

unnecessarily substitute an old word by a new word, the argument may arise that the change must have been made deliberately and, therefore, the meaning must be different. In order to obviate any such thing and unnecessarily create disputes, litigation, etc, we have chosen to follow the well-used word.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH: Old is not gold always. (*Interruptions*).

Since this is a linguistic amendment I think we may consult the dictionary here. I would like to say that, as it is a question of the English language or words, it is not too late even now to get a dictionary and see which is the more current expression—'incriminate' or 'criminate'. 'Incriminate' has a euphonious sound, whereas 'criminate' sounds similar to 'cremate'. I don't like it. 'Incriminate' would be a far better word in this context.

SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN: I would request the hon. Member not to press it because it will unnecessarily give rise to litigation. I have some experience of such litigations. If you change a word in any area there would be some kind of a litigation.

I may add that, for the sake of uniformity also, we have used the same word that has been used in the Representation of the People Act.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH: If that is so, I would like to withdraw them, though with great reluctance. I seek leave of the House to withdraw them.

The Amendments Nos. 5 and 6 were, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That Clause 13 stand part of the Bill"

The motion was adopted.

*Clause 13 was added to the Bill.
 Clauses 14 to 28 were added to the Bill.*

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

SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed".

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed".

The motion was adopted.

19.23 hrs.

FOOD CORPORATIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI PRAKASH SINGH BADAL): I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Food Corporations Act, 1964, as passed by the Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration".

Sir, the main issue in this Bill is a very limited one. It is proposed to amend Section 12A of the Food Corporation Act which regulates the emoluments, retirement and other benefits to the erstwhile employees of the Food Department who were transferred to the Food Corporation of India, it, thus, seeks to further protect the interests of the Food Corporation employees and does not relate to any major policy issue and I hope that all sides of the House would support the provisions of the Bill.

As the Hon. Members are aware, the Food Corporation of India came into existence in January, 1965, and the functions hitherto discharged by the Food Department, Government of India, relating to purchase, storage, movement, distribution and sale of foodgrains and other foodstuffs, were transferred to this Corporation. Consequently, about 17,000 employees belonging to the Food Department were transferred to the Food Corporation and for safeguarding their interest, a new Section 12A was inserted in the

Food Corporations Act, 1964 by the Food Corporations (Amendment) Act, 1968.

Section 12A of the Food Corporations Act, 1964, envisages the exercise of two options by the employees: firstly, whether they would like to be transferred to the Food Corporation of India or not; and secondly, whether they would like to be governed by the retirement and other terminal benefits in accordance with the rules and orders of the Central Government or of the Food Corporation of India. In the operation of the provisions of Section 12A, certain practical difficulties have arisen which have necessitated a further amendment of Section 12A of the Food Corporations Act, 1964.

The staff of the Department of Food was transferred to the Corporation along with the work in a phased manner and such transfer was completed by 1st March, 1969. However, it took some time to collect the necessary particulars and issue actual notifications with the result that the employees were unable to exercise their options for terminal benefits within a period of six months of their transfer as statutorily required under Section 12A of the Act. Difficulties further arose because some employees died or retired before the issue of transfer notifications or exercising options.

The Food Corporations (Amendment) Bill, 1977, now before the House, seeks to remedy the difficulties mentioned above. The Bill provides that all serving officers will be given a fresh opportunity to exercise an option whether they will like to be governed by the Central Government terminal benefits or by the Food Corporation benefits. It has also been provided that those who are yet to be formally transferred will also have the same right to exercise the option within six months of the notification of transfer. Those who have died or retired obviously cannot make use of the amending provisions. It has accordingly been provided that, where such persons were able to exercise

valid option, these will be respected and followed. In other cases where valid options could not be exercised, the Central Government benefits, which are by and large more advantageous, will be given. There is adequate justification for doing so, as such Food transferees were earlier Central Government employees and in the absence of an opportunity to give an option to the contrary, it is only fitting that they should be given terminal benefits in accordance with the Central Government rules and regulations.

