

an urgent need to make an assessment of the results of the implementation of the Urban Land Ceiling Act and to undertake suitable amendments to the said Act, so that the purpose and object of the Act is not defeated.

[*Translation*]

- (vi) **Need to Issue directions to sugar mills in Bihar to start crushing cane immediately in the interest of workers and cane growers**

SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY (Gopalganj): Sugar industry is a major industry in North Bihar but now-a-days it is facing financial crisis. The State Government has itself admitted that the sugar mills have reached this situation owing to managerial in-efficiency. The livelihood of about 7 lakh farmer families and 40,000 workers of this area depends on this industry. 15 mills in the public sector and 13 mills in the private sector in Bihar have already suffered losses to the tune of about 16.8 crores. The mills in the public sector have to pay an arrear of about Rs. 10.5 crores to the cane growers. In most of the mills wages of workers have not been paid since February 1988. It is feared that the farmers as well as the workers will be facing undue difficulties and the Sugar Corporation will be suffering losses worth several crores of rupees if any delay is caused in crushing cane this year also. It is also learnt that the Sugar mills functioning in the public sector in Hathua, Loria, Sugoli and Motipur are being modernised. Due to this it does not appear that crushing of cane in these mills would start before 15th of December. They are finding it difficult to mobilise Rs. 30 crores required for repairing the mills. It is learnt that 4 mills in the private sector may start crushing in the first week of November. If the crushing does not take place in the mill located at Hathua, it may cause loss to the tune of crores of rupees. The General Manager said that not a single paice is available with the Hathua unit for repairing and maintenance. Despite requests made to Government, no funds have been made available so far. It is a matter of

great regret. I, therefore, request the Central Government to intervene in the matter immediately, take effective steps and get the crushing of cane started.

- (vii) **Need to take measures to check population growth in the country**

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI (Ghosi): The United Nations Organisation has expressed its astonishment at the rising trend of population in India. Though large sums of money is being spent on family planning, its outcome is very negligible. It is because the figures showing number of persons undergone sterilisation and vasectomy operations are not genuine. The population growth would have been only 2 per cent on the basis of figures of sterilisation and vasectomy operations but the population is growing at the rate of 5 per cent. In densely populated States like Uttar Pradesh, fake sterilisation and tubectomy operation certificates are issued. Besides, people having more than 40-45 years age are being sterilised and made to undergo vasectomy operation. In a number of cases on person is being shown to have undergone sterilisation operation for a number of times. Now a stage has come when huge amounts are being spent on showing fictitious figures. Actual cases of sterilisation or vasectomy is negligible. The growth of population is stalling all development processes. The Government should take steps to punish people giving fictitious figures and showing sterilisation or vasectomy operations for the second time. It may also be ensured to keep the population growth at zero level and to implement schemes providing both punishment as well as incentives as the case may be.

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12.24 hrs.

SALARY, ALLOWANCES AND PENSION OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-

TARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954, be taken into consideration."

The Joint Committee on Salary and Allowances of Members of Parliament has been making recommendations from time to time for increasing the allowances and facilities of Members of Parliament.

After examining these recommendations carefully and in order to enable the Members to discharge their duties efficiently and diligently, the Government propose to accept some of these recommendations and even acceptance of these recommendations would involve the expenditure to the tune of Rs. 4 crores approximately per annum. It has not been possible to accept other recommendations in view of the financial stringency. This Bill provides to implement some of the recommendations and the other recommendations which the Government have accepted would be given effect to separately through amendment of the relevant rules. I would like to inform the House in brief some of the facilities which are being given effect to through the provisions of this Bill.

Section 3 of the Act entitles an M.P. to a salary of Rs. 1000/- per month. It is proposed to raise it to Rs. 1500/- per month. Under the same section a member is now entitled to a Daily Allowance @ Rs. 75/- per day. It is now being raised to Rs. 150/- per day.

