

16.46 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL @

(Amendment of Preamble, etc.)

SHRI CHITTA BASU : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : I introduce the Bill.

16.47 hrs.

COMPULSORY EDUCATION BILL

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Before I call upon Dr. Subbarami Reddy to move the Motion for consideration of his Bill, we have to fix the time for this Bill. Shall we fix the time as two hours? I think two hours would be good enough for this Bill.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam) : I beg to move :

"That the Bill to provide for free and compulsory education upto higher secondary level to all children throughout the country and for matters connected therewith, be taken into consideration."

Education lits the light of knowlege in a human being and removes the ignorance. That is why providing education to the citizens is that first priority of every country in the world. Article 41 of our Constitution contains a directive to the Government as to the provision of education and Article 45 stipulates free and compulsory education for children upto the age of fourteen years. But both articles which form part of the Directive Principles of State Policy have remained a dead letter so far although Article 45 of the Constitution had envisaged a period of ten years for introducing universal education system upto the age of fourteen years throughout the country. Similarly a number of State Legislatures have also enacted laws on the subject but these laws too have not been implemented despite their importance.

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16.48 hrs.

(Shri P.M. Sayeed in the Chair)

The present scenario in the country in this regard is that, largely children from economically weaker sections of the society and rural areas remain deprived of the education because either their parents are not in a position to provide the necessary educational materials such as books, note books, uniforms, shoes, writing material, etc. to their children because the prices of these materials are out of their reach or many of the parents are to some extent dependent upon the physical labour of their children or on the income arising therefrom, even though it may be very meagre. Unless the Union and State Governments come forward to help the economically weak parents in providing educational materials free of cost to their children, the goal of universal education will remain a distant dream for the country.

At the same time, if universal education is to be made a reality the number of senior secondary and other schools in the country have to be multiplied manifold. This can be done with the active cooperation between the Central Government, the State Governments and Private bodies.

Hence, it has been proposed that appropriate Government should establish sufficient number of higher secondary level schools and provide necessary educational materials free of cost to children of poor parents to make universal education a reality in the country.

Sir, I would like to emphasise the importance of introducing this Bill.

I would like to emphasise the importance of introducing these two Bills. Firstly, we must remember our country's great ancient cultural heritage. Perhaps we all know that, and even if you see the history thousands of years back, we had the civilisation first and other countries have learnt from us. Not only that, we even keep listening that the great Vedas have given us science and technology. These countries, all over the world, have now built up science and technology by borrowing and learning from our country. But today, unfortunately, in our country, in our country there are hardly a few people who are educated and majority are not educated. I feel very sad about this.

If we really want to enjoy the democratic fruits in this country, if we want to attain the democratic values in this country, if we want to see the democratic rights in this country then education is very important.

[Translation]

When knowledge springs from science and education, the man is blessed with the good things of life.