

संस्थाओं बनाना, आमोंग उद्योग विकास, देहातों आवास कार्यक्रम और भूमिहोन मजदूरों का पुनर्वाप्ति, आदि। आमोंग और लघु उद्योग विकास, जिस पर कि योजना में अधिक और दिया गया है, लेतिहर मजदूरों को ऐसे प्रबसर देगा जिन से वे अपना आमदानी बढ़ा सकें। सामुदायिक विकास कार्यक्रमों का लक्ष्य भी उन के रहन-सहन के स्तर को ऊंचा उठाना है।

Indian High Commissioner in U.K.

494 Shri Mohamed Imam: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state

(a) the expenditure incurred on the High Commissioner's Office in London during 1956-57,

(b) the total number of employees in that office, and

(c) how many of these officers are paid more than Rs 3000 per month?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru). (a) Rs 1,58,52,788 73

(b) 1306

Vide statement enclosed [See Appendix III, annexure No 96]

(c) Except the Head of the Mission, no one draws a salary of Rs 3000/- p.m. Including foreign allowance and house rent allowance, however, 17 officers draw total emoluments exceeding Rs 3000/- p.m.

ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL*

Mr. Speaker: Shri A P Jain

Shri V. Raju (Visakhapatnam) On a point of order

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): I beg to move for leave to introduce

Mr. Speaker: What is the point of order?

Shri V. Raju: According to procedure, the list of work for the coming week should be given to us by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. Also the list for today was already provided to us earlier, and now the Minister rises to introduce this very important Bill. I am also given the impression that he is not merely going to introduce it but also to push it through—I mean have it passed—during the current session. No such suggestion was made in the Business Advisory Committee also when the work for the current session was taken up.

Therefore, it is rather surprising that Bills are introduced without any knowledge of Members, either of the Business Advisory Committee or of this House. If an important Bill of this nature, the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, suggesting procurement of food stocks because of the hoarding that is taking place in the country, is to be introduced and also rushed through, I would suggest that the session might be extended—this is only to facilitate Government to do it. I am not saying that they should—by a few more days to give Members the necessary opportunity to go through the Bill and stick to the procedure correctly, otherwise, it would be an infringement of our rights.

Shri Mohamed Imam (Chitaldrug): May I supplement what my hon friend has said? I would like to know before leave is sanctioned whether public opinion has been gathered and whether the States have been consulted in this matter, because this is a very important measure. We have had the sad experience before of food control.

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): There is no motion before the House. Apparently, hon.

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Members are having knowledges of something about which we do not know.

Shri A. P. Jain: I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

Shri Nath Pai (Rajapur): When a point of order is raised, ruling has first to be given on it

Mr. Speaker: What is the urgency of the Bill?

Shri A. P. Jain: //So far as the urgency of the Bill is concerned, there is a large amount of hoarding and prices have been going up. The House has expressed grave concern over the rise in prices. Under the present law, if stock are acquired, price is to be paid at the rate prevailing on the date of acquisition. This Bill proposes to provide that the prices paid will be on the basis of the averages that were prevailing during the last three months. If any stocks have to be acquired or if any action has to be taken, only reasonable prices must be paid and the hoarder must not be allowed to take advantage of his hoardings. He hoards because he wants to earn better prices. If he is allowed to take advantage of his evil deed, then the whole scheme of acquisition is defeated. That is the urgency.

Also the House has expressed grave concern over the rise in prices. Therefore, it is a very important Bill. In fact, I think this Bill embodies the strong sentiments of the House, and it is a very important and urgent measure.

Mr. Speaker: Can it not stand over till the next session?

Shri A. P. Jain: No, Sir.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh (Sasaram): I want to know from the Minister as to who is the hoarder—the producer or trader?

Shri A. P. Jain: The price of rice has been going up. That is a matter of grave concern. The House will meet again after a month and a half.

That is a long period. Here immediate action has to be taken.

Another question has been asked of me, whether it will apply to the farmer. No, it will not apply to the farmer. It will not apply to the small trader. It will apply only to the big stockists. //

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty (Basirhat): May I make a submission? We are very happy that some anti-hoarding measures are brought before the House. We have been demanding them for a very long time. At one stage, the hon. Minister refused to consider them. But now I would urge that we should be given some time to examine the Bill. I say this because we have to be very careful that it will be the big stockists who will actually come within the purview of this Bill. The small trader or the producer or peasant should not be harassed in any way.

Therefore, I feel that we need some time to study the Bill. We do consider this measure very necessary and it should be passed in this session. But we should do full justice by this very important problem. I propose that we sit on Saturday morning and pass this Bill. We can sit for two or three hours on Saturday specifically for passing this Bill.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): Sir, I must express my regret that we have had to bring this Bill forward on the penultimate day of this session. I quite appreciate some feeling of concern on the part of the Members opposite at this procedure which is not certainly normal procedure. Apart from the necessity of it, may I say that, without the general goodwill of the House, we do not want to push a thing through. We do not want to push this thing through unless there is the consent of the House to do it. It is, in our opinion, a fairly simple measure, not a very complicated one, certainly not affecting the small trader or the farmer; even in regard to others it lays down a fair price so that they may not exploit the high price of the day and at the same

[Shri Jawaharlal Nehru]

time not leaving it to the executive either to do what it likes. The executive is taking no powers. It has sought to lay down that the average of the last three months be taken, it is perfectly fair. Therefore, the executive cannot misbehave and the other party cannot also misbehave and take momentary advantage of something. It is a relatively small measure. I would suggest for your consideration and that of the House, especially those hon. Members who said more time would be necessary, that, if this Bill is introduced now and it is taken up tomorrow afternoon, it can be passed.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty To-morrow, we are having a discussion on the resolution on the Pay Commission, that is a very important thing.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru It can be taken up in the morning.

