

[Shri Dinen Bhattacharyya]

millowners also have to pay more....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He will continue on Monday.

Now we take up the Private Members' Business.

15 hrs.

RIVER CORPORATION BILL\*—

SHRI R. P. ULAGANAMBI (Vellore): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of River Corporation for the regulation and development of Inter-State rivers and river valleys.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a River Corporation for the regulation and development of Inter-State rivers and river valleys."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI R. P. ULAGANAMBI: I introduce the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Bhogendra Jha—he is not here.

15.01 hrs.

NATIONAL RIFLE TRAINING SCHEME BILL

By Shri S. C. Samanta—contd.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, we take up further consideration of the Bill of Shri Samanta to provide for compulsory training in rifle-shooting.

Shri B. R. Shukla.

SHRI B. R. SHUKLA (Bhraich): The aims and objects of this Bill are no doubt very attractive and alluring. They are also laudable. But I am afraid I have to oppose the passage of this Bill on the ground of its practical difficulties because the Bill envisages that there should be a provision for compulsory training in rifle-shooting. We are aware of many provisions, compulsory in nature. In the Constitution itself we have provided in the

Chapter on directive principle that there should be a free and compulsory primary education throughout the length and breadth of the country. But, even after a lapse of 25 years, this basic and elementary requirement of the country has not been fulfilled because of financial and other considerations. Now, therefore, my submission is that if this Bill is passed, then the State would have to require a huge financial allocation for imparting this training because persons between the ages of 18 and 30 years are required to be compulsorily imparted training in rifle-shooting. Now, wherefrom would such huge resources come? Already we have reached the point of saturation in the matter of taxation. We have not been able to provide two square meals a day to the teeming millions of this country. We have not been able to provide sufficient clothing. We have not been able to provide primary education. So, when these basic necessities have not been fulfilled on account of financial stringency, then to say that there should be a provision for compulsory training in rifle-shooting would be an idle dream.

Now, the second apprehension which occurs to my mind is the problem of law and order. Already, when there is a training which can be designated as paramilitary drills and when the country is in a state of turmoil and disorder because of the lathi training and for which an amendment to place a bar has been brought in the Indian Penal Code during the last session, then, if the people are imparted training to handle rifles, there would be chaos in the country in the present set-up. That is my apprehension.

Therefore, my submission is that there should be a provision for increasing the number of rifle clubs and they should be voluntary in nature and there should be put restrictions on the membership of those clubs. Only desirable elements should be accepted and admitted as members of

these voluntary clubs. We have a scheme of NCC for training the youth in the military science in the different Universities. There also, on account of the inadequacy of funds, all the student of the Universities or colleges have not been able to receive military training. Then, how can be a full-fledged scheme of imparting training to all and sundry in this country for persons between the ages of 18 and 30 years?

Therefore, while appreciating the concern of the very senior Member who has introduced this Bill and while appreciating the laudable motive behind it and the intention behind this Bill, I am afraid that we have not reached that stage of development in this country where the passage of this Bill is at all desirable and necessary.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Before I call the next speaker, I notice that this Bill relates to the Ministry of Defence and also there is a letter from the Minister of Defence dated 18th July, 1972 through which he informed the House about the contents of the recommendation of the President for the consideration of the Bill. But I do not see anybody from the Ministry of Defence here. How can we go on?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSIN): I am here.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You are not from the Defence.

SHRI F. H. MOHSIN: Part of it relates to the Home Ministry also and as the Minister of State in the Defence Ministry was otherwise busy, he asked me to handle it.

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN (Wandiwash): He must be present here.

SHRI F. H. MOHSIN: There is something with which the Home Ministry is also concerned because the Rifle Training Scheme which Mr. Samanta referred to, pertains to the Home Ministry. So, this Bill pertains to the Defence Ministry and the Home Ministry as well. It is not true that the Home Ministry has nothing to do with this Bill.

