

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

The motion was adopted.

Shri G. K. Faut: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

HAJ COMMITTEE BILL*

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to establish a Committee in the Port of Bombay for assisting Muslim pilgrims to Saudi Arabia, Syria, Iraq, Iran and Jordan and for matters connected therewith.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to establish a Committee in the Port of Bombay for assisting Muslim pilgrims to Saudi Arabia, Syria, Iraq, Iran and Jordan and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

11.05 hrs.

ARMS BILL—contd.

Mr. Speaker: The House will now take up further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri Datar on the 1st September, 1950, namely:—

"That the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to arms and ammunition, as reported by the Joint Committee, be taken into consideration."

Shri Datar may continue his speech.

Shri U. C. Patnaik (Ganjam): Sir, last session a number of amendments were moved by us but they have lapsed. They have not yet been moved by some of us. We have given

notice today and we request you to waive the objection regarding time in respect of our amendments which we are tabling today and also the Government amendments which are being tabled today.

Mr. Speaker: Very well. I shall waive notice.

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Bill, as amended by the Joint Committee, was taken into consideration during the last session and I had just begun when it was adjourned to this session. I will be brief so far as the main points are concerned.

I had already pointed out that the Government were anxious to sponsor a Bill in accordance with the assurances given on two or three occasions. The hon. Member, Shri Patnaik, had brought forward a Bill as early as 1954 and the Government had promised to look into the whole matter and to have it examined by the State Governments. We got the views of the State Governments and after examining them we placed before this House a Bill which was referred to the Joint Committee of both Houses of Parliament. We have now the advantage of a number of improvements made by the Joint Committee. It is in this background that the present Bill has to be taken into consideration.

This Bill was piloted by the Government at the instance of a number of hon. Members with a view to liberalise the provisions consistent with the need to maintain law and order because there was, oftentimes, abuse of the provisions of the Arms Act. That is the reason why the Government had to take a middle course of having the largest measure of liberalisation in the provisions on the one hand and also to see to it that they were not abused. Though it is termed as Arms Bill all that has been done is to provide for licensing firearms only or some others arms for which a licence is necessary. In

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