Mr. Speaker: Soon after the reply to the General Budget debate is over, this may be taken.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru Yes Sir. It may be taken whenever there is time. After this Bill is passed in this House, it will have to go to the other house. It will be day after tomorrow or whenever there is time. In fact the sitting of that House will have to be extended by a day or so.

Shri B. C. Ghose (Barrackpore) I am not opposed to the Bill. About the urgency pointed out by the Minister this has been a continuous process. Why is it then that the Government waited so long for bringing in the Bill? Even when the Food Minister answered in this House, he had been comparing the present prices with 1952-53 prices and said that there was no urgency. I want to know, since when the Government felt that there was an urgency in the matter.

Shri S. A. Dange (Bombay City-Central) May I make a suggestion? Can we not sit on Friday night so that it will not cut across the non-official resolution in the evening? We can have a night session.

Mr. Speaker: Nobody has got a right to cut across non-official time. The resolution will go on. But, if there is other time, we will transact this business. If it has to stand over, it will stand over for the night session or the resolution will be pushed to the night.

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satyanarayan Sinha): There is time till 3.30 p.m. and it will be finished. There is sufficient time.

Shri V. Raju May I make a submission? The objects of the Bill do not seem to be very controversial.

Mr. Speaker Order, order. The hon. Member has raised a point or order.

Shri V. Raju: I wish to say something else now. There are however some provisions in the Bill which are very controversial. (Interruptions.)

Mr Speaker Order, order. It does not matter. The hon. Member raised the question that without proper notice it ought not to have been brought to this House. A motion has been made asking the leave of the House to introduce a Bill. So far as discussion on the Bill is concerned, the hon. Prime Minister and Leader of the House suggests, in response to the suggestions made here, that it may be taken up tomorrow. The Leader of the Communist Group only says that, instead of in the morning, it can be taken up in the night.

Everybody agrees that it is urgent.

Shri V. Raju Who has agreed?

An hon. Member Shri Dange.

Mr Speaker. He is not the only leader. He is also a leader of his group, but Shri Dange is the leader of a bigger group.

Late last night the hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs informed me, that in view of the rise in prices it was proposed—probably the Cabinet took a decision late last night—to introduce this urgent measure. The

Chair, in response to the various suggestions made from time to time and objections raised, has always been anxious that as far as possible the number of ordinances during the inter-session period ought to be cut down. If we do not get through with this Bill, allow them to have an ordinance. They have only to wait for the close of business tomorrow evening.

Shri V. Raju. I do not think you should suggest that

Mr. Speaker. Order, order. What is this cross talk? Hon. Members should have a little patience.

Therefore, when the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs requested me to put it down on the agenda I allowed it to be put down on the business for this day under Rule 31(3). It says:

Save as otherwise provided in these rules, no business not included in the list of business for the day shall be transacted at any sitting without the leave of the Speaker."

The Speaker has, therefore, legitimately given his permission. To avoid ordinances being passed and an early opportunity being given to this House, I allowed it to be put down in the Order Paper. So far as its being brought up in the business of the day is concerned I have given permission and no exception can be taken.

Now, at the stage of introduction all that can be said is, if anybody objects to its introduction the hon. Minister can make one statement. The objection and the statement both having been made, I shall now put this motion to the vote of the House. As to when it ought to be taken, we will consider that question. I shall invite the Business Advisory Committee this afternoon. Let me sit with them and try to see that as much opportunity is given and as fair a discussion is allowed in the House as is possible. The hon. Leader of the House is quite willing for that and he has said so.

I shall now put the motion to the vote of the House. The question is

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Essential Commodities Act, 1955."

The motion was adopted.

Shri A. P. Jain. Sir, I introduce the Bill.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

STATEMENT SHOWING ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON ASSURANCES

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: I beg to lay on the Table a copy of each of the following statements showing the action taken by the Government on various assurances, promises and Government undertakings given by Ministers during the various sessions shown against each —

(1) Supplementary Statement No I Fifteenth Session, 1957 of First Lok Sabha [See Appendix III, annexure No 97]

(2) Supplementary Statement No V Fourteenth Session, 1956 of First Lok Sabha [See Appendix I, annexure No 98]

(3) Supplementary Statement No. XII Thirteenth Session, 1956 of First Lok Sabha [See Appendix III, annexure No 99]

NOTIFICATION RE AMENDMENTS TO TEA RULES

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo) I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (3) of section 49 of the Tea Act, 1953, a copy of the Notification No S.R.O. 1686 dated the 25th May, 1957 making certain amendments to the Tea Rules, 1954 [Placed in Library See No S-72/57]