At present a Member is not entitled to read mileage allowance for the journey by road performed by the spouse. The Bill seeks to entitle an M.P. to the road mileage allowance for the journey or part thereof performed by road by the spouse of the member unaccompanied by the Member.

Under Section 6 and 6 B of the Act, Members of Parliament, their spouses and

companies are provided with a free first class rail pass. It is proposed to provide them with a rail pass for air conditioned two tier in lieu of the pass for ordinary first class.

Under Section 6 A of the Act the companion of a member can travel in the lowest class of steamer (without diet) while accompanying the Member. It is proposed to allow the spouse or companion to travel by the highest class of steamer (without diet) free of charge while accompanying the members at any time between island and the mainland. It is also proposed to allow the Member to travel by air either with the spouse or companion from their usual place of residence in the island to the Nearest airport of the mainland.

Considering that the rail/road journey from Ladakh is very inconvenient and time consuming, it is proposed to entitle the member who has his usual place of residence in Ladakh to the air fare for each single journey by air performed by him accompanied either by spouse or a companion from any airport in Ladakh to the airport in Delhi and back at any time.

It is also proposed to make a provision for an Office Expense Allowance, @ Rs. 1000/- per mensem.

Section 8A of the Act provides for payment of pension to ex-Members of Parliament. It is proposed that in case a Member of Parliament dies in harness a pension of Rs. 500/- per month may be paid to the spouse or the dependent, if any, of such Member for the period of five years from the date of his death.

Section 8B of the Act entitles a Member of Parliament to a repayable advance upto Rs. 20,000/- for purchase of conveyance. It is proposed to raise the maximum limit of advance to Rs. 50,000/- Clauses 8, 9 and 10 of the Bill having financial implications may be taken as printed in thick type.

I would now revert to those facilities which the Government have accepted and would be given effect to by necessary

amendments in the relevant rules. These are:-

- i) Members of Parliament are at present entitled to constituency allowance at the rate of Rs. 1250/- per month. It is being enhanced to Rs. 3000/- per month.
- ii) Members at present are entitled to a concession of free water and electricity upto Rs. 3000/- per month. There has been a demand to calculate it annually. This would now be computed @ Rs. 3600/- per annum.
- iii) In view of the increase in taxi charges etc. the Government has accepted the demand to increase road mileage allowance from Rs. 2/- per k.m. to Rs. 3/- per k.m.
- iv) In case the member chooses to travel by circuitous route, the existing rule provides that he would be entitled to a sum of Rs. 120/- in addition to the normal air fare. It is proposed to increase this sum to Rs. 250/- for each such journey.

Since the Bill is very simple and non-controversial, I feel and hope that it would receive unanimous support from all sides of the House and may be passed without much discussion. With these words I commend the Bill for consideration by the House.

I have one or two verbal amendments to this which I will move later on.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament, Act, 1954 be taken into consideration."

SHRI ANANDA PATHAK (Darjeeling): Sir, the Government have brought this Bill in an inopportune moment when the country as a whole is facing serious economic crisis.

What was the hurry in pushing through this Bill at this moment?

When about ten lakhs of State Government employees in Bihar are struggling and when they are on strike for the last two months for increasing their emoluments, why have the Government come forward to increase the cash emoluments like salary, allowances, DA, etc. of the MPs, instead of settling the reasonable demands of the striking employees?

If the Government are really interested in ensuring efficient and effective functioning of the MPs, they should consider providing other essential amenities like secretarial and clerical assistance, facility of free postal services, stationery, etc. If the Government are really interested in recognising the services rendered by the ex-MPs to the nation, they should consider providing free first class railway passes and reasonable pension to them irrespective of the number of terms served by the ex-Members of Parliament. They should also be provided free medical facilities where they are staying so that they may continue to serve the country with dignity.

But these amenities are not provided in the Bill.

Therefore, I request the Government to consider these proposals with sympathy.

12.32 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN MALDIVES

[English]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI): I rise to apprise the House about