

Yadav, Shri Ram Singh

Yazdani, Dr. Golam

Zainul Basher, Shri

MR. CHAIRMAN: The result of the division is:

Ayes : 20

Noes : 74

The motion is not carried by a majority of the total membership of the House and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting.

The motion was negatived

18 hrs.

SMALL FARMERS AND AGRICULTURAL WORKERS SECURITY BILL

SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU (Chittoor): Sir, beg to move*:

"That the Bill to provide for payment by the Government to the small farmers and agricultural workers of compensation for injury by accident, be taken into consideration."

I am very glad that the Minister for Labour has already indicated that he is going to bring forward a comprehensive legislation for agricultural labour. I also hear that the Standing Committee has already approved....

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time for the Private Members' Business is up to 6.08. The hon. Member can continue upto 6.08 p.m.

SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU : The Small Farmers and Agricultural Workers Security Bill is having a different approach, is having a new concept, and it must be considered carefully because it is different from the Workmen's Compensation Act. The Workmen's Compensation Act envisages compensation to be paid by the employer. Employer is a person who is an industrialist, who can pay,

who is having the wherewithals to pay. But here it is regarding agriculturists. Every one knows that almost all agriculturists are having land within five acres wet or ten acres dry and are living at the subsistence level. If you see the statistics, you will find that 80 per cent of the agriculturists are living under the poverty line. Agriculture is not paying them. There is no security of employment for the agricultural workers. There is no law to ensure remunerative price for the small farmers and marginal farmers. Therefore, the economy on the agricultural front is not stable. There are vicissitudes. Therefore, all the agriculturists are groaning under poverty. They are indebted. Therefore, you have to take it up on a different level, having a different approach. Here the cost of compensation should be borne by the Government. Many sections of the people are having security. I am very glad that the factory workers, through prolonged fights and struggles, have got many Acts passed; here are so many Acts giving them security. We have the Industrial Disputes Act, the Workmen's Compensation Act, the Factories Act, the Maternity Benefit Act, the Bonus Act, the Gratuity Act, the Provident Fund Act, and many other Acts. Through these Acts they have gained security not only for their employment but also for their income and safety in regard to health.

These are required even for the poor people in rural areas, especially the agricultural workers and the small farmers. I want to categorise small farmers also under agricultural workers because they are also manual labourers. Except owning bits of land, they are not having any definite income. They are also agricultural workers. The main thing is work. Of course, small farmers also casually employ one or two labourers. But that does not mean that they are employers like the industrialists. There

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

[Shri P. Rajagopal Naidu]

fore, we must distinguish between the small farmer who employs labourers casually and the industrialists who employ the labourers permanently. Here, under the Industrial Disputes Act, not only the actual workers but also many of the sections who are officials who are drawing more than Rs. 1000 or Rs. 1500 have been included under the term 'workmen' so as to get the benefit under the Industrial Disputes Act. I shall read for the benefit of our Members 'In relation to the industrial disputes...

MR., CHAIRMAN: Mr. Naidu, you may please continue next time.

18.07 hrs.

RE: HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION
—Contd.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, there is one more thing which I want to bring to the notice of the House.

Members will recall that in order to enable the Minister of Energy and Coal to complete his reply on the Demands for Grants relating to Ministries of Energy and Coal, the Half-an-Hour discussion by Shri Indrajit Gupta regarding delay in declaration of results of Assembly elections for Bihar listed to be taken up at 6 p.m. has been postponed to be taken up after disposal of the Demands for Grants of the said Ministries. Shri Indrajit Gupta has now requested that instead of taking up the Half-an-Hour discussion at that late hour, it might be postponed to Wednesday, the 16th July, 1980. The Minister of Law is also agreeable. If the House agrees, the Half-an-Hour Discussion may be postponed accordingly, I hope the House agrees.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So, it does. It is accordingly postponed. Now, the hon. Minister.

18.09 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL), 1980-81—Contd.

MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND DEPARTMENT OF COAL (MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL)—Contd.

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHARI: I was speaking on the super thermal power stations. It is our Prime Minister who first mooted this idea of super thermal power stations near the coalfields. When this was started, the idea was to have them on regional basis. Members may be knowing that we are constructing super thermal power stations at Singrauli in Uttar Pradesh; at Korba in M.P., at Ramgundam in Andhra Pradesh and at Farakka in West Bengal. Our experience tells us that building a super thermal power station near the coalfield automatically solves the most difficult problem, that is, transportation. Our present thinking is that wherever coal is available, we will start there a super thermal power station. For this we have decided to set up a power station at Khalagaon. Our friend, Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad was very furious. An eminent member like Mr. Azad should not have talked like that. Because, whenever we build up a super thermal power station that power is not meant only for that region.

Take for example Farakka. When we are constructing it, we are not doing that for West Bengal only. But we have reached an agreement already with Bihar and other States that the power flows also to Bihar. So, there should not be any confusion on this. To start with the idea was to have 1,000 MW for Farakka. Now it has been increased to 2,000 MW. So, for Kalgaon, to start with, my idea is to have 1,000 M.W. if more coal is available. I can assure you that we shall go up to 2,000 M.W. The point here is whether coal availability is there or not. That is the whole thing. Similarly, for Talcher, we are thinking. I do not know it. It depends upon the project report. Our thinking is like that. For M.P. also if there are coal fields, we will go in for the super thermal