

a radical change. The Government should make amends to its attitude. It should not treat it as a prestige issue. If necessary, call the representatives of the farmers' organisations, sit across the table, discuss their problems and try to solve their problems. Then only the country can make a rapid progress. Even in communist countries like China, they are making rapid changes. They have given property right. Now they are allowing the farmers to get more income in order to purchase any amount of consumer goods. This in turn will help the rural industries and also provide further employment in those areas. Similarly, if our country is to develop, we have to make necessary changes in our policy. I request the Government to make necessary changes in its policy.

With these words, I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to take only one minute. Though this discussion will be concluded on Monday or Tuesday but since Shri Bairagi has mentioned about *locusts* invasion, it would not be appropriate if this gets published in papers. I want to simply inform that this year many stages of North and North-West Africa are threatened with *locusts*, invasion. A programme at international level has been started for the control and destruction of locusts by the officials. There is no indication as such of the advancement of locusts towards the North-Eastern border of India, and even if locusts enter our country, we have made full arrangements to prevent them to cause any damage to our crops. After holding talks with the B.S.F., we have deployed the entire staff in aeroplanes, so that if the locusts arrive here we may tackle that problem. But there is no indication till now if locusts are entering India.

15.32 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Amendment of article 16)

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Idukki): 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. P.J. KURIEN: I introduce the Bill.

SCHEDULED CASTE CONVERTS (RESERVATION OF POSTS AND OTHER BENEFITS) BILL*

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Idukki): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for reservation of posts in services and other financial benefits to scheduled caste converts and for matters connected therewith or incidental there.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for reservation of posts in services and other financial benefits to scheduled caste converts and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: I introduce the Bill.