

SHRI NIRMAL CHANDRA JAIN:
...for handling over the same to the Agriculture Minister. Or I shall place it on the Table. The matter could not be raised on Saturday and so I am raising it today, having got permission under rule 377 only today. It was practically in this form, when the milk was supplied.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Are you sure that it will reach the Minister? He may be fond of curds.

SHRI NIRMAL CHANDRA JAIN:
I think it would reach him; the Finance Minister is the custodian, proper custodian.

(iv) REPORTED MOVE TO LOCATE A STEEL PLANT AT PARADEEP IN PREFERENCE TO VISHAKAPATNAM.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH (Nandyal): Under rule 377, I want to raise a matter of urgent public importance, namely, government's move to locate a steel plant at Paradeep in preference to Vishakapatnam which is included in the draft 6th plan.

As per the experts' report Vishakapatnam is selected for location of steel plant. Preliminary work like acquisition of land and survey is over and this plant at Vishakapatnam is included in the 6th Five Year plan but now according to press reports the steel ministry is trying to make out a case to locate this steel plant at Paradeep in preference to Vishakapatnam. They are overtly and covertly advancing some technical ground to justify their preference to Paradeep, on the plea that one more steel plant is required. They are contemplating to do preliminary work so that at the end they may overrule the possibility of starting a steel plant at Vishakapatnam. If this is done it will go against the interest of the people of the South and moreover the steel plant at Vishakapatnam and Hospet were

approved long time back and preliminary work is already over

14.03 hrs.

APPROPRIATION (NO. 4) BILL,
1978

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL): I beg to move*:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1978-79 be taken into consideration."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1978-79 be taken into Consideration."

Shri Vayalar Ravi.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Chirayinkil): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I have a few remarks on the question of overdraft by the state governments especially in the present political atmosphere in the country. Every one knows that the time has come when various states are ruled by different political parties other than the ruling party in De'hi and therefore there must be a little more autonomy in the states in matters of economic freedom than exists now. The system of collection of revenues for the states, the present laws and enactments and the present financial system affect many developmental activities of the states. I can quote many examples. Many

*Moved with the recommendations of the President.

times the State Governments are forced to take overdraft from the Reserve Bank and it has to run up and down to the Finance Ministry.

14.05 hrs.

[SHRI RAM MURTI in the Chair.]

It is because of the compelling situation that is prevailing in the different States. For example, the pay scale of the Government employees—I for one believe that there must be a uniform pay scale for the Central Government employees and also for the State Government employees. They do the same work. Unfortunately, every State Government is under the heavy pressure in relation to any pay revision or any increase in the dearness allowance at the Central level. While increasing the dearness allowance or taking decision on the dearness allowance of Government employees in Delhi, in the Central Government, you never consult the States. The State Government employees, the N. G. Os. have a right to demand parity with the Central Government employees. I fully support their demand. There is nothing wrong because they do the same work. You cannot ignore the States. But you never consult them. You must find out a permanent formula for this. There is no formula at all. I know many States are forced to take overdraft to meet the demand of the employees also. Legitimately the demand is there. Legitimately the Governments of States are forced to take the overdraft.

You will be surprised to know about the new concept of the rolling plan introduced in the economic system in this country. What does the Central Government say now? Whenever a new development scheme comes, the State Government is asked to find resources from the State Zone itself. The Central Government says that they have no money. The plan money is limited because of the Rolling plan. I would like to point

out a classic example regarding one project in Kerala—Titanium Expansion project. It is Rs. 80 crores project. What does the Central Government say? We do not have the money. This is your industrial project. IDPA cannot help you. You have to find money from your own resources. For Rs. 80 crores project there is no money available from the Central Government. No money is available from the financial institution of the Central Government, under the contours of the Central Government. They point-blank ask the State Government of Kerala to find its own resources for this and the Chief Minister of Kerala—Shri A. K. Antony had to take up with the Central Government. This creates an embarrassing situation.

You may be surprised to know an enactment made by the same parliament—Central Sales Tax Amendment Bill. When the Central Sales Tax Amendment Bill was passed, all the Members of parliament from Kerala sought clarification from the then Finance Minister who in turn gave an assurance. The Kerala Government has also taken up the matter. According to that enactment—the Central Sales Tax Amendment Bill—certain criteria was made for collecting Sales Tax in the name of export items. I do not want to go into the details of the Bill. The hon. Minister knows about the Bill. Due to this enactment the net revenue loss to the Kerala Government is Rs. 23 crores. The Cashew, the marine products, the coir, all these items come under the purview of the Central Sales Tax Act. So, the Kerala Government which is getting about Rs. 23 crores of revenue has been prevented to get that revenue. They are completely barred. Then the assurance given by the then Finance Minister was that the loss of the Kerala Government will be met by the Government of India. I am sorry to say that the assurance given on the floor of the House still is only on record and not in practice.

