

12.24 hrs.

**FOOD CORPORATIONS
(AMENDMENT) BILL—contd.**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We shall now take up further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri Sukh Ram, on the 28th July, 1988, namely :

“That the Bill further to amend the Food Corporations Act, 1964, be taken into consideration.”

Shri Sukh Ram to continue his speech.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM) : Sir, while replying to the debate on this Amendment Bill the other day, I had tried to cover all the points raised by the hon. Members. A concern was expressed about the high rate of storage and transit losses and some administrative expenditure.

I simply want to mention in this regard that FCI has been taking effective steps for the last three years to reduce the avoidable expenditure. For instance, in 1986-87, against the target of Rs. 195.30 crores, the FCI could reduce the expenditure to the extent of Rs. 238.42 crores and in 1987-88, against the target of Rs. 232.20 crores, the achievement was Rs. 276.11 crores. Similarly, during the current financial year, against the target of Rs. 53.16 crores, Rs. 15.97 crores reduction has already been effected. As far as as this storage and transit losses are concerned, in the year 1982-83, it was 2.37 and we could reduce it to 1.63 during 1986-87. So, all necessary steps have been taken to reduce avoidable expenditure but there are certain expenditure which are unavoidable. For instance, as far as wheat for 1986-87 is concerned, procurement incidental comes to 34.80 p. per kg. Out of this procurement incidental, 26.66 p., that is, nearly 76 per cent of the expenditure is such that it cannot be controlled. It consists of interest charges, payment on borrowing from banks, mandi charges, cost of gunny bags, purchase and sales tax by the State Governments. It is

only 8.15 p. on which reduction can be made and we are taking necessary steps to reduce the expenditure. So, I think that I have covered all the points raised by the Members and I welcome any suggestions from any Member which can be given in writing or any Member can meet me. I will definitely consider their suggestions. If they can effect any improvements in the performance of the FCI, it will be a most welcome step. As I stated the other day, the scope of the amendment is very limited as the hon. Members know that FCI does not generate its own resources. FCI gets money from the Government in the shape of loan, grant, subsidy or from financial institutions. It was at the instance of the Finance Ministry that this enabling Clause has been introduced. So, it is from the non-banking sector also that the FCI is being empowered to raise funds for its working capital and investment, etc. I think most for its working capital and investment, etc. I think most of the Members excepting one Member, who expressed some apprehension that money may not be properly utilised—I simply want to say in this connection that the activities and the performance of the FCI is being reviewed regularly by the Secretary quarterly and I also review it. And then all the activities of the FCI are being scrutinised by this House and outside also. So, there is no question of misutilisation of the funds being procured by the FCI from other agencies.

With these words, I thank the Members who have participated in the debate and I will request that this amendment be passed accordingly.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN (Murshidabad) : I want a clarification. In the Consultative Committee meeting.....**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You cannot refer to the Consultative Committee minutes here. Nothing will go on record.

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

**Not recorded.

"That the Bill further to amend the Food Corporations Act, 1964, be taken in to consideration".

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That Clause 2 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1 (short title)

Amendment made :

"Page 1, line 4,—
for "1987" substitute "1988". (2)

(SHRI SUKH RAM)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That Clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Enacting Formula

Amendment made

Page 1, line 1.—
for "Thirty—eighth" substitute
"Thirty-ninth"

(SHRI SUKH RAM)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Enacting Formula, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

The Enacting Formula, as amended was added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Long Title stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

The Long Title was added to the Bill

SHRI SUKH RAM : I beg to move :

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed".

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed".

The motion was adopted.

12.34 hrs.

LABOUR LAWS (EXEMPTION FROM
FURNISHING RETURNS AND
MAINTAINING REGISTERS BY
CERTAIN ESTABLISHMENTS)
BILL.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker I beg to move :

"That the Bill to provide for the exemption of employers in relation to establishments employing a small number of persons from furnishing returns and maintaining registers under certain labour laws, be taken into consideration".

Since independence, a large number of enactments have been approved by Parliament for protecting the rights of workers in respect of wages, bonus, provident fund, health insurance, welfare etc., pertaining to industrial establishments, shops and establishments, transport companies and mines.

These laws necessarily require the concerned Establishments to maintain several registers and books and to periodically submit returns, so as to fulfil the legal provisions. However, it has been represented by smaller establishments that they are required to maintain too many registers and file too many returns under the various laws