

[Shri Ram Jethmalani]

which have become time-barred and which are not recoverable under the terms of the transactions under which they were created. Lastly, most of the advances to this company are benami as disclosed by the Gupta Commission. Therefore, neither the benamidars nor the real owners would have gone to court and recovered the debt. Now they shall be paid in the secrecy of a Government office and this is the major object of the Bill

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No Government can do that.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: I wish to warn that this Bill is an attempt to legalise acts which amount to offences punishable under section 409 of the Indian Penal Code, punishable with life imprisonment and under Section 5 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, punishable with five years of imprisonment. The object of this Bill is only to legalise those offences and this Bill is an echo, a reminder and a grim reminder of that amendment which was sought to be moved about the Constitution before, that the Prime Minister of this country shall never be prosecutable and punishable for any criminal offence which the Prime Minister might commit.

15.00 hrs.

Sir, lastly, this Bill relates to a subject in the State List. It relates to industry, which is in the State List and this is not covered by the Entry Number either 7 in List I or Entry No. 52 in List III. It is squarely under Entry No. 24 in the State List and, therefore, Sir, this is constitutionally invalid for more than one reason. As I said, this is the constitutional aspect of it.

The moral aspect and the political aspect of it I have incidentally talked about. Never has the Government been so much at variance from the opinion of decent people as in this case. Never has there been this

degree of lack of financial probity. Never has there been so much of indecent and naked corruption. And never has the legislative process been so much prostituted for ends so ignoble and so despicable as in the present Bill.

15.01 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

ELEVENTH REPORT

SHRI RAMNATH DUBEY (Banda): I beg to move;

"That this House do agree with the Eleventh Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 3rd December, 1980."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Eleventh Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 3rd December, 1980."

The motion was adopted

15.01 hrs.

AGRICULTURAL WORKERS WELFARE FUND BILL*

SHRI MUKUNDA MANDAL (Mathurapur): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for promotion of welfare measures for agricultural workers.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: the question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for promotion of welfare measures for agricultural workers."

The motion was adopted

SHRI MUKUNDA MANDAL: I introduce the Bill.