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN: We have no objection to Mr. Mohsin or any

other Minister from the Home Ministry sitting here in the House. Our objection is that one of the Ministers of the Ministry of Defence should have been present as you have rightly pointed out.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have not pointed out anything.

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN: But somebody from the Defence Ministry should be present. He said that the Home Ministry also is concerned with it. We have no objection to his being present.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: In any case, we have received no information that you will be handling the Bill, although I have no objection to your handling the Bill.

But I should point out that in all cases like this it is necessary that the Chair or the Speaker should be informed that the responsibility for this particular Bill has been transferred from this Minister to that Minister.

MR. RANA.

SHRI M. B. RANA (Broach): I rise to oppose this Bill I accept the object of the Bill that every man in India should know rifle-shooting but the compulsory part of it is the most objectionable. A thing is learnt more by voluntary methods than by compulsory methods.

Rifle is a weapon which we use now in the place of spears, arrows or swords. But everybody must know how to handle a rifle. The method of training them is not right because making anything compulsory makes it abhorrent to the people as a general rule.

Rifle training is already being given in so many fields, for example, in the Defence Services, then in the Territorial Army, the Home Guards, NCC and the Gram Rakshak Dal. Then there is the National Rifle Training Association and other clubs and they also organize civilian rifle training where elementary rifle training is imparted.

I have admired the object with which this Bill is introduced. But

[Shri M. B. Rana]

the way it is to be worked out is not right. I request that Mr. Samanta should either mend the Bill or withdraw it and leave this to voluntary organisations like the *Gram Rakshak Dal* etc. That would be a wiser course and more people will be trained in that way. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSIN): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I have heard Mr. S. C. Samanta and other hon. Members who have actively participated in the discussion on this Bill which has got a very laudable object of training the civilians in the rifle training so that they could form a second line of defence and with a view to strengthening and invigorating the youth of our country.

Sir, there cannot be any other opinion as far as the object of the Bill is concerned. Mr. Samanta has mentioned this in the Statement of Objects and Reasons for this Bill. He said he has brought forward this Bill with a view to train our youth within the age limits of 20 and 30 years, so that they could form a 'second line of Defence' to be of help if an emergency arises. And, the background for his bringing forward this Bill is this. The aggression of the Chinese in 1962 perhaps still haunts his memory. In 1962 when the Chinese committed aggression of our country, he feels, we had not so much of strength to counteract the aggression.

Sir, I beg to differ from him. India never lagged behind—either in strength or in numbers—in counteracting the aggression of the Chinese in 1962. The fact of the matter is that the aggression was surprising and also sudden, which was never expected by India, and that too, from a socialist country, (An hon. Member: So-called) so-called socialist country, with whom we had friendly relations. So, that was, if I may say so, rather a surprise attack. It was a stab in the back and India was taken unawares.

If any reverses had been there at that time, it was not because of want of sufficient men or want of strength of our army.

I do appreciate the mind of the Mover of the Bill that we have to be prepared for all emergencies. But I would like to point out that at present we do have such organisations in our country to train our youth. For example, we have got the Territorial Army which trains our youth in this line. It is composed of citizens between the ages of 18 to 35. It gives training to citizens who volunteer to receive such training in their spare time. In the event of any national emergency or war, they may be called upon to bear arms for the defence of the country. The present strength of the Territorial Army is 50,000. Added to that, we have got the N.C.C. (National Cadet Corps) which imparts military training to the able-bodied students studying in schools and in colleges and also the universities and its aims are to train and develop leadership among the students and build up character and comradeship among the students and also foster the ideals of service and to stimulate interest in them for the defence of the country and also to build up a sort of reserve for the armed forces. The current strength of the N.C.C. in the senior division is of the order of 6 lakhs. In the junior division, it is 7 lakhs. Thus it can be seen that we have got sufficient number of people undergoing training in the senior and junior divisions of the N.C.C.

In addition to this, we have got 2 more training schemes under the Ministry of Home Affairs also.

Hon. Members are aware that we have got the Home Guards Scheme also. Under the Home Guards Scheme, there is a provision to train 7 lakhs of people in the country.