The Bill seeks to cover the administrative difficulties mentioned earlier, and will go a long way towards meeting the legitimate claims of the erstwhile employees of the Food Department who have been transferred to the Food Corporation of India. I would, therefore, request for whole-hearted support from the hon. Members, from all sections of the House.

With these observations, I commend the Bill to the House for acceptance.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Food Corporation Act, 1964, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Mr. Shinde.

SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE (Ahmednagar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the outset, I would like to congratulate Shri Prakash Singh Badal on his taking over this very important portfolio in our economy. Punjab's history of agriculture has been a glorious history not only in Asia but in the whole world. The Punjab farmers have played a great role in this country. Shri Prakash Singh Badal happens to be a progressive farmer, and I wish him all well.

It has been the policy of my Party not to oppose blindly the various Bills or other proposals of the Government but to give constructive cooperation on merits. As far as this Bill is concerned, we are extending our whole-

hearted support to the provision of this Bill for two reasons. First of all, the Food Corporation of India is a very important instrument evolved by this Parliament for the management of the food economy of this country, and employees of the Food Corporation have been playing a very vital role in this. There have been some technical difficulties, and in order to overcome these technical difficulties, this Bill has been brought forward by the Government. At one stage I was associated with negotiations as far as some of these aspects are concerned. There were some apprehensions in the mind of the Government employees of the Food Department at that time. On behalf of the Government, I extended and gave an assurance to the employees that they would not stand to lose on transfer of their services from the Food Department to the Food Corporation of India. I am quite confident that the present Government and Shri Prakash Singh Badal himself will take interest in the well-being of the employees and if in future some problems arise, he will adopt a very sympathetic attitude towards them.

There is not much time and I cannot go into details, but I will only refer to some of the problems. While I was in the Government, I found that there were some problems which we could not tackle, for instance in West Bengal the problem of deputationists who are working in the Food Corporation. They are actually the employees of the West Bengal Government. The problem could not be solved. I hope, the hon. Minister will find time to attend to that.

As far as the Food Corporation is concerned, it is a very big organization and there can be some failures as also some incompetent and bad elements but, by and large, there are very good officers and employees in the Corporation. That is why, this

level, a very good competence has been built up in this organization and particularly some of the persons occupying key positions are really competent and able and they would deserve all support from this House and the hon. Minister.

The Food Corporation of India has an important part to play in our country. The real test of management of food economy is when there is a drought and there is a shortage of foodgrains, how shall we manage the food economy of this country, meet the requirements of vulnerable section of our people and also maintain price stability. Unfortunately, in the world food is highly mixed up with politics. I am making this submission for the consideration of the hon. Minister because as I said, the real test of management of food economy is in the period of shortage and drought. But I learn from the newspapers that *ad hoc* policies are likely to be adopted in this matter. I would cautiously submit to the hon. Minister that in the case of management of good economy, adhocism would be very dangerous for this country. We are poor country; a very large segment of population is poor and they deserve all our sympathies and they should get the foodgrains at reasonable prices at all time. Simply because the food situation now is very comfortable, our bufferstocks are large, we should not have *ad hoc* policies in this matter.

Further, a stage has come in the food economy of this country when it would be possible to manage without imports of foodgrains even in an adverse year. The situation has to be used to our best national advantage. We have been spending a very large amount on import of foodgrains. Only three years ago, we spent more than 700 crores in one year. In future, we can protect our national interest without resorting to import.

As I said, in the world food is highly mixed up with politics. There

ing from a magazine 'Business Week' dated the 15th December, 1975:

"Earl L Butz, the peripatetic Secretary of Agriculture just back from a tour of eight countries tells a story to show how America is waking up to the use of its food power as a diplomatic tool"

Earl L Butz was at one time Secretary of Agriculture in USA.

The same magazine says:

"Nearly everyone agrees that in a world of hunger and over population, the USA can apply its tremendous agricultural capacity as a lever on foreign countries to adopt policies beneficial to this nation".

