

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER]

tion of social disabilities by a member or members of a community on a member or members of his or their own community, to provide for penalties for such an act or acts and for matters connected therewith."

The Motion was adopted.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA: I introduce the Bill.

POLICE-FORCES (RESTRICTION OF RIGHTS) REPEAL BILL*

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to repeal the Police-Forces (Restriction of Rights) Act, 1966.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to repeal the police-Forces (Restriction of Rights) Act, 1966."

The motion was adopted

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I introduce the Bill.

15.36 hrs.

SMALL FARMERS ASSISTANCE BILL—Contd.

(By Shri K. Lakkappa)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House will now take up further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri K. Lakkappa on 20 March, 1981, namely:

"That the Bill to provide for the grant of loans and various subsidies to small farmers, be taken into consideration."

We have got only 8 minutes left. One hour has already been extended last time, and we have got in the list about 4 or 5 Members. Is the House interested in extending the time for this Bill?

SHRI XAVIER ARAKAL (ERNAKULAM): I suggest that the time be extended by another hour.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House has agreed that the time for the Bill be extended by another hour. Now Mr. Xavier Arakal.

SHRI XAVIER ARAKAL: This Bill seeks mainly to achieve two objects—as mentioned in its Statement of Objects and Reasons. One is to extend the facilities provided to the small farmers, as far as finances are concerned. The second object is that marketing facilities should be provided to these small farmers. They deserve the serious consideration of this House.

Of course, we are discussing the question of agriculture, and related matters. If we refer to the position of agriculture and agricultural sector in our economy, we can see that 80 per cent of our people still depend mainly on this sector. One factor which deserves serious consideration is that though the number of agricultural labourers and households is increasing, the total land area is the same, which means that we have to confine ourselves only within the existing land area. It is imperative that efforts should be made within that area alone, to boost the production of agricultural sector. It is said that 32.88 crore hectares constitute the land area. Out of this, the total crop area is only 17.11 crore hectares—which means that the small farmers are mainly confined to a narrower area.

If we refer to the wage rates in the agricultural sector, we find that accor-

*Published in Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 16.4.1981.