

11.04 hrs.

**NATIONAL HIGHWAYS (AMENDMENT) BILL\***

**THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI):** I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the National Highways Act, 1956.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the National Highways Act, 1956".

*The motion was adopted.*

**SHRI MORARJI DESAI:** I introduce the Bill.

11:05 hrs.

**RESOLUTION RE: CENTRAL ROAD FUND**

**THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI):** I beg to move:

"This House hereby resolves that the Resolution on Road Development regarding the continuance of the Central Road Fund, as adopted by the Lok Sabha on the 30th March, 1976, be amended as follows:—

In para 6(d) of the Resolution,—

(a) in lines 4 and 5, between the words 'anti-social' and 'elements' the words 'and criminal' shall be inserted;

(b) in line 5, the words 'like dacoits, Naxalites' shall be deleted;

(c) in line 6, between the words 'tourism' and 'etc.' the words ', agricultural marketing areas links' shall be inserted;

(d) in line 6, before the word 'road/bridge' the words 'part con-

tribution to programme for setting up drivers', conductors' and cleaners' road side resting places and passengers wayside facilities on State road etc.' shall be inserted."

This is a very simple resolution, almost a formal one. When this resolution was passed in March 1976 these amendments had been moved but for want of adequate notice, they could not be accepted. The then Transport Minister promised the House that these will be taken up in the Rajya Sabha. In the Rajya Sabha these amendments were accepted and that is how the resolution was amended in the Rajya Sabha and it remains to be amended in the Lok Sabha. That is why I have brought forward this resolution and I hope the hon. Members will accept it.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The resolution is before the House.

**SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN (Cannanore):** I thank the hon. Prime Minister for moving this resolution, and especially for deletion of words like 'dacoits' and 'Naxalites'. In the former resolution, Naxalites were treated like dacoits and that is being removed. I would only like to add one thing. It is good that he has removed this in the resolution but in regard to their release, they should be treated like any other political detenus. I hope the hon. Prime Minister will take steps so that they may be released soon.

**MR. SPEAKER:** I do not think a discussion is necessary over this. May I put the resolution to the vote of the House?

The question is:

"This House hereby resolves that the Resolution on Road Develop-

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†Introduced with the recommendation of the Vice-President acting as President.