There is a great danger involved. We are a big nation and we have to see that we are not exposed to the manipulations of the great powers as far as our food economy is concerned. Therefore, I am suggesting this for the kind consideration of the House. The Food Corporation to-day is capable of managing a very big buffer stock but a number of aspects of a big buffer stock need to be looked into. We have never held such a huge buffer stock. So all the implications, the monetary, financial and from the point of general economy have to be gone into and even the preservation of the grain which is to be a part of the bufferstock. With regard to storage capacity we have certain limitations because there are certain inherent difficulties. Despite all that, we should continue to hold a very large buffer stock so that we are not exposed to external dangers.

The Food Corporation of India has been playing an important role in giving marketing support to the farmers of this country. Had there been no Food Corporation in the field—I know there are certain weaknesses and certain failures—but basically, had there been no Food Corporation in the market in a period when there was a bumper harvest, prices would

have been depressed and farmers would have suffered. This instrument of Food Corporation of India needs all our support and strength so that it becomes a very powerful instrument in support of our farmers.

With these few observations I would like to give my whole-hearted support to the provisions of this Bill. I would also like to assure on behalf of my party that as far as the employees of the FCI are concerned,—of course, all sections of the House will agree on that—their interests should be fully protected.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contai): I want to take advantage of this Bill to raise a few points about the attitudes of some of the officers of the Food Corporation about whom Shri Shinde made very commendable remarks. I have no doubt he is right but there are some officers who have proved to be very vindictive, revengeful and I should say, petty-minded.

One of the men who is in high authority in the Food Corporation—I have never seen such a man behaves as if he is a Chief commander of an army. I remember the occasion on August 17, 1973 when Mr. Fakhrudin Ali Ahmed was the Agriculture Minister, when I was having a talk with him, that officer was also there and he behaved in such an offensive manner which I never expected of a subordinate officer and that too, while talking to his Minister. Mr. Fakhrudin Ali Ahmed, you know, was a man of high culture and patience. He kept quiet. Had I been in his place, I would have sacked that officer who dared to behave in such an ugly manner before his Minister. This gentleman and his accomplice, the Zonal Manager of the Eastern Zone of the Food Corporation, Calcutta have taken a vindictive attitude towards 500 employees of the FCI Employees Association's membership. The legitimate trade union movement and activities they wanted to curb and in furtherance of that, they have taken full advantage of the emergency situation.

This Union never resorted to any strike. They were always ready to cooperate with the government. Because this union refused to become their tool, this gentleman sitting in Delhi and the other sitting in Calcutta wanted to stifle it. So, they created another rival union and wanted to play one against the other and during the period of emergency they took many vindictive and revengeful measures. About 500 of the employees have been transferred as a sort of penal measure. Secretary General of the Employees Association was suspended for months together, arrested under DIR, salary impounded for 14 months and he has been transferred to far away Silchar which is the farthest corner in Assam from the Headquarters of the Trade Union, Calcutta and recently a major punishment imposed upon him on T.U. activities. He was responsible to go round the country and organize the trade union activity. Not only that, you will be shocked to know another fact. Just 2 or 3 days before the election results were announced, the Headquarter's office in Calcutta of the union has been forcibly occupied by the Zonal Manager, FCI, Calcutta and the union leaders and workers have been ejected from their office of the Trade union functioning since 1965. I can hardly imagine that a man who is in charge of the FCI, Eastern Zone should have dared to do so. I met the hon. Minister in the morning. As I requested him, necessary action may kindly be taken to look into the case of atrocious behaviour of the FCI Zonal Manager, Calcutta which is with the connivance of police.

