

Charan Das. He is not present. So, I put clause 2 to the vote of the House. The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted*

*Clause 2 was added to the Bill*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted*

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

15.50 hrs.

#### AUROVILLE FOUNDATION BILL

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now we will take the next item — Auroville Foundation Bill.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI. L.P. SHAHI): On behalf of Shri P. Shiv Shanker, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the acquisition and transfer of the undertakings of Auroville and to vest such undertakings in a foundation established for the purpose with a view to making long-term

arrangements for the better management and further development of Auroville in accordance with its original charter and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Sir, at this point of time, I would like to make a very brief statement about the provisions made in the Bill. Auroville was conceived out of a charter proclaimed by Mother in 1968. It aims at international understanding, peace, progress and bringing humanity together. For a few years thereafter, that is, upto 1973, things went on very well but after the Mother left this world, differences arose between the society and the Auroville resulting in greater controversy, sometimes in criminal litigation and thereafter Government of India had to intervene and bring an Act in 1980. As things could not settle down, this Act had also to be extended in 1985 and 1987. Now we are placed in a position when it has been found that the society and the Auroville are not pulling on well with each other. Therefore, there is a proposal for Auroville Foundation before us. This Foundation has three basic elements. One is the International Advisory Council. The other is the Governing Board and the third is the Residents' Assembly for day-to-day working. These three bodies will work in future towards attainment of the goal of Auroville. In the meantime, after 1980, things have been straightened to some extent and efforts were made in Auroville towards afforestation, soil conservation, water conservation, agriculture, integrated rural development, educational research, scientific research, cottage industries and computer technology. The residents of Auroville have also developed a self-organising system. All this needs to be encouraged and consolidated. The Bill which is before us has certain special features as I have already pointed out.

Now, in order to avoid all controversies getting perpetuated in the Governing Board, the Government has decided in principle that none of the existing societies or trusts

[Sh. L.P. Shahi]

will have a right of representation on the Governing Board. All nominations to this body, will, therefore, be on individual basis. The Mother had declared in the beginning that "Auroville wants to be the bridge between the past and the future. Taking advantage of all discoveries from without and from within, Auroville will boldly spring towards future realisation." The aim of Auroville is to discover a new life, deeper and more complete and to show the world that tomorrow will be better than today. In such an endeavour, difficulties are naturally to be expected. But the Government is determined to help the process of development of Auroville in such a way that the aims and the goals of Auroville could be realised by all those who wish to be engaged in these material and spiritual researches. It is in this very context, I appeal to the Hon. Members that the Auroville Foundation Bill be taken into consideration and discussed in this House.

MR. CHAIRMAN (SHRI SHARAD DIGHE): Motion moved:

"That the Bill to provide for the acquisition and transfer of the undertakings of Auroville and to vest such undertakings in a foundation established for the purpose with a view to making long-term arrangements for the better management and further development of Auroville in accordance with its original charter and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration.

Shri Aziz Qureshi.

[*Translation*]

SHRI AZIZ OURESHI (Satna): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I stand to support the Auroville Foundation Bill, 1988. Hon. Minister has just stated that this foundation was established in 1969 by the mother of Pondichery, a sacred personality. It is known to all of us that there is a very important background of this important organisation of Pondichery

and that is the message conveyed by Shri Arvindo Ghosh. The flames of his revolutionary message originated from his academic background can still be seen and felt by us. This Auroville Foundation came into existence because of the situation prevailing in Pondichery Ashram afterwards.

There was a special aim behind establishing this foundation and the Pondichery ashram before it. The aim was to develop this organisation as an International Cultural Township and should propagate mutual understanding, promotion of peace, peace in the world, abolition of hatred between the man and the man and to build a new society based on cultural activities. The importance of this organisation has increased at present.

There is a race for arms in the world. On the one hand there are wars and on the other people want to come close to each other and want to cooperate for the common cause. Big powers of the world, particularly imperialist powers, do not want peace to be established in the third world countries in order to have continued sale of their arms. The significance of Auroville Foundation increases in such a situation. I am saying this because Shri Arvindo Ghosh, who infused the spirit of revolution, had to migrate to Pondichery because he could get no place in India because India was ruled by Britishers at that time. He continued the struggle and fight. If we turn the pages of history, we shall find that Bengal has given us great revolutionaries like Arvindo Ghosh, Maulana Azad and Subhash Chandra Bose, who infused the spirit of revolution in the country. Besides these, there was another revolutionary Raja Mahendra Pratap, whose aim was to establish a new society in the world based on love between man and man and the happiness of the people in general and where there are no geographical barriers at all. Among these revolutionaries, the names of Maulana Barqutullah Bhopali and Lala Hardyal cannot be forgotten.

16.00 hrs.

They kept the flame of independence move-

ment burning not only in India but outside the borders of India, in Canada, America, Japan, Afganistan and Turkey. Now when you have brought this Bill, I would like that we should value the sentiments and the objectives for which Pondichery Ashram was founded by Shri Arvindo Ghosh and subsequently the Ashram was given the shape of foundation by the Mother. There is a shrine of Shri Arvindo Ghosh in the Ashram which is a place of worship for the new generation and where they go and pay their homage. I will like to say in this connection that when you are going to establish it, we should establish as a centre of French culture there because the place where this ashram existed was under the possession of French.

We have a tradition where we have accommodated various religions and cultures and have provided full opportunity for flourishing them. Not only this, we have kept them safe. Due to this, I would like to say that Auroville Foundation should be made a centre of French culture and language. I would also like to say that the French culture should be continued and protected by the Government. I want that we should not forget those great revolutionaries of France who showed the path of revolution to the entire world. French revolution has influenced every thinker and has added a new chapter in the history of the world. French is a beautiful language and the French people are civilised people. We pay our homage to the people of the country who fought bravely against facism in the second world-war and faced Hitler valiantly. I want that the culture of such a great country should be preserved here and we should provide facilities for its further development.

I congratulate the Indian Government and the Hon. Minister for bringing the Bill related to Auroville Foundation. There have been clashes regarding the foundation, its property and the society a few days back and the way things were propagated is really a matter of shame for us. It is really unfortunate that the people involved in infighting do not know the spirit behind the foundation of Pondichery Ashram and Auroville Founda-

tion. This Foundation is getting funds from Government of India, State Governments, Foreign countries and even from UNESCO. You should keeping thing in mind that the elements detrimental of to the interest of India and the nation should find no place here. The Government should be vigilant in this regard. The spirit and the sentiments behind establishing this Foundation are still alive in India and will continue to do so till the man's dreams, are fulfilled.

This foundation is built on the dreams of man, which get shattered and broken and are also dashed to the ground many a times. But still one cannot stop dreaming of bright future, because a person has every right to see dreams and no one can deprive him of it. So I want that Government should ensure nourishment of the sentiments on the basis of which this Auroville Foundation, this the Pondicherry Ashram was established.

with these words, I support this Bill.

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16.06 hrs

STATEMENT RE: PROCUREMENT/MINIMUM SUPPORT PRICES OF RABI CROPS OF 1988-89

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): Mr. Chairman, the Government have fixed the procurement/minimum support prices of Rabi crops of 1988-89 to be marketed in 1989-90 season.

2. The procurement price of wheat of fair average quality has been raised from Rs. 173 per quintal during 1988-89 marketing season to Rs. 183 per quintal for the 1989-90 marketing season.

3. For barely of fair average quality, the minimum support price has been raised by Rs. 10/- per quintal and fixed at Rs. 145/- per quintal for 1989-90 marketing season.

4. The minimum support price for gram