

The motion was adopted.

Clause 7 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 8 and 9 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1.—(Short title, extent and commencement)

Amendment made:

"Page 1, line 4.—

for "1981" substitute "1982" (2)

(Rao Birendra Singh)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Enacting Formula

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is one Government amendment to the Enacting Formula.

Amendment made:

Page 1, line 1,—

for "Thirty-second" substitute "Thirty-third". (1)

(Rao Birendra Singh)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Enacting Formula, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Enacting Formula, as amended, was added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Title was added to the Bill.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

17.45 hrs.

CENTRAL SILK BOARD
(AMENDMENT) BILL

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we shall take up the Central Silk Board (Amendment) Bill.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Central Silk Board Act, 1948, be taken into consideration."

This Bill is a very simple one. The Central Silk Board was constituted in the year 1949 under the Act of Parliament of 1948. The Board has 36 Members including the Chairman who is appointed by the Government.

Now, the objective of the amendment, that we are seeking here is that: The existing Act does not provide the procedure for terminating the services of the Chairman. So, the most important amendment that we are going to seek is that the Act should provide for the termination of the services of the Chairman whose term of office has been specified as three years. The existing Act also does not provide for the procedure to deal with in the event of the resignation of the Chairman. Therefore, we also want to make a specific provision prescribing the procedure for the resignation of the Chairman.

Another provision which we seek to amend is relating to Section 13 of the Act which is in conformity with the formula as has been recommended by the Committee on Subordinate Legislation of both Houses of Parliament. So, as far as this amendment is concerned, there will be no objection from the Members. Since this Bill is a minor one, I think my hon. friends will have no objection in pass-

[Shri P. A. Sangma]

ing it and we should not take much of the time of the House for this purpose.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Central Silk Board Act, 1948, be taken into consideration."

SHRI T. R. SHAMANNA (Bangalore South): Sir, I have an amendment.

I beg to move:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 31st March, 1982."

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Prof. Rup Chand Pal may speak.

PROF. RUP CHAND PAL (Hooghly): Sir, the Central Silk Board was set up in 1949 as per the Act of 1948. A very minor type of amendment, apparently minor, has come before the House. While supporting the amendment I would like to say a few words about the functioning of the Silk Board itself.

Sir, the silk industry in our country is an important industry which is labour intensive and rural biased. As you know, the Britishers wanted to completely destroy this industry and you all know the story of the weavers of Dacca who had been weaving their muslins in those days. Their fingers were cut in the interest of the British people who wanted to have a market of their own in our country. Sir, lakhs of workers in our country, man and women, are engaged in this industry. Lakhs of families in different States are engaged in this. In Uttar Pradesh itself, as many as 11 lakhs are engaged. Only in Varanasi more than 1 lakh workers are engaged in this industry. In U.P., Assam, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Mysore, West Bengal and in many other States lakhs of workers are engaged in this industry. But even after 36 years of functioning this Silk Board in the name of promoting the development of industry has not

been able to look after the interests of these workers. They are being deprived of even the minimum wages. The children, the women, they are having the worst lot. They are deprived, looted, exploited by those in power.

The traditional reputation of Indian silk, as you find it throughout history, had once a very good market. There were attempts after independence to rejuvenate the industry. But without looking after the interests of the workers this industry can never be rejuvenated. In a Board of 36 Members, most of the Members are nominated by the State Governments or the Central Government. They are officials. There is only one labour representative. He has not much of say over there.

