

15.39 hrs

RAILWAY PROTECTION FORCE
(AMENDMENT) BILL

(Substitution of new Long Title for Long Title, etc.) Ctd

(i) Motion to Adjourn the Debate
[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): There is a consensus amongst the Members that this subject requires some further consideration and I have been consulting Members of the House of various Parties and I think it requires some more time before we arrive at a consensus. May I move a formal motion? As a matter of fact, two motions will be required. First to postpone the consideration of this Bill till next Friday when this Bill will again be taken up and this Bill will again be given first priority. I would like formally to move and take the strength of the House and if the House agree, we might postpone it till next Friday

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it the pleasure of the House that this motion be allowed to be moved?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Pankura): There is one condition

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): I am moving that motion:

"That this Bill be given the first place again in the next day." (*Interruptions*)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur): I would like to make one additional proviso to that motion:

"That the Government will come positively with some settlement on this problem"

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: That is our endeavour.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Along with giving priority, you should also come forward with the definite proposal by resolving that problem.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: That is our endeavour.

MR. CHARMAN: That motion has no meaning at all

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: He has not got the necessary majority to throw it today. Next day, you will have the necessary majority to throw the bill out.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: We have the majority today also

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): You have it today also.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: We do not want to throw this Bill out like this. We have a number of Members to throw it out.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the debate on the Railway Protection force (Amendment) Bill, 1991 (Substitution of new, Long Title for Long Title, etc.) by Shri Basudeb Acharia be adjourned to the next day allotted for Private Members' Bills."

MR. CHAIRMAN: the question is:

"That the debate on the Railway protection force (Amendment) Bill, 1991 (Substitution of new Long Title for long Title, etc.) by Shri Basudeb Acharia be adjourned to the next day allotted for Private Member's Bill."

The motion was adopted

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please move the second motion

297 Agr. Workers (Minimum VAISAKHA 3, 1915 (SAKA) Wages and Welfare) Bill 298

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: Sir, I beg to move:

"That provisions of sub-rule (1) rule 30 and the proviso to rule 29 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in their application to the debate on the Railway Protection Force (Amendment) Bill, 1991 (Substitution of new Long Title for Long Title, etc.) by Shri Basudeb Acharia which has been adjourned today to the next day allotted for Private Members' Bills, be suspended to enable the Bill to be set down in the List of Business without Ballot as the first item therein.

(ii) Motion RE: Suspension of Debate

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"The provisions of sub-rule (1) of rule 30 and the provisos to rule 29 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in their application of the debate on the Railway Protection Force (Amendment) Bill, 1991 (Substitution of new Long Title for long Title, etc.) by Shri Basudeb Acharia which has been adjourned to the next day allotted for Private Members' Bills, be suspended to enable the Bill to be set down in the List of Business without Ballot as the first item therein."

The motion was adopted

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now we go to the next item- Agricultural Workers (Minimum Wages and Welfare) Bill

Shri Sriballav Panigrahi - not present

Shri Virendra Singh - not present

Dr. Laximinarayan Pandeya - not present

Prof. K. V. Thomas

15.44 hrs

AGRICULTURAL WORKERS (MINIMUM WAGES AND WELFARE) BILL-
CONTD

PROF. K. V. THOMAS: (Ernakulam): Sir, the Agricultural Workers (Minimum Wages and

Welfare) Bill moved by my colleague Shri Chandubhai Deshmukh is to protect a very large number of unorganised agricultural workers in the country.

Sir, in many States, the rights of the agricultural workers are not adequately protected. Even in the so-called left front ruled States, agricultural workers are not getting their due rights. That is, even in West Bengal, these agricultural workers are not getting the adequate legal protection for getting the minimum wages and protection for other welfare activities.

In this Bill, it has been suggested about the minimum wages to be paid to workers, it is suggested that every employer shall pay a minimum of Rs. 700 per month or Rs. 30 per day to the worker engaged by him for working on his land. And this rate of wages has been subject to change in according with the rise in price index. This Rs. 30 is a very small amount. But even that amount is not legally protected by the legislations neither in the State Government nor in the Union. But fortunately for Kerala, we have made a number of leading legislations in this direction.

As back as in 1962 under the Congress Government in Kerala when Shri R. Shankar was the Chief Minister and Shri P. T. Chako was the Home Minister, who was the father of the present Member Shri P. C. Thomas we enacted the first Land Reforms Act. By that Act, the small and marginal farmers got released their land from the landlords. Then who had been doing the job of agricultural workers became the owners of the land which they were sowing and reaping for years. That was one of the landmark legislations in the case of land Reforms Act in the country. Again in 1970 when Shri Achuta Menon was the Chief Minister and Shri K. Karunakaran was the Home Minister, we again brought another leading land Reforms Act by which in the rural areas ten cents were given to the tenants of the land and three cents were given in the urban areas to the tenants of the land. Always, tenants of land were with the agricultural workers. Under the same Ministry when Shri Vakkom Purushottam