Hon. Members are also aware that the border areas are also given training in the use of fire-arms wherever

we have got borders with other countries. This is the position as far as Home Guards are concerned.

Besides this, we have got a Civilian Rifle Training Scheme, on which the Member has emphasised. This Civilian Rifle Training Scheme came into force in 1954 consequent on a Resolution having been passed in the Lok Sabha to that effect. This was intended to train the members of the public on the use of fire-arms. The training was to be given under the supervision of police officers at police stations. The scheme was revised in the year 1963. A Central Board of Civilian Rifle Training was constituted in 1964. The period was 3 years. The term has expired and recently a new Committee is being appointed and orders are being issued in that respect.

26,000 rifles of 0.22 bore have been imported and supplied to the State Governments for this training. Up to the end of the last year, 64 lakhs of persons have been already trained.

Therefore, from all these existing schemes, hon. Members will appreciate that there are enough training facilities to train our youth in the Territorial Army, in the NCC and in the Home Guards.

So, I feel, we need not be so much anxious about our second line of defence.

And, added to these, we have got the Border Security Force also, about which hon. Members are also aware. They indeed played a prominent role for the defence of our country in the recent conflict with Pakistan.

I need not mention about the strength of our army so much now because, as is known to everybody, they have shown their bravery in every direction, both in the east and the west during the recent conflict with Pakistan.

We have therefore got sufficient strength to counteract any attack from any country. So, Sir, the Members need not be apprehensive about the second line of defence. We are already prepared. We have got sufficient strength of the Indian Army to counteract any attack.

While I do appreciate the intention of the Mover of the Bill which is intended for the security of the country, to train our youth etc., I would like the Hon. Mover also to appreciate the point of view that there is no need as such at present. We have got sufficient strength trained personnel already. Youth are also being trained in schools and colleges. Citizens also are given training under the Rifle Training Scheme. Citizens are having scope also to join Home Guards; they can join the Territorial Army. Therefore, there are enough facilities for those who desire and there is no need for compulsory recruitment or compulsory military training.

AN HON. MEMBER: There will be colossal expenditure.

SHRI F. H. MOHSIN: Apart from expenditure, I do not think it is necessary because I do not think that any apprehension should go round in the country to the effect that there is something ahead, that some dangers will arise for us and therefore we are preparing for such an act now and all that. Let not that impression go round because it would involve huge training in the country. I assure hon. Members that there need be no worry as far as the security of the country is concerned. As far as the defence of the country is concerned, we have got a very strong Army, Navy and Air Force. Our youth are also trained. Once they are trained in the use of rifles, we have to keep on training them. Otherwise, after many years, if they do not handle the rifle, they may forget. For example, I was myself a member of the University Officers' Training Corps in my college days, because the NCC senior division

[Shri F. H. Mohsin]

was called the UOTC or the UTC at that time. But after I left the college, I have not handled a rifle, and I do not know whether I shall be able to handle it again. What I mean to say is that once a person has got the training, he has got to keep up the training. For instance, if my hon. friend Dr. Karni Singh leaves off the practice for some time, I do not think that he would be so accurate in his shooting, and, so, he will have to keep up the training so that he would be well up in it all the time. Apart from the expenditure that this may involve, it is not necessary at the present moment.

I do not dispute the sincerity behind this Bill or the spirit behind the Bill. If need be, if such an emergency arises, if any such occasion arises, we may certainly consider bringing such a Bill, but at the present moment, I do not think that it is necessary and, therefore, I would appeal to the hon. Mover to withdraw this Bill.

