

I may assure the hon. Members and the House that the Bill is primarily meant to enable the authorities to immobilise the anti-national and anti-social elements in the 'disturbed areas' of Punjab and Chandigarh.

I would earnestly request the hon. Members of the House to appreciate the objectives of this Bill. Details will no doubt be discussed at the time of consideration and passing of the Bill.

With these words, I beg leave to introduce a Bill to amend the National Security Act, 1980, in its application to the State of Punjab and the Union Territory of Chandigarh.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the National Security Act, 1980, in its application to the State of Punjab and the Union Territory of Chandigarh."

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA : I introduce the Bill.

12.30 hrs.

STATEMENT RE NATIONAL SECURITY (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1984

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : Sir, on behalf of Shri P. C. Sethi, I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) giving reasons for immediate legislation by the National Security (Amendment) Ordinance, 1984.

PUNJAB COMMERCIAL CROPS CESS (AMENDMENT) BILL

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Punjab Commercial Crops Cess Act, 1974.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Punjab Commercial Crops Cess Act, 1974."

The motion was adopted.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : I introduce £ the Bill.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need to include fishermen in the list of Scheduled Castes.

SHRI N. DENNIS (Nagercoil) : I wish to make the following statement under Rule 377.

12.33 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *In the Chair*]

Considering the socially and economically disadvantageous position in which the fishermen of our country are placed, it is highly essential to include them in the list of Scheduled Castes. Repeated representations in this regard are being made from individuals, organisations and States. They live in primitive conditions without much change in their pattern of living. Their standard of living is deplorably miserable and they live in half starvation and most of them live below the poverty line. They are depending on sea for their living. But fishing is Seasonal. In the off season, they have no subsidiary occupation and income. They depend on traditional methods of fishing with catamarans and country boats and most of them have no fishing equipment of their own. They remain as labourers and they suffer the severe strains of debts.

Educationally and socially too they are very badly placed. It is understood that some States like Assam, West Bengal and Tripura treat them as Scheduled Castes. Government may be pleased to take speedy steps for their early inclusion in the list of Scheduled Castes.

(ii) Power Shortage in Rajasthan and need for early repairs to atomic and thermal power plants of the state.

श्री वृद्धि चन्द्र जैन (बाड़मेर) : राजस्थान प्रान्त विद्युत के भयंकर संकट के दौर से गुजर रहा है। करीब पन्द्रह दिन से कोटा अणु बिजली घर की द्वितीय इकाई एवं कोटा थर्मल प्लांट की द्वितीय इकाई के बन्द होने, कोटा थर्मल प्लांट की द्वितीय इकाई में कम उत्पादन होने के कारण मांघी सागर, राणा प्रताप सागर एवं