

Bill

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do intimate to Rajya Sabha that the term of office of the present members of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes from Lok Sabha has been further extended upto the 31st March, 1976 and do recommend to Rajya Sabha that they do take such action as they may deem fit in regard to the association of the members of Rajya Sabha with the said Committee."

The motion was adopted.

11.21 hrs

IRON ORE MINES AND MANGANESE ORE MINES LABOUR WELFARE FUND BILL*

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the financing of activities to promote the welfare of persons employed in the iron ore mines and manganese ore mines.

SHRI ERASMO DE SEQUEIRA (Marmagao): I have given a notice in the morning on this, at 10 o'clock.

MR. SPEAKER: It is late. Now the question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the financing of activities to promote the welfare of persons employed in the iron ore mines and manganese ore mines."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY: I introduce the Bill.

Bill

11-22 hrs.

IRON ORE MINES AND MANGANESE ORE MINES LABOUR WELFARE CESS BILL*

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY): I beg to move from leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the levy and collection of a cess on iron ore and manganese ore for the financing of activities to promote the welfare of persons employed in the iron ore mines and manganese ore mines and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the levy and collection of a cess on iron ore and manganese ore for the financing of activities to promote the welfare of persons employed in the iron ore mines and manganese ore mines and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY: I introduce the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: Now the Bills for consideration and passing.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): It is about the Industrial Disputes Act. I have a submission, Sir. We really wanted the Commerce Minister to be here. (Interruptions) The Deputy Minister of Commerce Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh was here. He has also gone. (Interruptions) There are so many clauses going on. We were told that a statement will be made in this House. We have been demanding a statement from the hon.

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†Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

Minister. (Interruptions) The Labour Minister will say that the Commerce Minister will do it. The Commerce Minister has gone to Manila. The Deputy Minister has left. We do not know what to do with this. I want the Commerce Minister to be here, because we want definitely a statement as to what has happened (Interruptions)....

MR. SPEAKER: I think the Minister will ask his colleagues to be here.

SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY: These questions can be raised in the course of the debate. (Interruptions)

DR. RANEN SEN (Barasat): Let me submit one point in this connection. The point is that in many labour consultative committees—I am on the national apex body—we had demanded the presence of the representatives of Commerce Ministry, because we have been discussing the cases of jute, textile and some other industries which are under the Commerce Ministry; and the Labour Minister or the Labour Ministry cannot do anything in that regard. Therefore, this is very relevant.

SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY: We will send a message immediately.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: What will the Labour Minister do? He will simply say that this bill is very good; and so, it should be passed. (Interruptions) We want the Commerce Minister and want him to answer to-day as to what has happened to the decisions which the apex body had taken about taking over certain... (Interruptions). I want that statement. To-day is the last date.

MR. SPEAKER: Now the Deputy Minister of Commerce is here.

11.25 hrs.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES (AMENDMENT) BILL

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR
(SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY): I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Sir, it is a matter of common knowledge that there has been an increase in the incidence of unjustified lay-offs, retrenchments and closures of industrial establishments in the recent past. The Government is highly concerned about it. To find a solution to this continuing problem, the matter was placed before the National Apex Body and the State Labour Ministers' Conference. At the meeting of the National Apex Body held on the 13th August 1975, as some of the hon. Members know, that body urged that there should not be any unilateral lay-off in any unit or industry, and that the same principles should apply in respect of retrenchments and closures. Unfortunately, the sound advice of the Apex Body was not heeded by some employers, resulting in hardship to workers and setback in production.

This issue again came up at the meeting of the Apex Body held on 10th January 1976. While addressing the Members of that Body, our esteemed Prime Minister mentioned that:

"the employers have at some times taken a very narrow view in an effort for greater profits, and as quickly as possible"

While referring to lay-offs and retrenchments, the Prime Minister again mentioned that when matters could not be sorted out peacefully, "you have to be forced into doing something." This question has also been exercising the minds of all the State Labour Ministers for quite some time. At the Labour Ministers' Conference held on 19th September, 1975 the Labour Ministers unanimously recommended additional powers for the appropriate Government to prevent lay-offs, retrenchments and closures. This they again reiterated at the subse-