

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That this House agrees with the Fifty-sixth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 25th July, 1956."

The motion was adopted.

SADHUS AND SANYASIS REGISTRATION AND LICENSING BILL*

Shri Radha Raman (Delhi City): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the registration and licensing of Sadhus and Sanyasis in India.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the registration and licensing of Sadhus and Sanyasis in India."

The motion was adopted.

Shri Radha Raman: I introduce the Bill.

INDIAN ADOPTION OF CHILDREN BILL

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The House will now resume further discussion of the motion moved by Shrimati Jayashri Raiji on the 18th May, 1956:

"That the Bill to provide an adoption procedure to safeguard the interests of adopted children and the rights of their natural and adoptive parents, be taken into consideration."

Out of the two hours allotted for the discussion of the Bill one hour and 35 minutes were taken up on the 18th May, 1956 and 25 minutes are still available.

Shri M. D. Joshi may now continue his speech, but I may remind

the hon. Member that the hon. Minister has to reply and then the hon. Mover has to give a reply. Therefore, all these stages have to be gone through within 25 minutes. He will condense his remarks as much as possible.

Shri M. D. Joshi (Ratnagiri South): Last time when I was on my legs I pointed out certain inconsistencies in the Statement of Objects and Reasons. I do not want to go into that question again because my time is very limited, but I shall now turn to the object proper of the hon. Mover of the Bill.

What is the object? The object is humanitarian. It is not facilitating the satisfaction of parents or people who have no children, satisfaction such as Hindu childless parents had when they adopted children, but the satisfaction of having helped a poor child or an indigent child or a child without any means of livelihood or which was uncared for. That is the moral and higher motive which has actuated the Mover to bring this Bill.

Under the Hindu law, childless parents only—childless parents is a misnomer—childless people only can adopt, but under this Bill people who have got children can adopt. Under the Bill people of any religion can adopt children of any religion. Persons of any sex can be adopted. So, this Bill is very wide in its scope. Then, if the parents of the child which is proposed to be adopted are alive, their consent will be necessary. Then, if the child is above the age of ten, its own consent will be necessary. And further on it contemplates adoption through the intervention of the court. If the court passes a decree allowing the adoption, then the adoption will take place. A child over 18 years of age cannot be adopted. That means a major person cannot be adopted. All this is with the best of motives and I think the Bill should be assented to by Government. I do not know what the attitude of the

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