52 Assistant Managers have been reverted against all principles of justice and fair play as per FCI statute and have been given lower clerical posts after serving 5 to 8 years as Asstt. Managers. I will urge the hon. Minister to go into their cases and restore them in their former official status. It is learnt that private members of the FCI Board have also advised to the FCI to restore

their status as they felt that the actions of the Management was illegal and against the provisions of the FCI statute. Protection of pay cannot arrest demoralising effect of the employees and as such all Asstt. Managers who have worked for more than one year should be confirmed and regularised in all fairness as demanded through their note submitted to the Board's meeting held on 4th and 5th April, 1977.

I would request that as has been done in the case of Railways, liberal attitude may be taken in the cases of trade union workers of the FCI in Calcutta, Delhi and elsewhere. Liberal attitude has been taken by the P & T Department. I hope that the Food and Agriculture Minister will also act like that in the same Janata Government to avoid discriminating treatment and its aftermath with a view to fulfil ends of justice to these countrymen.

19.41 hrs.

[SHRI M. SATYANARAYAN RAO in the Chair].

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA (Tumkur): I think Shri Shinde has rightly put it that the hon. Minister, Shri Badal, is handling very important portfolio because the entire economy of this country is based on agriculture.

The previous Government has done excellent work in agriculture and has shown good progress. Shri Shinde, an able Minister, has handled the portfolio in a very efficient manner. He got all round appreciation. I hope the same tempo will be maintained.

Shri Subramaniam Swamy was taking a challenge of the economy of this country during the time of emergency. I do not know his logic. He has stated in his anxiety to defend his party. We improved the economy of the country during emergency and before. That should be taken note of. Country's progress, and nation's progress is of paramount importance. We have not to discuss it from any nar-

row angle in this House. It is the most important piece of legislation that has been brought. This has already been passed in the Rajya Sabha and by the previous Government. I think Shri Shinde was responsible for bringing this Bill. I think he has stated very correctly that the employees working in the Food Corporation are efficient and their working conditions have to be ameliorated and certain new measures have to be adopted. The administration has to be revamped. The entire Food Corporation system should be pruned and put in a proper way so that there is no shortage of food in the country. The recruitment system, the promotion of the staff, all these things have to be gone into. The previous Government made certain improvements. I wish that this Government should also go ahead with it further. The branches of the FCI are working in various States and their functioning has to be reexamined. Food control and storage activities are being affected due to shortage of wagons. This should be looked into. As Mr. Shinde has rightly stated, the food policy of this country sometimes tends to be operated by the other countries. It is my request that the present Government should not succumb to such circumstances and it should see that the food situation of the country is improved. Agricultural progress should not be retarded in any manner. Wherever further improvements are to be made, these efforts must be undertaken. This present piece of legislation is a source of strength to the employees working in the Corporation. The Corporation should not only be expanded but its administration and organisation should be improved.

With these words I support the legislative measure which has been brought forward by the hon. Minister. Thank you.

श्री उग्रसेन (देवरिया) : माननीय चेररमैन माहब मैं मंत्री जी से एक-दो बातें ही कहना चाहता हूँ। मैं एक-दो मिनट से ज्यादा नहीं लूंगा।

खाद्य निगम में प्रमोनों रूप को पूजा लगी हुई है। जो इसमें मुनाफा हुआ वह सब बड़े बड़े अफसर खा गए। वे अफसर खा गए जो चार-चार हजार तनकवाह पाने वाले हैं। छोटे कर्मचारियों को कुछ नहीं मिला। जिस तरह से किसी शूगर फैक्टरी के कर्मचारी होते हैं—उनमें कुछ मोजनान होते हैं और बाद में निकाल दिए जाते हैं उसी तरह से आपके खाद्य निगम में भी कर्मचारी हैं जो तीन-तीन मान काम किए हैं। क्या आप ऐसे कर्मचारियों को सर्वेक्षण कराएंगे और उन्हें काम देंगे? मेरी आपसे प्रार्थना है कि आप ऐसे कर्मचारियों को काम दें।

