

20.13 hrs.

ADMINISTRATORS-GENERAL
(AMENDMENT) BILL

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We take up the next Bill, that is, "The Administrators-General (Amendment) Bill, 1983."

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE,
AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGAN
NATH KAUSHAL) : I beg to move :

"That the Bill further to amend the Administrators-General Act, 1963, as passed by Rajya Sabha be taken into consideration".

Sir, as will be apparent from the Statement of Objects and Reasons annexed to the Bill, the purpose of this Bill is quite simple and it is non-controversial. As you know Sir, among the various modes by which authority for administration of assets may be obtained by a legal heir over properties left behind by a deceased person, the mode of obtaining a certificate under the Administrators-General Act, 1963, is the simplest and least expensive. However, a certificate can be obtained under the Act only where the value of the assets left by the deceased does not exceed the limit specified in Section 29 of the Act. In the Act as enacted in 1963 this limit was rupees 5,000 - for the grant of a certificate by the Administrators-General. As a result of representations made by the widows Association of Chandigarh on behalf of widows in general and war widows in particular, this limit was increased to rupees fifteen thousand in 1972.

There have been demands for a further increase in the said monetary limit. We have, in this connection, also consulted the State Governments and the Union Territories as to the necessity and desirability of increasing the monetary limit. Almost all the State Governments and the Union Territories have sent replies and in the light of the views received from the State Governments and the Union Territories, we have proposed to increase the monetary limit laid down under

section 29(1) of the Act from rupees fifteen thousand to rupees fifty thousand. Necessary consequential amendments have also been made in the Bill to section 9 (right of Administrator General to apply for administration of estates), section 10 (power of Administrator-General to collect and hold assets) and section 36 (Administrator-General not bound to take out administration on account of assets for which he has granted certificate) to increase the amount to rupees fifty thousand.

Sir, such an increase should be a welcome measure for all concerned as the monetary value of the assets has been increasing rapidly due to inflationary forces. For instance, even an ordinary worker these days may leave behind him after his death, terminal benefits for exceeding rupees fifteen thousand. As you are aware Sir, value of lands, buildings and immovable assets has increased tremendously in recent years especially in urban areas.

The amendment, therefore, would help persons in the lower income-group as they would now be saved from the protracted, complicated and expensive procedure involved in the other modes of obtaining letter of administration like probate, succession certificates etc.

We are also proposing to take this opportunity for implementing some of the guidelines and recommendations laid down by the Committees on Subordinate Legislation of both Houses of Parliament with respect to laying of rules before Parliament and State Legislatures.

Sir, may I now commend this motion for the consideration of this House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There are no speakers.

Therefore, the question is :

"That the Bill further to amend the Administrators General Act, 1963, as passed by Rajya Sabha be taken into consideration."

The Motion was adopted.

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

The question is :

“That Clause 2 to 4 stand part of the Bill.”

The Motion was adopted.

Clause 2 to 4 were added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

“That Clause 1 the Enacting Formula and the Title stand part of the Bill.”

The Motion was adopted.

Clause 1 the Enacting formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Minister may now move that the Bill be passed.

SHRI JAGANNATH KAUSHAL : Sir, I move :

“That the Bill be passed.”

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

“That the Bill be passed.”

The Motion was adopted.

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY (Calcutta South) : Is it a record, Sir that within half a minute we have passed a Bill ? Please check up.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS : (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : Sir, taking the sentiments of the House into account, let us take the next Bill on Monday.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All right you take the credit. We had already agreed to that.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till eleven of the clock on Monday, August 22, 83/ Sravana 31, 1905 (Saka).