happened inside the Police Station. Keeping in view its seriousness it would be better to hold discussion immediately and the Government should come out with its stand in this matter.

(*Interruptions*)

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA** (Midnapore): Mr. Chairman Sir, if an hon. Member is arrested, the Chair is informed as per the rule. Has the Chair received any intimation in this regard that 6-7 members belonging to this House as well as the other House had been in the Police Station for 2 hours? (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL** (Chandigarh): You were freed very soon. (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :** Only God ! now how much disturbance you might have created if you had been detained even for a minute. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

**SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL :** You have misunderstood me. I am not at all taking it lightly. I am very much concerned. The hon. Member has said that intimation had not come. I said that it would have come. I did not expect that you would react in this way. I am equally concerned about the incident.

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :** I am asking only one question. Has the Chair been informed or not? The police station is hardly 400 yards away from here. They noted down the names of all the MPs within the first half an hour itself. I want to know why the Chair has not been informed.

[*Translation*]

**MR. CHAIRMAN :** Guptaji, you know very well. We will get it checked.

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :** What do I know?

**MR. CHAIRMAN :** The House should be intimated in this regard. If it is not conveyed the hon. Speaker as per the rules, action can be initiated under rules. Since you have raised this issue, we will find out the facts and whatever is thought proper would be done.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

**SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE :** Is this Government functioning only through teargas shells, lathis and water cannons? There is no response from them when such an incident occurred in Delhi itself and that too in the Parliament Street police station when Senior MPs have been injured. They have been arrested and detained. Even then, the Government does not respond! When we raise the matter, someone says that the Government will be informed. I don't know what is happening. Isn't there a Government functioning even in Delhi?

[*Translation*]

People like 'Mauni Baba' have been inducted in the Government and what they are doing?... (*Interruptions*)...

**MR. CHAIRMAN :** It has been discussed.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

**MR. CHAIRMAN :** I am on my legs. You please sit down. Let us allow Shri Sharad Dighe to speak on the Bill. Let us resume our business.

SHRI ANIL BASU : Will the Home Minister come here and make a statement, first? When such a grave incident has occurred, how can we simply carry on with our business?

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (Birbhumi) : Let the Home Minister come and make a statement. We want the Home Minister here. . . (Interruptions) . . .

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : This has been discussed. The question has been raised strongly. The Minister has responded twice. I have commented upon it.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : What is the content of the response? . . . (Interruptions) . . .

[English]

SHRI ANIL BASU : When Members of Parliament are lathi-charged, how can the House function as if nothing has happened? How is it possible Sir? Let the Home Minister come and make a statement first. . . (Interruptions)

14.25 hrs.

At this stage Dr. Ram Chandra Dome and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall be able to speak only when you sit in your seat. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs wants to say something. You first hear him. . .

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA) : I will speak on behalf of the Government.

[Translation]

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, you first listen to me. . . (Interruptions) . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now this matter is over. . . (Interruptions) . . . The members have been stating their view point for the last 20 minutes. All have expressed their views. Now you please sit down.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : You should please listen to me. . . (Interruptions) . . . If you will not allow me I will not speak . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is going to say something. You should listen to him and now you please take your seat.

[English]

14.26 hrs.

At this stage Dr. Ram Chandra Dome and some other hon. Members went back to their seats

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA : Sir, there was a peaceful demonstration going on. The Delhi Administration had made all arrangements for arresting all those persons who were demonstrating in violation of Section 144. The demonstrators were being peacefully rounded up and they would have been released after the end of demonstration but unfortunately some incident occurred.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore) : What incident occurred?

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA : I have not yet received the details of the incident. But, I regret greatly that this kind of incident took place in which some of our political workers have been injured. We will immediately hold an inquiry and see that the wrong-doers are dealt with properly.

[Translation]

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am coming from that very place. I am one of the victims. Please allow me to speak only for two minutes . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Whatever you want to submit, has already been stated by other hon. Members.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : I have first hand information. . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no question of first hand or second hand information. This issue is over now.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN. There is a listed business in the House. We will now resume the listed business. Shri Sharad Dighe may please speak.

[Translation]

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : I am one of its victims. Let me allow to speak please... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are a senior member. You rise and start speaking whenever you wish to do so. Everything has been stated regarding this incident and the hon. Minister has also expressed his views. Therefore, please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : I am starting from that very point... (Interruptions) Please listen to me.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will not allow you. I have already called Mr. Sharad Dighe. You please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

[Interruptions]\*\*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI (Saidpur) : Please allow him to speak for two minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right. I allow you for two-minutes time.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : 33 All India People's Organisations of the country comprising All India People's Organisations of labourers, agricultural labourers, students, women and youths were present at the Tal Katora Stadium on the last 15th April. They decided to launch 'jail bharo abhiyan' on the 19th August i.e., today as a mark of protest against the new industrial and economic policy of the Government as well as against communalism. The Government of India had been informed about it.

Sir, today we assembled at the Jantar Mantar and proceeded ahead. We had

openly given a call for court arrest. Nearly 25 thousand people were present there. If the police wished they could have arrested us at the very outset. They tried to stop them but we did not stop. Then they resorted to water canon and tear-gas from very close vicinity. It was virtually impossible to breathe and see even for a moment and thereafter there was lathi charge.

Had they arrested earlier, this development might not have taken place and such a large number of people including myself would not have been injured. Women also were injured in the lathi charge. We have requested the police to send them to hospital and they have replied that they are sending them. All this could have been averted if they had been arrested earlier. With these words I conclude.

\*\*Not recorded.

[English]

14.35 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE. DIS-  
APPROVAL OF THE CONSUMER  
PROTECTION (AMENDMENT ORDI-  
NANCE  
AND

CONSUMER PROTECTION (AMEND-  
MENT) BILL.—Contd.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE (Bombay North Central) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was saying in the morning that I wholeheartedly welcome this Consumer Protection (Amendment) Bill, 1993 which has been brought before this House. When this original Consumer Protection Act was passed in December, 1986, we were very glad because it was a major step in the field of consumer protection movement. And some of us had even held this legislation as a Magna Carta, as far as the consumers are concerned. It was really a milestone in the history of socio-economic legislation of this country. Now, this legislation was in force since 1986 and certain loopholes and lacunae were found out and detected not only by those who were functioning under this Act but several institutions were also helping the consumers in order to protect their rights. And therefore, it was but natural that a working group was instituted to find out the exact defects, as far as this Act was