एक बात आपको और बताना हूँ कि जितने भी कारपोरेशन बनते हैं—बहेफूड कारपोरेशन हो, एयर कारपोरेशन हो, ट्रांसपोर्ट कारपोरेशन हो—उनमें जो कर्मचारी काम करने के लिए डिपार्टमेंट से आते हैं उनमें तीन साल बाद आम्सन ली जाती है कि वे वहाँ कहीं रहना चाहते हैं। इससे उनके लिए बड़ी मुश्किल हो जाती है। तो यह जो पिटफाल है, इसे भी दूर किया जाए।

बस मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से इतना ही कहूंगा कि कर्मचारियों को जो छंटनी हुई है उसे ठीक किया जाए और कर्मचारियों को काम दिया जाए। कारपोरेशन में जो मुनाफा बचाया जाए उसमें कर्मचारियों को भी कुछ हिस्सा मिलना चाहिए। कानून तो जरा मुश्किल चीज है, लेकिन आप इनके लिए कुछ व्यवस्था कर सकें तो कर्मचारियों को काफी राहत मिलेगी। मुझे आशा है कि आप इसके लिए कोशिश करेंगे।

SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA (Eluru): I am very glad about the interest which has been evinced by the hon. Members in regard to his Food Corporation (Amendment) Bill,

Sir, while supporting the Bill I want to make two or three observations.

[Shri K. Suryanarayana]

What we find is that in respect of these matters the Central Government and the State Governments are giving safeguards only to the employees of the Corporation and the consumers.

Sir, the Food Corporation is not taking any interest so far as farmers are concerned or even agricultural labourers. They are not even opening shops in the villages for the purpose of serving the agricultural labourers. Agricultural labourers are really the growers. When they go to the village, there is no stock at all.

I would request the Food Corporation to open the shops even in the remote villages, particularly, for the benefit of agricultural labourers. The pity is that the State Government is entirely depending upon the Central Government for everything. I am not disputing the services rendered by the Food Corporation to the consumers as also the amenities provided for by them to the employees etc. Simultaneously, you should also take care of the interests of the growers as also the agricultural labourers. Politically, they are taking it leisurely. Hereafter at least, the hon. Minister coming from the village, would do everything that he can. He must be knowing the feelings of the consumers in the villages. After two to three months, they sell away the grains. And the consumer is made to pay more and more.

In Andhra Pradesh the paddy is completely discoloured. I have requested the Government of India to allow them to send that paddy to be made use of by other States. But, none will use that discoloured paddy in our State. I would request the Government to consider this point and allow the Food Corporation to open shops or allow the private traders in those places to purchase the grains thereby the State can be benefited.

I hear that the Food Corporation has not taken any interest in the discoloured paddy which is lying in my State. The Food Corporation is giv-

ing benefits only to the consumers and not to the agricultural labourers—agriculturists. I request the Government at least to see that best price is paid to the producers; also the same facilities may be given to the agricultural labourers also. If the Food Corporation depots are opened in the villages, that would benefit the agricultural labourers as well. We have no grievance against the officers as such. I have raised the point last time. Six months back the Food Corporation said that everything was all right so far as storage capacity was concerned. In my opinion the tarpaulin cover will not do. Damage still happens. May be, the overall damage may come to 10 to 15 per cent. They can try the C.A.P. system of covering. That will minimise the damage to grains. At present it is very heavy. Even millers and merchants have told me as also the godown keepers that it is no use covering it by tarpaulin but that can be done by CAP system. With these remarks, I request once again that the hon. Minister may take care of the agricultural labourers and also small farmers, by opening up depots by the Food Corporation.

SHRI SHYAMAPRASANNA BHATTACHARYYA (Uluberia): Sir, I wholeheartedly support the Amending Bill brought forward by the hon. Minister.

Sir, it is reported in the Economic and Political Weekly that some food officers are trying to export foograins worth Rs. 50 crores to which I take exception. I draw the attention of the Minister, who has taken over this department recently, to this thing. What I want to say is that in the case of procurement issue we must see that the cultivators get the remunerative price and they do not become losers after the harvesting period.

