

ONGC is a premier public sector undertaking of the country and this has played an important role in putting our country on the Oil map of the world. But this is the outburst which the Minister indulged in, against the ONGC.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is 3-30 now. You have concluded. I think.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I will continue next day. I have not concluded. You may see the proceedings.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: All right. You may continue on the next day.

15.30 hrs

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

TWENTY-THIRD REPORT

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, we take up Private Members' Business. Shri Doongar Singh.

SHRI DOONGAR SINGH (Hamirpur): I beg to move the following:—

"That this House do agree with the Twenty-third Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 28th April, 1981."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Twenty-third Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 28th April, 1981."

*The motion was adopted.*

15-32 hrs

AGRICULTURAL WORKERS (DEBT EXEMPTION AND UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF) BILL\*

SHRI MUKUNDA MANDAL (Mathurapur): I beg to move for leave

to introduce a Bill to provide for the exemption of all debts of the agricultural workers and for unemployment relief to the agricultural workers when they are in search of work.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the exemption of all debts of the agricultural workers and for unemployment relief to the agricultural workers when they are in search of work."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI MUKUNDA MANDAL: I introduce the Bill.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL\*

(Amendment of article 22)

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I introduce the Bill.

URBAN LAND (CEILING AND REGULATION) AMENDMENT BILL\*

(Amendment of Section 2)

SHRI DEVINDER SINGH GARCHA (Ludhiana): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act, 1976.

\*Published in Gazette of India Extraordinary Part II, section 2, dated 30-4-1981.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act, 1976"

*The motion was adopted*

SHRI DEVINDER SINGH GAR-CHA): I introduce the Bill.

15.36 hrs

PENSIONS BILL—Contd.

(By Shri V. N. Gadgil)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We now take up further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri V. N. Gadgil on 16th April, 1981, namely:—

"That the Bill to provide for the grant of pension, gratuity, dearness and other allowances and benefits, payable by the Central Government to its employees, or their dependents, on retirement voluntary or otherwise, or on the death of the Government servant and for other matters connected therewith, be taken into consideration."

Mr. V. N. Gadgil to continue.—

SHRI V. N. GADGIL (Pune): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, on the 16th I had dealt with the various aspects of my Bill. Today I do not want to take much of the time of the House. I would only recapitulate very briefly the salient features. I had pointed out last time that historically the term pension had different meanings, as compared to the sense in which it is used today. It was for the first time used by Lord High Treasurer Godolphin in 1687 who was among the first persons who used the term 'Pension'. Probably the first pensioner was Mr. Martin Horsham. He was given a pension on 10th of March 1684. As I had pointed out last time, ultimately this led to a lot of corruption; in the administrations in England. The other day I came across a very interesting example. What kind of things went

on and what kind of things are going on today? It appeared from a column in the magazine called 'Punch' of December 1980. This is what happened in Australia. I quote—

"The family of an illiterate man cut off his thumb after he died preserved it in formaldehyde and used the thumb for years to cash his pension cheques."

This kind of things was going on. And ultimately, as I had pointed out last time, pension became a matter of bargain and it started with the Postal Department in England where public servants were allowed to make private bargains for the annuities from their successor. Then came 1810 Act and 1859 Act and so on and so forth. Now, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Home Minister and to the House the points which I emphasised and to which I would like the Government to give serious consideration. I will only enumerate these points. One, the 1871 Act which makes pension a mercy, a bounty, a grace and not a right must be scrapped. Two, the disparity that prevails in the pension of various pensioners who have retired at different times of their careers must be removed. Three, there must be some cushion provided against inflation which eats away the pension of pensioners who retired 10 or 20 years back. Four, family pension should be uniform, because we come across cases where there is hardly any family pension provided for those who retired before 1964, and the family pension provided to those who retired after 1964 is inadequate. Five, There is a demand for restoration of commuted pension, and there is a case for it. I have already made a reference to it in my speech.

15-36 hrs

(Shri Chintamani Panigrahi in the Chair) .. . .

Six, they have no forum to raise their grievances. At one stage, they were told that they could do so in the Joint