

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Fifteenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 31st July, 1997."

*The motion was adopted*

[English]

SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN (TRIPURA EAST): Mr. Chairman, Sir, one M.L.A. was kidnapped in Tripura.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have not yet started Zero Hour. You may be given permission during Zero Hour. Please take your seat now.

THE ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES  
(SPECIAL PROVISIONS) AMENDMENT BILL \*

12.27 hrs.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMERS AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : \* \*Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Essential Commodities (Special Provisions) Act, 1981 and to make special provisions by way of amendment to the Essential Commodities Act, 1955:

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion Moved:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Essential Commodities (Special Provisions) Act, 1981 and to make special provisions by way of amendment to the Essential Commodities Act, 1955."

Shri Shyam Behari Mishra. You have given notice, but you have not given the reason for opposing the introduction of this Bill. Anyway, I permit you to make a short statement. Please note 'short', because I give you permission even though you have not fulfilled the condition.

[Translation]

SHRI SHYAM BEHARI MISHRA (BILHAUR): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. The Essential Commodities Act, 1955 is in force in this country. For controlling the traders the Licensing orders, Consumers Protection Act and Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 are in force. This Act was enacted only for five years because at that time there were drought conditions in the country. There was shortage of foodgrains and essential commodities. Today foodgrains are in abundance in the country. Foodgrains are being exported from the country. In such a situation the traders are being harassed. This legislation is increasing corruption and the officers are getting money illegally by harassing these traders. If such type of rule prevails

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in the country as is in Bihar, then I can say nothing otherwise this law should be withdrawn. Therefore, moving the motion to extend if further is not at all required. Hence this motion should be withdrawn. ....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: No notices have been given. Therefore, I do not allow anybody.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have given one concession to him.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the special provisions of the Essential Commodities Act were enforced in 1982 because of shortage of foodgrains in the country and to save consumer from difficulties and injustice. Just to save them from difficulties the Parliament enforced it for five years from 1982 to 1987 at first instance. In 1987 people felt that this law should not be withdrawn, it should remain in force. Then it was extended from 1987 to 1992. In 1992, the Members of Parliament felt that it should remain in force then it was extended for the year 1997. Now, the period of extension has been completed. Again this department.....(Interruptions) kindly listen.

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI (KOTA): It has been extended again and again....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly listen to the Minister. It is not proper. Listen to him. Look I have already given concession.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH: I request the hon. Members kindly to listen.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, you please continue. Let them not listen. You please tell us.

SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH: The standing committee of this Department, has also recommended that this should be extended for another five years and it should be continued. We have asked for the assent of all the states. Almost all the states have agreed to extend it. In this situation the feelings of hon. Members is that injustice should not be done to them. Therefore, we have also made a provision for amendment in it. Firstly, the collector can confiscate this. There was a scope for appeal in the State Government. Now the hon. Members have demanded to make it justifiable. We are amending this law to make it justifiable. There is a provision to go to judiciary because the hon. Member has a doubt that corruption could prevail there and to eliminate it a provision should be made in it. Therefore, I request that leave may be granted to introduce this Bill.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Essential Commodities (Special