

(श्री राज बहादुर)

मुश्किल । नहीं लोलते हैं तो मुश्किल । बिना आप के बुलाये हुए बोलें कैसे और बोलते भी हैं तो मुश्किल ।

1215. hrs.

STATEMENT RE. RECOMMENDATIONS
OF CENTRAL LAND REFORMS
COMMITTEE

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE
(SHRI F. A. AHMED) : Sir, At the Chief Ministers' Conference...

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : What is he saying ? It is not there on the agenda.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय (मुरेना) : अभी आप ने कहा था कि सूची पर काम नहीं है इसलिये नहीं लिया जायग, लेकिन इधर आप मंत्री का वक्तव्य दिला रहे हैं ।

SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY (Kendrapara) : On a point of order, Sir. When the question about Sheikh Mujibur Rehman was raised, you were pleased to say that the matter is not in the Order paper. This is also not on the agenda.

MR. SPEAKER : Any minister can make a statement at any time with the permission of the Chair. I have allowed him.

SHRI F. A. AHMED : At the Chief Ministers' Conference on Land Reforms held in September, 1970 it was decided that the entire range of problems connected with ceiling legislation should be referred to the Central Land Reforms Committee on which a few Chief Ministers would be co-opted. In accordance with that decision, the Chief Ministers of Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh were co-opted as Members of the Central Land Reforms Committee.

2. In the first meeting of the Committee it was decided to collect and compile on a State-wise basis all relevant data on this question. This was compiled with and as indicated in my remarks on the Budget Demands of the Food and Agriculture Ministry in the Lok Sabha the second meeting of the Committee was held yesterday.

I am happy to report that as a result of deliberations of the Committee the following broad guidelines have emerged to bring about a broad measure of uniformity in the State laws on ceiling and the Committee has made the following recommendations :—

- (i) Ceiling should be applied for the family as a whole, the term 'family' being defined so as to include husband, wife and minor children;
- (ii) Where the number of members in the family exceeds five, additional land may be allowed for each member in excess of five in such a manner that the total area admissible to the family does not exceed twice the ceiling limit for a family;
- (iii) The ceiling for a family of five members may be fixed within the range of 10 to 18 acres of perennially irrigated land or irrigated land capable of growing two crops. As soil conditions, productivity of land, nature of crop grown etc. vary from State to State and even within the same State from region to region, the Committee considered it desirable simply to indicate a range within which the ceiling should be fixed instead of suggesting any rigid ceiling for the whole country.
- (iv) For various other categories of land conversion ratios should be fixed taking into account availability of water, productivity, soil classification, crops grown etc. The absolute ceiling for a family of five, even in the case of dry lands should be put at 54 acres. This limit would be relaxable if there is special justification for doing so on

account of the nature of soil, rain-fall, chronic drought conditions etc.

- (v) Exemptions in the existing State laws in favour of mechanised farms, well-managed farms etc. should be withdrawn;
- (vi) The exemption in favour of plantations of tea, coffee, cardamom, rubber, etc. should be carefully examined in consultation with the Ministries concerned and State Governments. Thereafter this and other types of exemption should be discussed with the Chief Ministers in order to formulate the national policy.

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA (Domariaganj) : May I request the Government through you to allow some time for a discussion on the statement which has just been made ?

MR. SPEAKER : You can send it in writing.

12 20 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (TWENTYFOURTH AMENDMENT) BILL—*Contd.*

MR. SPEAKER : We had allotted seven hours for the general discussion of which 6 hours 45 minutes we have already taken. We will extend the general discussion by one hour or so.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) : May I submit for your consideration and the consideration of the House that the general discussion may continue till about 4.30 p. m. when the Law Minister can be invited to reply ? We can have clause-by-clause consideration from 5 p. m. The Prime Minister will intervene at 3 O'Clock. I would beg of you to extend the time.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : The time for clause by clause should not be curtailed. If necessary, we can have third reading tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER : I do not see any need for the BAC fixing any time if we are going to chage it like this. Then the whole business gets dislocated. We will have to finish everything today and we will have the voting on the Bill at 6 O'Clock.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR : I am only suggesting that we may extend the time by one hour.

MR. SPEAKER : We will extend the time by one hour. The voting will be between 5 and 7 p. m.. The consideration motion voting will be at 4 p. m. and clause-by-clause consideration between 4 and 6 p. m. and third reading after that.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA (Begusarai) : Mr. Speaker, I was submitting yesterday that what we had been discussing was indeed a matter of the highest constitutional importance and significance. So it would be my task first to bring the subject back into its natural surroundings and not to encounter it at the hustings. What we have found is that for much of the time the discussion has taken place in this House in an atmosphere which is more of the hustings than of a deep and concentrated constitutional and legal discussion. Certain things might look pretty and nice at the hustings but this lady called the Constitution Amendment Bill does not look so. So, let me have the privilege of meeting this lady in the quietness and privacy of her home.

I think, Mr. Speaker, that the question of restoration of the authority to Parliament to amend any part of Constitution is in the neutral gear. That way it is neither radical nor reactionary in itself. The same powers could be used both by the progressives and the reactionaries according as they come to wield power in this House. So, Sir, this question, to my mind, must be raised first above the slogans and battle cries either of the pseudo-radicals or of the stick-in-the-mud conservatives.

I was amazed, Mr. Speaker, to learn of the remarks that the hon. Minister, Shri Siddhartha Shankar Ray made about our Party's stand in this matter. Our Party's stand has been absolutely clear from the very beginning. So, there was least of law