

points made by the hon. Members ; and I shall bring them to the notice of the Business Advisory Committee.

EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN
(AMENDMENT) BILL*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now item No. 9. Shri T. Anjiah.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Employment of Children Act, 1938.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Employment of Children Act, 1938.”

The Motion was adopted.

SHRI T. ANJIAH : I introduce the Bill.

15.20 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (Punjab)
1985-86 — *Contd.*

[English]

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am happy that ultimately an agreement has been arrived at between the Union Government and the Akali Dal President, Sant Longowal. You will recollect that several hon. members had expressed their views when discussion took place on the Punjab issue as well as on the budget relating to the State of Punjab. In fact, any person with an open mind and a rational thinking will say that the present terms of agreement are the only alternative

and a tangible solution for the problem, because in a democratic society and when there are Union Territories and States in the country, whenever there are some disputes arise between some States, there is no other alternative but to go to some tribunal which should be entrusted to give some judgment relating to the problem, and we have a tribunal for sharing of water. Similarly, some commission is there for deciding which area should go to which State when there is some tussle between the States relating to some geographical boundary and area. I should say, unfortunately, these very terms of agreement could have been accepted very very long ago which would have avoided several untoward incidents, unhappy incidents resulting in loss of lives next only after the partition of the country when thousands of people had been killed.

I am sorry to say my personal opinion that the ruling party has purposely dragged the situation without conceding to these demands on the lines of the terms of agreement which has been accepted now mainly to divert the peoples' attention and the peoples' dissatisfaction over the functioning of the government. In 1980 they were telling that the Janata Party Government was not performing well and that they will give the government which will work. Unfortunately, during those nearly 4-5 years, nothing, much progress could be achieved and the poverty had increased and different cross-sections of the people were very much dissatisfied, Unemployment increased.

In these circumstances, unfortunately, keeping their party interests uppermost and neglecting the national interests, national integration and national unit—I am very sorry to state this—they have allowed things to drift to a very sad state of affairs, and the extremists got an opportunity for killing innocent Hindus. This resulted in loss of innocent lives and also destruction of property. All these things have happened. But anyway, past is past and I am happy. We are all happy that this solution has been arrived at at least

*Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Pt. II Section 2, dated 26.7.85

[Shri V. Sobhanadreeswara Rao]

now. I congratulate the Government. It is better late than never, as the saying goes.

Now I request, through you, the people of Punjab to respond positively and stand by the terms of the agreement through which the differences can be sorted out and I request the leaders of Akali Dal not to yield to the extremist forces or the terrorists,—or those extremist elements—and stand by the unity of the country.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri, R. Jeevarathinam,

[*Translation*]

*SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM (Arakonam) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would begin by quoting a couplet from the great poet-saint of Tamil Nadu, Tiruvalluvar, which says "Be Born in Greatness ; otherwise, do not take birth". I have no hesitation in saying that our young Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi is born in greatness.

I would now say a few words in regard to Punjab Budget. The opportunity to end presidential rule in Punjab has come about. I am sure that elections will be held soon and the popular government set up there for the fulfilment of the aspirations of the people of Punjab. For the last 3 years, Punjab was in a state of agitation. The terrorists were ruling the roost. On the 24th evening at about 6 o' clock, the situation in Punjab changed so suddenly like the clouds disappearing on sun-rise. The people of Punjab heaved a sigh of relief. The entire nation acclaimed the memorandum of settlement signed by our Prime Minister and Sant Longowal. Within three months after becoming the Prime Minister, our Prime Minister conducted general elections and gave to our party unprecedented success. The world leaders applauded the rejuvenation of democracy in India. The credit

for this exclusively goes to Shri Rajiv Gandhi. After becoming Prime Minister, having been duly elected, he declared that the resolution of Punjab tangle and the restoration of law and order in Punjab are his foremost duty. Within two days after becoming the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Shri Arjun Singh was appointed as Governor of Punjab by the Prime Minister. The Opposition Members and the Press sarcastically criticised this move. But our Prime Minister was undeterred. He with great political sagacity conveyed to Sant Longowal his views about Punjab problem. Before signing the memorandum of settlement, he confabulated with Opposition Leaders and sought their advice. Only after that he signed the memorandum of settlement with Sant Longowal. The resolution of Punjab tangle reflects not only his unassailable faith in democracy but also his determination to make democracy Indian way of life. He has proved that he is not merely a politician but a statesman. He has become the torch-bearer of the heritage of Motilal Nehru. He is inspiring the younger generation of India by implementing policies for their welfare. His mother, Shrimati Indira Gandhi gave to the nation the Government that works. Shri Rajiv Gandhi has given to the country the Government that works fast. I repeat that the solution of Punjab problem has become the harbinger of Hindu-Sikh unity and it has given to the nation a new leadership which will protect the integrity of the country.

I would quote from a song of the inimitable patriot-poet of Tamil Nadu, Shri Subramania Bharatiyar, which says that Mahatma Gandhi took birth in India to ensure that India becomes beacon light in the comity of nations after becoming independent and after getting rid of the poverty. He sang "Let Mahatma Gandhi live long to bring lustre to the country and to nurture the unity of the nation." Now the unity of the country is safe and secure in the hands of our young Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi. The name of Mahatma Gandhi will be ever remembered for his role in the spiritual upliftment of the country.

*The speech was originally delivered in Tamil.

Shri Rajiv Gandhi's name has been written in golden letters in the history of our country for his political sagacity to secure the unity of the country.

Sir, we are beholden to our young Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi for having ushered an era of peace and amity in the country with the solution of Punjab problem.

With these words I conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI N. V. N. SOMU (Madras North): On behalf of D.M.K. Party and our leader, Dr. Karunanidhi, I welcome this Punjab settlement.

Our President, Dr. Karunanidhi, has given a statement welcoming this. It is always said that better late than never. It should have been reached long ago avoiding so many great losses. I hope, the next Budget will be discussed by the newly elected Punjab Assembly. It has widely appeared in the press that elections may come in the month of October. I expect from the Government to conduct the elections in a free and fair manner.

Clause 8 (1) of the settlement says that according to Shiromani Akali Dal the Anandpur Sahib Resolution is entirely within the framework of the Indian Constitution. It attempts to define the concept of Centre-State relations in a manner which may bring about the true federal characteristic of our unitary Constitution and that the purpose of the Resolution is to provide greater autonomy to the States with a view to strengthen the unity and integrity of the country since unity in diversity forms the corner stone of our national unity. Unity in diversity is the maxim given by our late lamented Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru. If it is so, why is it being referred to the Sarkaria Commission? Instead of referring the Anandpur Sahib Resolution to the Sarkaria Commission, our Prime Minister should

have discussed the matter with the Akali Dal and evolved a good formula acceptable to both sides. Our leader, Dr. Karunanidhi, who is a pioneer in the Centre-State relations, had set up Justice Rajamannar Committee on Centre-State relations, which is the first of its kind in the country. He, while welcoming and congratulating both our Prime Minister and Sant Longowal, could not accept the reference of the same to the Sarkaria Commission.

Clause 11 of the Memorandum says that the Central Government may take some steps for the promotion of Punjabi language. 'May' is not a definite word. 'May' implies may not also. The Central Government shall take some definite steps for the promotion of Punjabi language. In this connection I want to emphasise that the Central Government should not only develop Hindi language alone but all the 15 other languages recognised by the Constitution.

15.33 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

[English]

First Report

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska): I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the First Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 24th July, 1985."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the First Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented