

[श्री आर.पी. बड़े]

कनेडी की रिपोर्ट पढ़ी है और उसके साथ में जो नोट है उसको भी देखा है, मैं चाहूँगा कि कंटेम्प्ट ऑफ कोर्ट में कुछ इस प्रकार के प्राविजन किए जायें जिससे कि यह तलवार न्यूज पेपर्स और पत्रिका पर लटकती न रहे।

SHRI SEZHIYAN (Kumbakonam) : I do not want to take much of the time of the House. I want to endorse a particular point stressed by Mr. Krishna Menon, as it deserves the serious attention of the Government and the House. When comment is made on a particular judgment or on a particular trial, that can be taken into consideration. But suppose an opinion is expressed on the state of affairs in society and if that is also treated as contempt of court, I think we may not be able to express any radical opinion in the country. In one particular case, Mr. Namboodiripad was reported to have said at a Press Conference that judiciary was not impartial in a class rule, that it was an instrument of oppression and judge's were guided by class prejudices..... (Interruptions). This opinion may or may not be correct; it is for the society to judge.

SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhra) : What is your reading ?

SHRI SEZHIYAN : I do not agree with him totally ; to a certain extent I agree.....(Interruptions) Mr. Namboodiripad expressed an opinion on the state of society and he was held before the court for contempt and fined a thousand rupees or sentenced to imprisonment for one year.

MR. SPEAKER : We are in the third reading,

SHRI SEZHIYAN : Even in Tamil Nadu, Mr. Annadurai once said that courts are like dark chambers and where light is provided by costly advocates, it helps the people to get justice. Somebody may say that he called the courts dark chambers and hence committed contempt of court. Therefore, I say that if some one expressed an opinion about the state of society, it

should not attract the provisions of this law. If anybody takes up a specific case and comments upon the conduct of the judge, that can be gone into, I endorse the views expressed by Mr. Menon.

SHRI H. R. GOKHALE : I have nothing to add, except to point out that in Clause 19 of the Bill there is a printing mistake. In line 4 the word "less" is missing. It should be "notless than".

MR. SPEAKER : The printing mistake will be corrected.

The question is :

"That the Bill be passed"

The motion was adopted

11.26 Hrs.

PREVENTION OF FOOD ADULTERATION (EXTENSION TO KOHIMA AND MOKOKCHUNG DISTRICTS) BILL

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI UMA SHANKAR DIKSHIT) : I beg to move :

"That the Bill to extend the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954, to the Kohima and Mokokchung districts in the State of Nagaland, be taken into consideration."

Prior to 1954 almost every State in India had its own food laws to deal with the prevention of food adulteration and, as such, the laws and standards were not uniform. The need for a uniform legislation was keenly felt and the result was that the Central Government enacted the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954. The Act applied to the whole of India except the State of Jammu and Kashmir and Kohima and Mokokchung Districts in Nagaland. A Bill to extend the Act to Jammu and Kashmir has been passed by both the Houses of Parliament.

At the time of the enactment of the aforesaid legislation the State of

Nagaland had not come into existence. The state of Nagaland was formed under the state of Nagaland Act, 1962 with effect from 1st December, 1963 only. The State of Nagaland comprises three districts Kohima, Mokokchung and Tuensang. The districts of Kohima and Mokokchung originally formed part of the Naga Hills District which was then included in part A of the Table below paragraph 20 of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution. The administration of the District vested in the Governor of Assam. Under Paragraph 19 (1) (a) of the said Schedule, the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 did not apply to the areas comprising the districts of Kohima and Mokokchung as the Governor of Assam did not issue a notification. But the position of the Tuensang district was different because it had been included in Part B of the Table in the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution under the name 'the Naga Tribal Areas'. The result is that before the formation of the State of Nagaland, the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act applied to the area covered by the Tuensang district, while it did not apply to the area covered by the Districts of Kohima and Mokokchung.

There was no change in this position even after the transfer of the Naga Hills District from part A to part B of the Table because Section 7 of the Naga Hills-Tuensang Area Act, 1957 by which the transfer was made, specifically provided that the territorial extent or the application of any law would not be effected by such transfer.

The subsequent formation of the State of Nagaland by the State of the Nagaland Act, 1962 did not also make any difference, as Section 26 of the Act provided only for the continuance of existing laws and their adaptation.

To secure uniform application of the Act which would enable the Government of Nagaland to prevent the sale of adulterated and sub-standard food containing substances which are harmful and poisonous and thereby protect the health of the general public the Government of Nagaland have come up with a proposal that the Act may be applied to the districts of Kohima and Mokokchung also. The Bill seeks to

give effect to the above proposal.

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That the Bill to extend the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954, to the Kohima and Mokokchung districts in the State of Nagaland, be taken into consideration."

May I remind Members that this is not a general debate on food adulteration ? The Act is already existing, and this Bill has very limited scope. It is just an extension of the Act to two districts of Nagaland. Kindly do not take it as a general debate on food adulteration.

SIIRI DASARATHA DEB (Tripura East) : Sir, there is nothing as such to oppose the extension of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act to Kohima and Mokokchung districts, because this Act is has already been in force in the rest of the country. But my question is, all these years, armed with this Act, has the Government been able to if not stop food adulteration at least lessen it ? My answer is a definite no. Rather it is increasing day by day. Our country suffers very badly from the disease of adulteration of everything—food, milk, cement, oil, ghee and what not. It has crept into the political arena also. The capitalists are spearheading the introduction and nursing of this disease to remain and to grow more and more in the life of our society as an incurable disease. The Government has not been able to check it.

The *Hindustan Standard* of 31-1-1970 says :

"The CBI has detected a case of adulterated milk supply to the army in Calcutta by a contractor who supplied 1500 litres of milk daily to the army after extracting cream and by adding some solvents and chemicals to make it taste like normal milk. The bill per month for this contractor is Rs. 1 lakh."

Nothing has appeared in the newspaper as to what happened to this contractor even though nearly a year has gone by. What is the present position ? I want to know

[Shri Dasaratha Deb]

whether the CBI has dropped the matter and if not, the name of the contractor and the punishment given to him.

The *Hindustan Times* dated the 21st May, 1970, says

"In the Mikado Restaurant case, the court took a serious view of the present provision of issuing licences to restaurants in the name of the employees. When the case of food adulteration arose, the owners of the restaurants went unpunished. The court observed that it was the duty of the New Delhi Municipal Committee to issue licences in the name of the owner and master of business as provided in the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act."

The provisions of the Act are being diluted. I want to know whether Government has taken note of the observations of the Delhi High Court and whether the existing lacuna, namely, issuing of licences in the name of the workers rather than the owners, has since been rectified.

Sir, I am not opposed to the extension of this Act. But Government should be more strict to implement this Act in the country for the good health of the citizens. We are living in a capitalist society and adulteration has become the inseparable companion of the capitalist society. They build up their wealth at the cost of the common man, the worker, the consumers. That is why they are indulging in adulteration of everything throughout the country.

श्री राम सहाय पांडे (राजनदगांव) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं जो खाद्य अपमिश्रण निवारण अधिनियम 1954 को नागालैंड राज्य के कोहिमा और मोड़ोकचुं जिले में लागू करने वाले विशेषक को यहाँ रखा गया है उस का समर्थन करता हूँ। यह बहुत ही अच्छा काम किया गया है। इस के पहले जम्मू काश्मीर तक इसका विस्तार किया गया था। इस के बाद अब उत्तर, दक्षिण, पूर्व और पश्चिम चारों दिशाओं में यह लागू हो जायेगा।

