

[Shri S. V. L. Narasimham]
a Bill further to amend the Child
Marriage Restraint Act, 1929.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question
is:

"That leave be granted to intro-
duce a Bill further to amend the
Child Marriage Restraint Act,
1929."

The motion was adopted.

Shri S. V. L. Narasimham: I intro-
duce the Bill.

HINDU MARRIAGE (AMENDMENT) BILL

(AMENDMENT OF SECTION 28)

Shri S. V. L. Narasimham (Guntur):
I beg to move for leave to introduce
a Bill further to amend the Hindu
Marriage Act, 1955.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question
is:

"That leave be granted to in-
troduce a Bill further to amend
the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955."

The motion was adopted.

Shri S. V. L. Narasimham: I intro-
duce the Bill.

INSURANCE (AMENDMENT) BILL

(INSERTION OF NEW SECTION 44A)

Shri S. V. L. Narasimham (Guntur):
I beg to move for leave to introduce
a Bill further to amend the Insurance
Act, 1938.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question
is:

"That leave be granted to in-
troduce a Bill further to amend
the Insurance Act, 1938."

The motion was adopted.

Shri S. V. L. Narasimham: I intro-
duce the Bill.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION (AMENDMENT) BILL

(INSERTION OF NEW SECTION 3A)

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We shall now
proceed with the further consideration
of the motion moved by **Shrimati
Renu Chakravartty** on the 2nd Decem-
ber, 1955:

"That the Bill further to amend
the Workmen's Compensation Act,
1923, be taken into considera-
tion."

The time allotted for this is 2½ hours,
the time already taken is one hour
twenty-two minutes and so the
balance left is one hour eight
minutes. **Shri Abid Ali** may conti-
nue his speech.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao (Khammam):
Before you call upon the hon. Deputy
Minister, let me say this. **Shrimati
Renu Chakravartty** had to go away
and she has written a letter to the
Speaker authorising me to reply to the
debate. If you permit me, I will reply
to the debate.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I will look
into the rules. Let the Deputy Minister
meanwhile continue his speech.

अन्न उपमन्त्री (श्री आबिद अली) :
उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, पिछले दिन जब इस
बिल पर चर्चा हो रही थी तो मैं यह कह
रहा था कि इस किस्म के बिलों में अमेंडमेंट
लाने में बहुत समय लगता है और मैं यह बता
रहा था कि किस तरह कई साल बीत
जाते हैं अमेंडमेंट्स का एक मस्विदा बनाने
के बाद स्टेट्स गवर्नमेंट्स की सलाह लेनी
पड़ती है और उसके बाद Tripartite
discussions होते हैं। वर्कर्स एंड
एम्प्लायर्स आरगोनाइजेशन्स इन सब से
सूचनाएँ लेनी पड़ती हैं। इतना काम
इसके सम्बन्ध में हो गया है। लेकिन
उस दिन मेम्बर महोदय ने यह कहा था
कि उनका बिल आने के बाद हम ने ह
कार्यवाही शुरू की है, तो मैं उनको ह

बतलाना चाहता हू कि उनका ऐसा कहना दुस्त नहीं है क्योंकि सन् १९५५ के मार्च के महीने में

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair (Quilon cum Mavellikara): May I make a submission? All Members who participated in the debate on this Bill spoke in English and we do not understand the reply of the hon. Minister in Hindi. Will he kindly speak in English so that we may understand it.

Shri Abid Ali: I have no objection. On that day, the hon. lady Member, while speaking on the Bill, said that Government formulated the amendments and circulated them to the organisations concerned after she introduced the Bill, which, I was submitting, is not correct. This amending Bill came very recently, whereas we have been on this subject since March 1953. Our draft proposals were sent to the workers' and employers' organisations and also to State Governments. Their opinions were received and thereafter in November 1954, this matter was considered in the Labour Ministers' Conference, and since then the process of drafting the amending Bill is going on.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: For one year.

Shri Abid Ali: Since March 1953, and still I am afraid it may not be possible for us to introduce the proposed amending Bill in Parliament within a few months.

Shri L. N. Mishra (Darbhanga cum Bhagalpur): It will be in the next Parliament.

Shri Abid Ali: It may not be possible in the next session; it may be possible to introduce it in the August session. Sometimes, the central organisations of the workers also have not been able to submit their comments on the proposals which we have sent to them. It is not fair to accuse us so far as the delay is concerned. In this House we hear hon. Members always demanding that whenever we have any

such proposals, they should be sent to the employees' organisations also and their comments should be sought.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: But there must be a time-limit for everything.

Shri Abid Ali: They go on asking for extension of the time-limit and we have to agree to that.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know which central trade union organisation has not replied to the questionnaire issued regarding the Workmen's Compensation Act?

Shri Kamath: Of hand he cannot say; he should have notice.

Shri Abid Ali: If the hon. Member is anxious to know whether his organisation has submitted the comments, then my reply is in the affirmative.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: About your organisation. . . .

Shri Abid Ali: Sometimes A.I.T.U.C. does not very much care for these enquiries. About the accidents, one hon. Member stated that they were on the increase. From our reports, so far as fatal accidents were concerned, the figure was .13 in 1939, it went up to .15 in 1943 and again went down to .9 in 1947, and in the last report that we have for 1953, it was .10. So, from .13 in 1939 it has come to .10 in 1953. In the mines also, the accidents are on the decrease. Our statistics show that in 1952, the number of accidents was 361 as against 286 in 1954.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: The rate per 1,000 employees has increased, that was what I stated.