Secondly, if the stock is surplus and not required for the year that surplus stock may be utilised for rural development work where in the rural areas semistarved population is there and in the development work they

can get the chance to work in exchange of food as wages. That arrangement can be made and the objective of the government of rural development and minimising the poverty of the people will be achieved.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): Mr. Chairman, as has been stated by the Minister, the object of the Bill is limited. The object of this Bill is to provide for another extension of six months' time for the exercise of option which was given earlier.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, of course this option has been given to a particular section of officers but at this stage I want to mention certain other aspects of the employees employed under the Food Corporation of India. One very salient point has been referred to by Shri Shinde, namely, the problem of deputationists of West Bengal. I am quite thankful to him for having made reference to this aspect. We had an occasion to exchange views on this matter when he was the Minister and I was in the other House. Sir, I am sorry to say that that aspect has not yet engaged the attention of your department.

Apart from that as the Food Corporation of India is a very big organisation spread over all over the country there is a large number of workers who are not permanent. They are not even considered to be quasi-permanent. They are casual or of seasonal nature. Sir, Food Corporation of India is an expanding organisation because it has been put in charge of purchasing, storage and distribution of the food of our country. As a matter of fact it plays a very important role in the management of our food economy. In view of the possibilities of its expansion I do not find any reason as to why these thousands of employees who are treated as casual workers should not be taken as permanent workers and become entitled to the privileges and other benefits being enjoyed by the other permanent workers of this Corporation

I would, therefore, suggest that that point should receive the attention of the hon. Minister.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the role of the Food Corporation of India is of a decisive nature because it is entrusted with the job of purchasing foodgrains. Today the total production of foodgrains has increased. It has reached to the stage of 110 million tonnes and a marketable surplus would be, according to me, not less than 20 to 30 million tonnes. That being the case, if it is the duty and if it is the role of the Food Corporation of India to procure more and more, then the staff is to be increased. Therefore, there is no argument in not recognising the services of the casual and other workers who have not yet been taken as permanent workers.

20 hrs.

Sir, there is also criticism that there are certain forces in our country who want that there should not be procurement and that there should be exclusively free trade in food economy. This has created fear and consternation not only among the employees, but also the people of this country. May I request the hon. Minister to really, at this stage, spell out the principle or approach to this particular point because we feel that in order to curb the price rise of the food, the price behaviour of all the commodities can be given full effect to if the public distribution system is to be progressively expanded. That being the case, it is necessary that these doubts particularly raised by the All-India Food Traders Federation etc., that there should be free trade in food economy should be dispelled. I think the hon. Minister should take this opportunity to dispel the doubts and further strengthen the instrument of the Food Corporation of India which can really take us a very long way in the matter of management of food trade and curbing the price rise.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI

SHRI PRAKASH SINGH BADAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a very non-controversial Bill. I am thankful to Mr. Shinde, Mr. Samar Guha, Mr. Lakkappa and Mr. Uggrasen and other Members because as regards the major issues in this Bill they have supported the Bill. I am thankful to Mr. Shinde that he has spoken good words for me and I assure him that whatever he has said I will try my level best to do the job efficiently.

As regards the working of the Food Corporation of India, some suggestions have been made to me. My hon. friends have asked me about the officers' vindictiveness towards the employees of the Food Corporation of India. I have received some representations from the employees association of the Food Corporation of India. I am looking into them and I can assure the Members that if any injustice has been done to employees it will be certainly looked into.

One of our hon. Members asked about the West Bengal State Government deputationists. The West Bengal State Government deputationists who are on deputation with the Corporation cannot be absorbed on account of the time bound agreement between the Food Corporation and the State Government. The State Government also passed laws for their absorption in their Services.

My friend, Mr. Samar Guha has drawn my attention about the Calcutta office and about 52 Assistant Managers. As regards the 52 persons mentioned by him, he should be glad to know that the Board of Directors of the FCI appreciated the hardship faced by them on reversion to their posts after seven years and so at the Board's meeting held on 5-4-1977 it was decided to protect the pay and other emoluments of such *ad hoc* promotees where they have acted as Assistant Managers for at least one year or

more, even on their reversion. This will mitigate their economic hardship.

