

The motion was adopted.

SHRI S.M. GURADDI: I introduce the Bill.

15.31 1/2 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

[English]

(Amendment of Article 340)

SHRI. SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

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

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: I introduce the Bill.

15.32 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

[English]

(Amendment of Article 51A)

SHRI. SHANTARAM NAIK (Panaji): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

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

The motion was adopted.

SHRI. SHANTARAM NAIK: I introduce the Bill.

15.32 1/2 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

[English]

(Insertion of new Article 347A)

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR (Hamirpur): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

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

The motion was adopted.

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: I introduce the Bill.

15.33 hrs.

NATIONAL PENAL CODE (AMENDMENT) BILL*

[English]

(Amendment of Section 323)

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Panaji): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: I introduce the Bill.

15.33 1/2 hrs.

FAIR PRICE SHOPS (REGULATION)
BILL—*CONTD.*

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will take up further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri G. S. Basavaraju on the 21st April, 1989, namely:-

"That the Bill to regulate the functioning of fair price shops and for matters connected therewith, be taken into consideration."

Shri Syed Shahabuddin.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Bill before us proposes a system for the regulation of the functioning of the public Distribution System.

15.34 hrs.

[SHRI N. VENKATA RATNAM *in the Chair*]

Sir, the Public Distribution System even today is controlled and regulated by the Government, by the Department of Civil Supplies. The basic difference here is that the Bill postulates the creation or the establishment of a Central Board to which the State Boards shall be affiliated not only for the purpose of procurement of grains but also for regulating the distribution, for fixing their prices, etc. I fully appreciate the reason for this Bill. There is dissatisfaction throughout the country with the working of the Public Distribution System.

The supplies are sometimes scanty and

inadequate; sometimes their quality leaves much to be desired; sometimes the supply is irregular. Things are available; at other times, they are not available. These difficulties are there. But, frankly, I do not quite understand how these difficulties will disappear if the Government department was replaced merely by the creation of a Board at the Central level, or at the State level. That supervision is always available. After all, there is the Central Government which can go into the grievances of the consumers, and the difficulties in terms of supply, or in terms of pricing policy; and I presume that they do not ignore the public complaints when they get them, that they go through them and try to rectify the situation to the best possible extent.

Therefore, I do not quite understand the purpose that will be served by the creation of a top-heavy structure. I would have rather liked the system to be decentralised and I will place that idea before the Government for its kind consideration—that we ought to decentralize the system of distribution, that the local fair price shop must come under some sort of local, social control. There should perhaps be some linkage with the Gram Panchayat, a functional linkage between Panchayat and the fair-price shop. In fact, it should become a statutory responsibility of every Gram Panchayat to run, wherever necessary, a fair price shop, or more. Similarly in the towns, in the urban areas, there should be some relationship with the Ward Committees or the Ward Commissioners; and they could have some authority to supervise the system of distribution. I think it is only by bringing the fair price shops closer to the people directly under their inspection, under their supervision, under their control that we can expect to introduce such improvement as is necessary—and not by creating a new Board in Delhi or a new Board in the State capitals like Patna.

This is my basic criticism. I am not questioning the fact about the difficulties in the system, as they exist. I am sure they are before the Government, and I hope that the hon. Minister shall tell us how he is trying to