SHRI S. C. SAMANTA (Tamluk):

I am astonished to hear the hon. Minister asking me to withdraw the Bill. He has just now referred to the Lok Sabha resolution of 1954. That was my resolution as amended. The Government of that day under the Ministership of the Home Minister Dr. Katju had accepted it. What he said at that time and what the present hon. Minister has said are to be compared with each other. My hon. friend Dr. Karni Singh was present at the time of the debate on my resolution in 1954 and he would recall what had happened. I have moved this Bill only with the intention that some items should be codified and brought in the form of a Bill. The idea has been accepted by Government. The NCC was there, the Home Guards were there and everything else was there. And yet this resolution was passed. The resolution read as follows:

"This House is of opinion that with a view to inculcate discipline,

markmanship, initiative, and leadership in the youth community, Government should immediately provide all proper and practicable facilities to rifle-training institutions in India."

This was the resolution passed in 1954. In 1963, the civil rifle-training scheme was renovated, as the hon. Minister was just telling us. I wanted to codify that renovated scheme and nothing else. Some of my friends who were speaking about expenditure said that there would be further expenditure and we would not have the necessary money for it. As Members of Parliament, we know how much we spend on the Defence and Home Ministries. If there be necessity, money will come as it is coming now.

My intention was to have a central board for the training scheme. That Central board and Central scheme were formed in 1954 after the resolution was passed. State Boards were also to be formed, but I think there are no State Boards.

As regards the civilian people, it is necessary that they should keep on being trained for years to come. They will be given training for six months, and after that they will know how to handle the rifle, and when emergency comes, they will be called and all at once they will join and wage the war.

With this end in view, I wanted to codify the civil rifle-training association. If Government think that the things that were mentioned in the resolution are being carried out, I shall be the first man to withdraw my Bill. If Government take the responsibility to see that civilian people will be called and they will be helped to go to the rifle-training institutions, then I shall have no hesitation in withdrawing the Bill. If sufficient assurance is given to me that the things that I have mentioned in the Bill would be taken up by Government, I am prepared to withdraw the Bill.

SHRI F. H. MOHSIN: As I have mentioned already, the central board has been formed, and we have requested the State Governments also to form such State Boards. There is no bar to any citizen being trained in the use of rifles. We do not bar any citizen from going to a rifle training institution and enlist himself as a member and get himself trained. But what we do not want is compulsory to train every youth between the ages of 20 and 30. We do not want the element of compulsion that everybody will have to get himself trained in the use of rifles. Certainly, these institutions are there to welcome them and give training to whosoever wants.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Before I ascertain from Shri S. C. Samanta whether he would like to withdraw the Bill or not, I shall first put the amendments to the motion for consideration to the vote of the House and dispose them of first.

The question is:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 31st March, 1973."

*The motion was negatived.*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for compulsory training in rifle-shooting to all able-bodied citizens between the age of twenty and thirty years, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of 10 members, namely, Shri S. M. Banerjee, Shri Dharnidhar Basumatari, Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu, Shri M. C. Daga, Shri Samar Guha, Shri Shyam Sunder Mohapatra, Shri S. M. Siddayya, Shri Shankar Dayal Singh, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, and Shri Subodh Hansda, with instructions to report by the last day of the second week of the next session." (5).

*The motion was negatived.*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Does Shri S. C. Samanta want to withdraw his Bill.

SHRI S. C. SAMANTA: I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Bill.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to Shri S. C. Samanta to withdraw the Bill to provide for compulsory training in rifle-shooting to all able-bodied citizens between the age of twenty and thirty years".

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI S. C. Samanta: I withdraw the Bill.

15.28 hrs.

#### CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL

*(Amendment of Eighth Schedule)*

DR. KARNI SINGH (Bikaner): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I consider it a unique honour to have the opportunity once again to introduce a Bill to get recognition for the Rajasthani language and to have it placed on the Eighth Schedule in its rightful place. In 1967-68, I had brought forward a similar Bill before this House.

I am very happy to say that since the last time I had brought forward my Bill before the House, the Sahitya Akadami has recognised Rajasthani on a par with the other languages of India. I believe that this happened last year.

I would like at the very outset to clarify my position. I am one of those who want to see that Hindi becomes the lingua franca of India, and that each and every citizen of India learn to speak Hindi. I should like to see Hindi as the link language. When I