The Central Silk Board has been functioning for a long time. We have improved the position of exports. Currently World Bank has given us one International Research Centre in Mysore. World Bank has projects in other States also. While the export has improved, still we find that in the world market because of certain lacuna in our quality control we are falling behind other countries. China and other traditional silk producing countries had market in Europe. 94 per cent of the silk imported there is Chinese silk. The Indian silk which has its own quality, own reputation, has not come up. The Indian silk has not been made up to date. Why? The monopoly houses control the textile industry. This Government is serving those monopoly houses. In this era of multiple fibres and synthetics this silk industry is being exploited. Bulk raw silk is being purchased by these moneyed people. The producers are being deprived of their due. They are not given even the minimum for production. After purchase by the moneyed people, because they are controlling the market, they are being given incentive for export. They by purchasing at a very cheap price exploit those producers. They deprive them of their due. Men and women

are working for 10, 12, 15 hours a day to earn their bread. But these people are making a lot of money. This industry is suffering because of unscrupulous traders and people who are after profit.

There is a proposal for a change here. I have no point to object to it. I may say that the labour is not being given their due. The producers are not being given their due. If any one is not of my liking, if he is even doing good job, he is removed. By bringing this amendment only, this may be kept in view that silk industry cannot be improved. The lot of lakhs and lakhs of people in this country is associated with this industry. The lot of those people can be improved and the industry itself can be improved only by taking proper care in proper perspective and not in the light of giving some figures or giving some position to some individual whom you cannot place somewhere and placing him as chairman. While the appointment of chairman is made, it should be seen that a man of integrity, a man of calibre and efficiency and who has a background and who is capable of looking after such industry for its revival and growth is appointed. I am sorry that the ablest men are removed, the ablest men are forced to resign and are, even before retirement, asked to express desire to have premature retirement. These are the cases which are coming up from many areas and even in the Government controlled undertakings. I would hope that in the matter of appointment of chairman, this should be kept in mind.

The next point is that this industry can be revived only if these labour intensive and rural based industry is encouraged and if proper cooperatives are nourished and encouraged properly. The cooperatives of the real workers and the real employees and not the cooperative like the Maharashtra Sugar Monopoly-houses and other rich people's cooperatives, are encouraged. Cooperatives of the real employees who are engaged in the production of silk, should be encouraged.

There is a big project to update the silk industry in Mysore in Karnataka by the World Bank Project. That is coming up. (*Interruptions*) It should be seen that wherever there is a possibility of improving sericulture and worm seeds in different new areas, it should be done. I would recommend to the Government through you that those areas, particularly the area from which Shri Santosh Mohan Dev hail, Assam, which is very famous for silkworms should be developed. It is not developed due to lack of proper care and nourishment of the industry. I would very much say that in the North East, the subject is being discussed in many ways and the solution to the problem lies in the fact that they should be taken proper care of and a sense of negligence that is there in the people of that area should be removed. The regional imbalance should be corrected thereby. (*Interruptions*)

Sir, the Central Silk Board, as it has been stated in the original Act of 1948, the purpose was not only to develop the silk industry but the various other types of industries. As you know, there are raw silk industry, spun industry and many others which are dealing with the waste. So, there are many other purposes. That is why, marketing of silk should not only be outside or in export, it should be inside also. The inside storage of silk is also very pertinent. We have seen the Government has come in this direction also. For example, I can cite one example. Very recently, the Government of India and the Government of West Bengal, in a joint collaboration, held one Expo there we find that a record amount of the produce of such things were purchased by the people. The people are interested but there are middlemen and unscrupulous men who destroy the whole market possibility. Even if there is a market possibility, that is being exploited in their own interest and for their own profit at the cost of the helpless people who are engaged in the industry either at Kancheepuram or Assam or Murshidabad or at any other place in India.

18.00 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can conclude now.

PROF. RUP CHAND PAL: I am concluding.

India by its great artistic and aesthetic ability had made its mark in the past by its muslins, by its Kancheepurams, by its Banarsi silks in the world market. We do hope that the Central Silk Board while looking after the interests of lakhs of workers and employees engaged in this industry

would also try to mark the achievement of India, compete with others and achieve great success in the future. That should be our hope.

With these words, I conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to re-assemble tomorrow at 11 A.M.

18.01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, March 5, 1982 Phalguna 14, 1903 (Saka).