मेरा इन पर कोई भाषण करने का इरादा नहीं था। मैं केवल दो तीन बातों की तरफ श्री दीक्षित का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ। मिलावट की जो प्रक्रिया है यह डिमान्ड ऐंड सप्लाय में सम्बन्धित होती है, प्राफिट से सम्बन्धित होती है और दम्मारल ट्रेड प्रैक्टिस कारण होती है। मैं चाहता हूँ कि आल इंडिया रेडियो तथा दूसरे माध्यमों से यह सेस आफ कांसनेस जनता में पैदा करे कि किन चीजों में किस तरह से मिलावट होती है। मैं आप का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ कि अभी कुछ दिन पहले संसद भवन के बाहर एक प्रदर्शनी हुई थी उस में एक अपरेटम को प्रदर्शित किया गया था जिस के द्वारा कुछ चीजों को मिलाकर फिर डिमन्डेट्रेट कर के बतला दिया था कि इस में इतनी मिलावट है। मैं समझता हूँ कि देश के सब प्रदेशों में हर डिस्ट्रिक्ट में उस तरह का अपरेटम बना देना चाहिये जिस के द्वारा जो भी चीज मिलावट की है उसको अलग करके दिखलाया जाये। उसके बाद मिलावट करने वाले पर केस दायर किया जाये दम्मारल ट्रेड प्रैक्टिस अपनाने के लिए। इस तरह से काफी असर पड़ता है और लोगों में विश्वास बढ़ता है वह सोचेंगे कि जब उन में पैसा लिया जाता है तब उन की खरीदी हुई चीज में मिलावट क्यों की जाये। इस तरह से लोगों को सही चीज मिलनी आरम्भ हो जायेगी। साथ ही जो लोग इस तरह की बरग्ट प्रैक्टिस में लगे हुए हैं उनके सोशल वायकाट का भी मिलसिला होना चाहिये। आज हम अक्मर सुनते हैं कि चावल में पत्थर और हल्दी में रंग मिलाये जाते हैं। इसी तरह से दूसरी चीजों में भी मिलावट होती है। मैं समझता हूँ कि यह हमारी मारल ड्यूटी होनी चाहिये कि लोगों में एक कांसनेस पैदा करने के लिये मिलावट की चीजों के एग्जामिनेशन की सहूलियत दी जाये। इस से देश को भी मालूम होगा कि हम मिलावट के प्रति जागरूक हैं और श्री दीक्षित हमारी हेल्थ के कस्टोडियन हैं तथा निस तत्परता से वह हेल्थ की तरफ ध्यान देते हैं उसी तत्परता में वह इस बात की इजाजत नहीं देंगे कि कोई भी किसी चीज में

मिलावट करे।

मैं चाहता हूँ कि चीजों में मिलावट भी बन्द हो और जो करंट प्रैक्टिस देश में चल रहा है वह भी बन्द हो।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं नौ समझता था कि यह बिल एक मिनट में पाम हो जायगा। यह ना आलगेडी पान्ट है। इस में गैरट में तो कोई प्रमिडमेंट हो नहीं सकता। यह निर्क एक्स्टेंशन के लिए है।

श्री झारखण्डे राय (घोसी) अध्यक्ष महोदय, खाद्य अपरिमिश्रण निवारण अधिनियम का विस्तार नागाण्ड के दो जिलों में किया जा रहा है। उस से मेरी कोई असहमति नहीं है। मैं टम अवसर पर केवल दो गुभाव देना चाहता हूँ, आप के आदेश का वाजद भी। टमका पीछा सम्बन्ध मूल अधिनियम में होगा, लेकिन टम के लिए मैं आप से चाहूँगा कि आप मुझे क्षमा करें।

मैं चाहता हूँ कि पीसमील प्रक्रिया में कोई भी अडेमेंट इस गैरट में न हो। इसके लिये एक सम्पूर्ण विधेयक लाया जाये, एक काम्प्रर्टे सव विधेयक नहीं हालात में पूरे देश के लिये लाया जाये। जो सजाये निर्धारित की गई है या आगे की जाये वह कठिन में कठिन की जाये और उस में बडे पैमाने पर तस्करी करने वाले व्यापारियों के लिए फाँसी की सजा कर दी जाये।

दूसरा मुझको यह है कि अपरिमिश्रण का कार्य राष्ट्रीय अपराध घोषित कर दिया जाये और समाज के प्रति विद्रोह के रूप में उस को लिया जाये। इन दो चीजों का महत्व इस लिये है कि यह बिल हमारे सीमान्त अंचल में सम्बन्धित है। अगर किसी प्रकार में भी हमारे सीमान्त क्षेत्रों में कोई असन्तोष बढ़ता है तो उस में राष्ट्रीय एकता और सुरक्षा की हानि होगी।

मैं चाहता हूँ कि इन दो मुझको की ध्यान में रख कर कोई सम्पूर्ण विधेयक लाया जाये

और वह पूरे देश पर लागू हो और आज कल जो स्थिति है उसमें जनता की भावनाओं का आदर करने वाला हो।

***SHRI P VENKATSUBBAIAH** (Nandyal) Mr Speaker, Sir, as mentioned by the Hon Minister of Health it is sought to extend the jurisdiction of the original Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 to the districts of Kohima and Mokochung in the State of Nagaland through this Bill. Though the scope of the Bill therefore is limited, I feel it necessary to bring to the notice of the Hon Minister the various malpractices and lapses indulged in by the traders in violation of the provisions of the parent Act.

It is common knowledge that the menace of adulteration has assumed such serious proportion that it is posing a serious challenge to the public health. The anti-social and vile crime is not limited to adulteration of food products only. Almost everything that we consume is adulterated. It is thus obvious that the provisions of the Act are not being stringently implemented.

Here and there, no doubt, cases are registered under this Act against traders and hawkers who are prosecuted and convicted for violation of the Act. The big manufacturers and wholesale traders take advantage of the various loopholes in the Act and escape detection and punishment. I therefore request the Hon Minister to take serious note of this situation and take necessary steps to bring to book such culprits.

The implementation of the Act is so tardy and half-hearted that the anti-social elements who indulge in such malpractices have become audacious and commit these crimes openly and with impunity. A case in point is an industry started in Hyderabad which specialises in manufacturing small white pebbles resembling rice. These are mixed with rice and sold to people.

[Shri P. Venkat subbaiah]

Sir, when these big sharks go scot-free, what do we find? There are ever so many instances of small traders, vendors and hawkers in the villages and towns who are rounded up and prosecuted for violation of the Act. In my State particularly this is quite common. These poor people have neither the financial capacity nor the clever competence to adulterate food stuffs they sell. I am stressing on this aspect because they are innocent of the crime they are accused of. I would, therefore, request the Hon'ble Minister to kindly do something to stop the harassment of these innocent and poor people.

We are all aware that food grains are exported from one place to another, one region to another and from one State to another. At the time of retail sale to the consumer it is found that non-permitted colouring agents are used for adulteration. But it is usually the retailer who is persecuted. It is only the wholesaler who is responsible for this anti social crime but he manages to go scot-free because he is rich and can manipulate things in his favour,

These facts have been brought to the notice of the then Minister of Health and other concerned authorities, but I regret to say that no action has been taken on the various memoranda and petitions sent to them in this regard.

As I have said earlier, Sir, the practice of adulteration has assumed alarming proportions and has enveloped almost every edible product. This is posing a serious threat to the well-being and health of the common man. Also this malpractice is not limited to one region or another. It is, therefore, essential that this anti-social and criminal propensity should be curbed and done away with before it does further damage. The Act of 1954 has proved ineffective, in checking this crime. The machinery for detection analysis and enforcement of the provisions of the Act should be augmented and strengthened. A thorough survey of the extent of the adulteration

should be carried out and charted out. And as the present Act has been inadequate I request that the Government should bring forward a comprehensive legislation to encompass the entire gamut of this malpractice of adulteration in the interest of the well being and health of the citizens of this country. The sooner it is done, Sir, the better it is for all concerned.

*SHRI P. A. SAMINATHAN (Gobichettipalayam): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to say a few words on the Prevention of Food Adulteration (Extension to Kohima and Mokokchung Districts) Bill. However defective the original Act itself might be, we have to welcome its extension to places where this Act is not in force. You will accept that it will to some extent relieve the sufferings of the common people on account of supply of adulterated food-stuffs.

We find, Sir, that all the essential commodities like foodgrains, tea, coffee-seeds, spices, milk, ice-cream, sweets/consumed by the children, edible oils, kerosene, cool drinks and so on are adulterated. Nobody can deny that these are the daily basic necessities of the people. Minor ailments to dreadful diseases like cancer are caused by the intake of adulterated commodities. Though this Act was enacted in the year 1954, I am sorry to say that this has not been implemented so far vigorously and energetically. This has resulted in wide-spread adulteration throughout the country. I am reminded of the Tamil proverb that only when the scorpion bites, it will be recognised as a scorpion; otherwise it will be taken as a beetle.

I would like to give some statistics to substantiate my point. During the year 1968, under this Act in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Mysore, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, a sum of Rs. 25,07,289 was collected as fine. I agree that this is a revenue to the public exchequer. But, all the same it shows the magnitude of the problem. 4,534 persons were sentenced under this Act. 1,36,939 samples were taken for examination and out of this about 30% samples were

*The original speech was delivered in Tamil.

found to be adulterated. If samples from the remaining 15 States are also taken for inspection, perhaps this percentage may go up. It is not known how effectively this Act was implemented in these 15 States for which no statistics are available.

Only recently this Act has been extended beyond the limits of municipalities so that the Panchayat Unions and the Panchayats can also implement the provisions of this Act. You will no doubt agree, Sir, that they have neither adequate financial resources nor technical personnel to implement this Act.

