

6. Shri Manik Sanyal	...	18th November to 20th December, 1985
7. Shri K. Ramamurthy	...	3rd December to 20th December, 1985
8. Shri Chhitubhai Gamit	...	25th November to 15th December, 1985
9. Shri Charan Singh	...	29th November to 20th December 1985.

Is it the pleasure of the House that leave as recommended by the Committee may be granted ?

HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. SPEAKER : The leave is granted. The Members will be informed accordingly.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS
Ninth Report

SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI (Dharmapuri) : I beg to present the Ninth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS

Minutes

SHRI MADHUSUDAN VAIRALE (Akola) : I beg to lay on the Table Minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the sitting of the Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House held on the 5th December, 1985.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) Need to direct the banks not to increase service charges on the issue of Bank drafts, Bills Cheques and other services

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT (Nagpur) : Sir, according to press

reports, the nationalised banks all over the country have exorbitantly increased the bank service charges in respect of providing bank drafts, bills, cheques and other services.

The general public in the country particularly the lower and middle class families and business enterprises have get a severe setback due to the increase of commission by the banks.

The Federation of Associations of Maharashtra and Nag-Vidarbha Chambers of Commerce has also urged the Union Finance Minister to intervene and review the bank service charges. There is great resentment among the traders and lower and middle class families due to the hike made by the banks in their service charges all over the country.

The Government should immediately intervene into this affair and the banks should be asked to charge nominal charges in respect of providing such services etc.

- (ii) Need to purchase more mesta crop in Andhra Pradesh by the Jute Corporation of India by opening more purchase centres

SHRI S. M. BHATTAM (Visakhapatnam) : Mesta crop is raised mainly in Srikakulam Vizianagram and partly in Vizag district of Andhra Pradesh under rainfed irrigated conditions by small and marginal farmers. The market price in Jute Trade registered a steep fall in different markets in Bihar and Calcutta with the result that the prevailing market price in the above districts is only Rs. 170 to Rs. 180 per quintal as against the local ruling prices of Rs. 429 to Rs. 795 in the preceding year, that is 1984-85.

The estimated area under mesta in these districts is about one lakh hectares in 1985-86. The anticipated production is also estimated to have increased from 5.5 lakh bales in 1984-85 to 10 lakh bales in 1985-86. However, the Jute Corporation of India purchased only 1300 bales as against the reported targeted procurement of 1 lakh bales during 1985-86. The Jute Corporation of India is also offering only Rs. 181 to Rs 186 per quintal of fibre whereas private trade offered only Rs. 170. The Jute Corporation of India has opened only 11 purchasing centres so far. The Jute Corporation of India should come forward to purchase at least 75 per cent of produced marketed in Andra Pradesh by opening more purchase centres. Further, in view of the increasing area under mesta, a processing facility should also be considered by Jute Corporation of India.

- (iii) Need to amend the Urban Land Ceiling Act, 1976 with a view to provide accommodation to the common man

SHRI ANOOPCHAND SHAH (Bombay North) : I would like to draw the attention of the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing on the following matter :

The Urban Land Ceiling Act was brought before Parliament in the year 1976 and passed with a view to provide housing facility to the common man at a most reasonable price either by acquiring the land for public purpose or by regulating the construction of houses as per the rules and regulations of the Urban Land Ceiling Act.

During the last about nine years it has had very adverse effects. This prices of land and houses have gone up tremendously and acute shortage of houses in urban area. It has created a number of problems including the creation of slums in metropolitan cities.

I would like to request hon. Minister for Urban Development and Housing

to come forward with suitable amendments to the Urban Development and Housing to come forward with suitable amendments to the Urban Land Ceiling Act, 1976 so that the problems of houses for common man can be solved and the prices of houses can be brought down.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

- (iv) Need to enact comprehensive legislation to enable authorities to take effective action against erring manufacturers of chemical-based consumer goods for not observing safety measures

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE (Bombay North Central) : A series of disasters due to gas leakage in urban cities like Bhopal, Bombay and Delhi is posing a serious threat to the life and health of the people living in these cities. On 3rd December, 1984, a potent combination of highly toxic gases principally methyl isocyanate, surged out under the pressure of a runaway chemical reaction from the Union Carbide pesticides plant in Bhopal and killed not less than 2500 people and made one lakh people suffer from varying kinds and degrees of medical disability. Chlorine gas leakage from a storage tank of Ilac Ltd. at Chembur, Bombay which occurred on 30th August, 1985 resulted in killing of one person and hurting more than 120. Massive leak of Oeum from a storage tank at the Shriram Food and Fertilizers plant of Delhi on 4th December, 1985 created considerable panic in the capital and gave rise to complaints of throat irritation, breathlessness and bouts of coughing and killed at least one person. These and such other incidents have highlighted the urgency of introducing comprehensive legislation which would enable the enforcing authorities to take effective action against the management which are not observing safety measures in their plants. I urge upon the Ministry of Labour and Industries to undertake such legislation at the earliest.