Shri Abid Ali: The figures which I first gave are in respect of 1,000 workers. So far as other accidents are concerned, they are slightly on the increase. But the reason is that the inspection is better and the workers are more alert. Formerly many accidents went unreported, but now the reporting is better. About rehabilitation, much work has been done. We have a programme under the Coal-mine Welfare Scheme for the

[Shri Abid Ali]

rehabilitation of the employees who lose their limbs or otherwise become unfit for work, and we hope that it will be doing much service to the workers.

So far as this particular amendment is concerned, I may submit that it will not be possible for me to accept it because, Hon. Members are themselves aware, as I have been explaining here also, that a large number of amendments have already been proposed by us. The Act, which is under discussion, has about 35 sections and four schedules, out of which we are going to amend about 22 sections and all the four schedules. More than sixty amendments are proposed by us in that amending Bill. The points which are mentioned in the Bill under discussion will also be generally covered in a more liberal way in favour of the workers.

I appreciate that there has been considerable delay in the payment of compensation to the workers and I also appreciate the hardship caused to the workers due to this. In the amending Bill we not only have provided interest for the delayed payment, but also compensation, for wilful delay will be payable to the workers in such cases. So, it would not be possible to accept this amendment.

Shri Thimmalah (Kolar-Reserved-Sch. Castes): There is no quorum.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The bell is being rung.

Now there is quorum.

[SHRI BARMAN in the Chair]

Shri Abid Ali: I was saying that we propose to bring an amending Bill with regard to the period of seven days, it will also be considerably reduced and the workers who will be out of job for more than the stipulated period will be entitled to compensation for the whole period.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: If the proposed amending Bill is much more liberal than the provisions of this Bill, why not accept it now so that when it comes, it will not be in conflict with this. Why should you oppose it now? You feel that it is going to be so liberal: so, why not accept this for the present?

Shri Abid Ali: The amending Bill which we are proposing will be more exhaustive; there will be sixty amendments amending more than twenty clauses and the four schedules. Therefore, it would not be proper to accept this amendment now.

With regard to occupational diseases also, amendments are to be brought forward. We have appointed a committee of experts because it is necessary to add a few more items to that schedule. We are expecting the report of the experts.

Therefore, I suggest to the hon. Mover of this Bill—she is not present here and I do not know what is the position—or, if there is somebody authorised by her for this purpose, that authorised person to withdraw this Bill. I shall be thankful if this Bill is withdrawn. If it is not possible for him to withdraw it then I would request the House to reject this Bill in view of the explanation that I have given and also the assurance that the Government would be introducing a comprehensive amending Bill. It has already been circulated and the hon. Members opposite who are connected with the trade unions might very well be aware of it.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: I have been authorised to reply.

Mr. Chairman: Under the rules that are proposed, hon. Member can certainly reply. But that rule has not yet been approved by the House. In the circumstances, he has got no right.

Shri Punnoose (Alleppey): Is it not in your discretion? Do the rules prohibit him from speaking?

Mr. Chairman : Speaking is quite another matter and replying is a different matter.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Then I will speak.

Shri Abid Ali: He has already spoken.

Mr. Chairman: I will put the motion. The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 be taken into consideration."

The motion was negatived.

INDIAN REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL

(AMENDMENT OF SECTION 2 ETC.)

Shri S. C. Samanta (Tamluk): Before I formally move my motion before this House, I would request you to allow me to give an introduction about the Bill. This Bill was introduced by me in 1948 in another form. You know the fate of such non-official Bills; it only came up this year. But as some legal difficulties were found out by the hon. Minister here, I withdrew the Bill and I have brought it here in a new form.

The Minister of Legal Affairs (Shri Pataskar): May I make one submission. This Bill has been put on the agenda in the form of a motion for circulation. You are aware that the same Bill was introduced some time back and it was discussed. Then, I also on behalf of the Government said that probably Government would not have any objection with respect to the amendment proposed in clause 2 of this Bill. So, if the hon. Member is prepared to make a motion that the Bill be taken into consideration I think that would be better. I will accept it. But clause 3 may be deleted. Clause 2 will serve the purpose for which this Bill is being brought.

Mr. Chairman: The first point is whether the hon. Member accepts the suggestion of the hon. Minister?

Shri S. C. Samanta: Sir, I am thankful to the hon. Minister for giving me this suggestion and I am ready to accept it.

Mr. Chairman: That means clause 3 of the Bill is omitted and the rest of the Bill stands.

Shri Pataskar: Also, in clause 2 the words "hereinafter referred to as the principal Act" may be omitted because that is not necessary.

Mr. Chairman: That is a matter of small amendment and that will be considered later on.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi (Nellore): Sir, I have to oppose the Bill.

Shri Pataskar: Let him make the motion first.

Mr. Chairman: So, let the motion be moved first. The Bill with the amendment as suggested by the hon. Minister may be moved for consideration.

Shri S. C. Samanta: I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Registration Act, 1908 be taken into consideration."

In the last session the hon. Minister gave me an assurance that he will elicit opinion from different States and I thought, if that is not done then I should have my Bill moved for eliciting public opinion. I am glad to know that the Government has already elicited opinion from different States and that the Government is not at all against this Bill. That is why I am moving this motion for taking the Bill into consideration except the last portion of the Bill as has been asked by the hon. Minister.

Sir, I do not like to take much time of the House on this because last time I have already put my views on the Bill. There is no denying the fact that the caste system which originated to make the society prosperous have come to such a pass that everybody in India spoke against it. It is not