My attention has also been drawn to difficulties in storage. There is also the fear that during rains the commodities might be spoiled. Government is also worried about this. The storage capacity of the FCI and other government agencies is about 20.7 million tonnes and the Government will be glad to know that before long the capacity will be increased to 24.73 million tonnes. We are trying our best to have more capacity. New schemes have been started for hiring accommodation constructed by private parties under a guarantee scheme and banks will be providing loans at concessional rate of 11 per cent interest. With this scheme we hope to have another 2.5 million tonnes of more accommodation. We are also thinking of other ways to remove this hardship.

It was suggested that foodgrain imports should be stopped. Government is also of the view that imports should stop. I think after this year food imports will not be done. I think there are no other items concerning the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Food Corporation Act, 1964, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clauses 2, 3 and 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2, 3 and 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI PRAKASH SINGH BADAL:
I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

0.08 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE INCREASE IN MAXIMUM GUARANTEE LIMIT IN RESPECT OF CENTRAL CO-OPERATIVE BANKS AND TAMIL NADU STATE CO-OPERATIVE BANK

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI PRAKASH SINGH BADAL): Sir, I beg to move:

"Whereas the Government of Tamil Nadu have guaranteed the repayment in respect of the Central Co-operative Banks and the Tamil Nadu State Co-operative Bank, the Maximum limit of Short Term Credit, Medium Term Credit and Medium Term Conversion loans to the extent of Rs. 3,870.00 lakhs in the Government of Tamil Nadu, Cooperation Department G.O. Mr. No. 321, cooperation dated 30-6-1971;

And whereas it is considered necessary to increase the maximum guarantee limit in respect of the Central Co-operative Banks and the Tamil Nadu State Cooperative Bank to the extent of Rs. 6,115.00 lakhs;

And whereas the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly has been dissolved, the Lok Sabha hereby resolve that the Government of Tamil Nadu may increase the limit or guarantee in respect of the Central Co-operative Banks and the Tamil Nadu State Co-operative Bank to the extent of Rs. 6,115.00 lakhs as required under section 73-D of the Tamil Nadu Co-operative Societies Act, 1961 (Tamil Nadu Act 53 of 1961)."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Resolution is before the House.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN (Arkonam): While supporting this resolution, I should like to say a few words as to how the co-operative movement suffered and to what depths it sank in Tamil Nadu under the DMK rule. In cooperative movement, the composite state of Madras from which I come and Punjab from which the hon. Mover of the resolution hails, both the states were leading and it was going on healthy lines. Unfortunately, when in Tamil Nadu the DMK party took over the administration, the co-operative movement in Tamil Nadu was one of the worst sufferers. It was distorted, prostituted to benefit private pockets and private parties and partisans of the DMK party. Just as various branches of administration were poisoned, by the corrupt DMK rule, the Co-operative Movement was also poisoned and the poor farmers were helpless. After the Advisers' regime in Tamil Nadu was installed under the President's rule, the non-official bodies, the non-official Boards of Directors were abolished and these Co-operative Banks, Central Banks and other Apex Banks were put under special Officers. At my suggestion in one of the meetings of the Committee of the M.Ps. on Tamil Nadu, the Advisers' regime appointed a Cell to go into the working of the various Central Banks, that is, the District Apex Banks and the enquiry led to startling revelations as to how funds were misappropriated, how reckless was the issue of loans to partymen, and the misuse of official cars. They went on Kashi Yatra and Rameshwaram Yatra. Now, I would like to mention how corruption prevailed in the Co-operative Department. The employees of the various banks were compelled to go on leave and temporary men were recruited and money was taken from them. I can quote an instance where a person became a Minister after he was the President of the Central Bank and he used to steal petrol from the car belonging to the bank, every day sys-