I would refer to another important aspect also. Under this Act, we find, that reference has been made to adulterated food and to misbranded food. But there is no mention of sub-standard food in any provisions of this Act. Similarly, canned and processed foods are also not covered by this Act, with the result that adulteration in these food items goes scot-free. I would request the hon. Minister to remove these loopholes in this Act and also implement it with a real sense of purpose. Then, only the common people of the country can be saved from the anti-social elements indulging in adulteration for their own aggrandisement.

I may point out here that so long, perhaps, the ruling party needed the help of these big producers, merchants and such others for their electioneering in the country. With the resurgence of the ruling party with absolute majority here and with the vast majority of our people having reposed their faith in the ruling party, it is time that the ruling party takes cognizance of this fact and does something to ameliorate the hardships of the people at large. I agree that of late the Government have been taking some laudable steps which will lead to this objective. After twenty five years of independence we see that the Government are keen to implement some progressive measures in the country without giving undue importance to the erstwhile Maharajas and Princes, monopolists and capitalists. That is because they have the strength of the people behind them. A new era of egalitarian society is being ushered in by the Government and as means to achieving this objective, even the Constitution of the

country has been amended. The Government for 25 years had been hampered in their activities by the influence of the affluent section of our society to whom I made a reference earlier. Now the Government have cast a side the shackles and come forward with welfare measures for the people of the country.

It is an acknowledged fact that our country is faced with innumerable problems. The people are steeped in poverty and the problem of unemployment is assuming serious proportions. India is dotted with millions of villages and majority of our population lives in rural areas. I am sure you will agree with me when I say that our people should be given at least uncontaminated and unadulterated foodstuffs and it is the foremost duty of the Government to ensure this. The only weapon in their hands is the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act. It should be implemented earnestly and whatever loopholes are there in the Act, they should be removed. In fact, I would say that the Government should declare that adulteration is anti-national and the severest punishment should be awarded to those indulging in this anti-social activity. I am sure that this House will give whatever powers are required by the Government for this purpose. I appeal to the hon. Minister that he should amend the original Act incorporating the suggestions I have made. I would also plead with him that this Act should be implemented more stringently.

With these words, I conclude.

श्री आर० बी० बड़े (खरगोन) : इस बिल का नाम है प्रिवेशन आफ फूड एडल्टरेशन (एकमटेशन टू कोहिमा एण्ड मोकोकबुंड डिस्ट्रिक्ट्स) बिल। 1954 में यह बिल पास हुआ था। अब से यह कानून बना है मैं यह जानना चाहता था कि क्या तब से फूड एडल्टरेशन में कमी हुई है या वह ज्यादा हुआ है। मैं समझना हूँ कि यह बढ़ना जा रहा है। आप इसको अब ट्राइबल एरियाज में एक्टेंड करने जा रहे हैं। मैं ट्राइबल एरिया से आता हूँ। मुझे मालूम है कि वहाँ बहुत ज्यादा एडल्टरेशन होता है। जो इसकी देखभाल करने के लिये कर्मचारी रखे

[श्री आर०वी० बडे]

जाते हैं, दुकानदारों को उनको भी रिश्वत देनी पड़नी है। वे लोग बहुत खाते हैं। दुकानदार कहना है कि एक हजार रुपया तो उनको दण्ड का देना पड़ता है और पाच सौ रुपया रिश्वत का देना पड़ता है। उसके पास इतना ज्यादा पैसा कहां से आ सकता है। वह कहा है कि इस वास्ते उनको और ज्यादा एडल्टेशन करना पड़ना है। अब आप इस कानून को कोहिमा और मोकोकचुंग डिस्ट्रिक्ट्स पर भी एक्मटेड करने जा रहे हैं। मेरी आप से प्रार्थना है कि आप ट्राइबल एरियाज में बड़े अच्छे और ईमानदार अफसर भेजें। ऐसे लोग न भेजें जो भ्रष्टाचारी हों। अगर आप ऐसा नहीं करते हैं तो यह एक्मटेशन आफ एडल्टेशन और एक्मटेशन आफ कुरेशन बिल हो जायेगा और इसमें ये दोनों चीजें बढ़ेंगी।

मेरी इस बिल का विरोध नहीं करता हूँ। लेकिन मैं निवृत्त करना चाहता हूँ कि ट्राइबल एरियाज में बड़े इन्सोमेट और भोले-भाले लोग रखते हैं, जो शहरों की चालों को नहीं जानते हैं। इसलिये वहाँ पर जो अफसर भेजे जाएँ, वे अच्छे होने चाहिये।

SHRI UMA SHANKAR DIKSHIT,
Mr. Speaker, Sir, as you have noticed, every Member who has spoken on this Bill has supported it both in principle and in its operational part and has said that the Bill should be passed.

