

[Mr. Deputy Speaker]

or economic etc. trusts functioning in India."

*The Motion was adopted.*

SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA: I introduce the Bill

15-15 hrs.

# ANTI-POPULATION EXPLOSION BILL†

SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NADU (Chittoor): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for measures to restrict the growth of population in the country.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for measures to restrict the growth of population in the country."

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Mr. Deputy-Chairman, Sir, the Bill, I must say, has very stringent provisions. Just in one sentence, it is declared that no person shall have more than two children and that no person with more than two children shall be taken in Government Service.

PROF. N. G. RANGA (Guntur): Quite right.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: If a person in Government service has more than two children, he is required to pay one-fifth of his monthly salary as fine to the Government. Sir, I need hardly point out the ridiculous nature of these provisions. It is in a very cavalier fashion that the whole problem is sought to be dealt with.

This is a serious question which should be tackled in a very serious manner. Moreover, an element of compulsion is sought to be brought in, in the fa-

mily planning schemes. I have always been opposed to any element of compulsion here, which has been responsible for a lot of misery during the few years that have gone by. There are merits and demerits. So, let us say good-bye to these dictatorial methods of compulsion.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Don't you want to restrict the growth of population in the country?

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: I must reply to this question also, for which you must give me sufficient time. You cannot have compulsions and then proceed in a dictatorial manner. Moreover, ours is a developing economy, and not a developed one. In a developing economy, we need a better and more efficient exploitation and distribution of resources. It is not a question of exhaustion of those resources.

I must also say that this element of compulsion is against the religious tenets of several religions, including Islam. So, I oppose the motion for leave to introduce the Bill. I request the hon. Member to withdraw this Bill; otherwise, I have to request the House not to grant leave to its introduction.

PROF. N. G. RANGA: Is giving an answer to him permissible?

SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: I am sorry to hear the comments of my friend, Mr. Banatwalla. (*Interruptions*) I think he is one with me regarding control of population. He agrees with it. So, I want to request him not to put up any opposition to this. He says there should not be any compulsion. There is no compulsion here. Secondly, he wants persuasion. We have adopted the method of persuasion for 30 years now. What has happened? We have grown from being 30 crores of people to 68 crores now. We are just like the Kuchelas. We

cannot find Krishnas to come to our aid. Though our food production has increased three-fold, and though we have got the Green Revolution, we are not able to feed our people, because we are producing as many people as possible.

I want to ask Mr. Banatwalla: is it your intention that anybody can produce any number of children and then throw them as a burden on the Government and thus give an opportunity to the Opposition to tell the Government that it is not able to remove poverty?

In view of all these reasons, it is quite necessary to introduce this Bill, if we want to control the increase in population. This will benefit our country and enable it to prosper.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for measures to restrict the growth of population in the country."

*The Motion was adopted.*

SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: I introduce the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Virdhi Chander Jain is not here. Prof. Madhu Dandavate is not here. Now Dr. Vasant Kumar Pandit.

15.20 hrs.

# COMPULSORY REGISTRATION OF RELIGIOUS CONVERSIONS BILL\*

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT (Rajgarh) I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for compulsory registration of religious conversions in India.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for compulsory registration of religious conversions in India."

Mr. Eduardo Faleiro.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO (Mormugao): It seems to be a day where religious things are on the forefront. I am a person who does not dwell much on religion. If religion were to play a lesser role in our society, all of us would have gained a lot. I do not doubt the intentions or good motives of the mover of this Bill. But it will create a very bad feeling among our people, among large sections of the people and the citizenry, when such registration of conversions is made compulsory. Off hand one can only recall one precedent of similar legislation by the dictator, Hitler. In the Nazi Germany Hitler had passed a law that the Jews must prominently display the Star of David. This might have looked innocent, but it did humiliate persons and it looked like, in fact, being a Jew was considered a crime. Actually, this will thus be the impression, that it is a crime to follow a particular religion. Now, we have a horror of faction personage if I may say so, in this Bill, the Registrar of Conversions! I would request the hon. Member, to withdraw this Bill keeping in mind that religion is a very personal matter and the State should not interfere. The less religion is allowed to play a part in our life, the better, it will be for society.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. G.M. BANATWALLA.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Mr. Deputy speaker, we should be honest and also true to the Member who has brought the Bill. He has very clearly stated that he is not trying to put any ban on conversions. He has

\* Published in Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 11-12-81.