I quite appreciate the feelings that Members have expressed regarding the adulteration which is prevailing in many parts of the country, and adulteration of food, particularly, because it is true that it is a health hazard.

The main points that have been made are firstly that the distinct penal provisions should be strengthened, and secondly that a comprehensive amending Bill should be brought forward before the House so that any loopholes which have been discovered could be plugged. The various suggestions which have been made fall mainly under

these two categories. I have really no objection to considering this matter. In this connection, I am thinking whether I should not take this matter up at the meeting of the consultative committee attached to the Ministry of Health, and if some proposals are formulated there, I would be very glad to proceed with them. But, of course, we shall have to go to the States because the implementation machinery rests in the States. I would request all hon. Members to remember that the entire implementation except in the Union territories rest with the States, in fact, even in Union territories like Delhi, there is the corporation and the metropolitan council, and particularly the corporation, which has to implement the various provisions of the Act. Therefore, it is not really possible for the Central Government directly to administer this or to take the responsibility in that sense. But I fully share the feelings of hon. Members, and so far as the question of bringing forward an amending Bill is concerned, as I have said, we shall have to consult the States. But, earlier, several attempts had been made in this regard, and the last amending Bill which had been passed had strengthened the penal provisions and increased the period of imprisonment to six months in the first instance and to two years in the second instance.

If I may put it that way, it is mainly or largely a matter of social conscience and also of the general character or our own character. I do not want to say anything that would not appear patriotic or fully responsible so far as the country's general prestige and self-respect are concerned, but it is a sad story that for various reasons, particularly after the second World war, the general moral sense has been undermined and the general social conscience has not been active. If the people affected from unions or associations, and whenever it is found that a particular group of tradesmen or offending tradesmen have been in the habit of indulging in adulteration to any extraordinary extent, I am sure the provisions of the Act will be invoked, and the governmental machinery in the various States is bound to take notice of it, and better results would ensue.

With these words, I commend the Bill for unanimous acceptance by the House.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to extend the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954, to the Kohima and Mokokchung districts in the State of Nagland, be taken into consideration".

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clauses 2, 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2, 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI UMA SIIANKAR DIKSHIT: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

11.56 hrs

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

MR. SPEAKER: We are very much behind schedule. We will have to sit late today and finish the agenda. Otherwise, we cannot keep to the schedule.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): May I take this opportunity to inform the House that we have to take up in this session and dispose of certain Bills which we cannot avoid taking up, for example consequential action in regard to the creation of new States. Then there is the Gratuity Bill. There are some other essential Bill also.

MR. SPEAKER: We will have to sit a little longer to day and tomorrow. Of course, the agenda will show only the usual timings because it has already been printed.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: There may have to be a constitutional amendment in regard to the reorganisation of the States concerned.

MR. SPEAKER: He is adding one after the other everyday and saying it has to be passed. Government must stick to the schedule. Of course, we are in an emergency. But everyday some Bills are added in this way

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: I am so sorry.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE (Calcutta-North-East): There is the Diplomatic Relations (Vienna Convention) Bill. It is a very important Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: We will pass it today.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE: How can we? We do not have time enough for a thorough discussion. I have tabled a motion for reference to a select committee. This requires a very serious and thorough-going discussion. This is the ratification of a convention which was signed in 1961 which we accepted in 1965 and have waited six years more. We want to have a full discussion. It cannot be hustled.

MR. SPEAKER: We will have some discussion on it. It will not be denied. Of course, we are at the fag-end of the session. We have to see through all the business.

SHRI H.N. MUKERJEE: There must be some discussion in regard to the merits of the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: That will not be denied.

MR. H. N. MUKERJEE: The External Affairs Minister is not here. We have to seriously consider the provisions of this very important Bill. We are not going to put on the statute book such an important measure without discussion.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: We have no objection to the postponement of this to the next session.

SHRI SEZHIYAN (Kumbakonam): In that case, there should be no objection to