[Shri Vayalar Ravi]

By an enactment you take away the financial resources of the State. By introducing the rolling plan system, which yet I am unable to understand, you refuse to give to the State Government any money available to the Central Government for their developmental activity. You ask them to find their own resources. You limit their resources. Naturally they have to go in for overdraft.

I am not for a moment thinking, there should not be any economic discipline. I am fully for it. There must be discipline. I would like to know whether you in the Central Government have a discipline? You do not have the discipline. You are squandering away the money on pigeon-hole projects. Not only now, but for the last 30 years Delhi refuses to accept the reality of different situations in different states. You make a pigeon-hole concept of economic development and you want every State to come into the hole, instead of finding the reality of each State. The reality of Gujarat is different from the reality of Kerala. So, the whole situation has developed and culminated in such a way that every State has become a municipality or panchayat and economic slave of Delhi. We object to it. Look at the speeches of Mr. Ashok Mitra, Finance Minister of West Bengal on Centre-State financial relations. He has made certain demands. The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, Mr. M. G. Ramachandran has made certain demands. Mr. A. K. Anthony, the Kerala Chief Minister, has made some demands. I do not know whether you have considered the real merits of these demands, apart from the political aspect of it. There is no politics in it at all. You will be surprised to know that when the Kerala Government demanded more money and overdraft, the objection came not from the Finance Minister but from the Finance Ministry. The people sitting in North Block have no idea

of what is happening in the States. Unfortunately, they think that all wisdom lies only in their heads. I cannot call them fools, but definitely they do not know what is happening in the States. They are living in a Utopian world and they know only to object, not to do anything constructive at all.

Of course, I agree there must be discipline and you must be strict. But why can't you put some realism into your mind? They say, Kerala spent more money for social welfare activities. I cannot understand what for the State exists. They say, we spend more money on education. Yes, Sir, I am proud that my State is spending money on education. We spend 30 per cent of the revenue on it, we know. But is it not part of the Constitution—Directive principles? We are exporting the intelligence of our people to other areas and even abroad.

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR (Gandhinagar): What you are doing in Kerala should be commended and followed by other States.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: I am not blaming Mr. Patel alone. He has inherited only what we created. But I would ask him, why don't you go through some of the speeches you made in parliament while sitting on this side? I only wish you would implement them. When you went to North Block, the congested corridors of North Block contaminated with all unwanted elements have changed you. I want you to be free from it. The whole concept of Centre-State relations in financial matters needs a change. This is why we demanded that there must be some change in the outlook of the Finance Commission. But I am sorry the Finance Commission has made no change at all. They are not taking into account the relevant facts so far as the economic and political system in the country is concerned. They are not taking into account the new concept of rolling plan at all. They still go on the old

style and it affects the States. Therefore, my request to Mr. Patel is, while I agree that economic discipline should be there, it does not mean you should be rigid and you should completely forget the needs of the States so far as developmental activities and the pressing problems of the States are concern. I wish he clarifies the position and gives necessary instructions to the Reserve Bank to see that they must be reasonable in taking into account the demands of the States in a proper, constructive manner.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Under Rule 218(5), a member who wishes to speak on an Appropriation Bill has to give advance intimation, mentioning the specific points he wishes to raise. Hon. members have not given specific points in advance, but still I will allow them.

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR (Gandhinagar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, let me start from the point at which Mr. Ravi ended i.e. about Centre-State relations. I do not know why the hon. Prime Minister of India and the Janata Government are somewhat chary or somewhat inflexible about having a dialogue on various matters concerning the interests of the States and the interests of the Union. After all, both the interests are ultimately common. And when Janata Party and the Janata Government, to my mind rightly, believe in decentralisation, then the demand for a proper dialogue on the Centre-State relations becomes almost urgent. They have already said—my esteemed friend, the Finance Minister, will bear me out—in the Janata Party election manifesto as well as in the speeches of the leaders of the Janata party during the election campaign that all the powers cannot be concentrated in Delhi that the financial powers of the States cannot be curtailed, especially in regard to those States which are exercising their powers and responsibilities in a judicious way by having a proper fiscal administration

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in respect of their budgets. I do not know why the Government of India do not take a more reasonable and generous attitude.

With regard to the various demands I shall be brief in outlining my points. Regarding point No 5 about loan to National Textile Corporation Limited for running Swadeshi Cotton Mills Limited, Kanpur on page 1 of this statement, I would like to ask: why should the Government have taken only a few sick mills of Kanpur? There are many other sick mills in the whole country and my point is that Government must find out ways and means of taking over some of these sick mills which are sick now for years together. Now, on the one hand, Government of India says that under the 1951 Industrial Development Act they do not want to take over more sick industries, on the other they have taken over some of the mills, in this case the Swadeshi Cotton Mills at Kanpur. Then, why not they take over all the sick mills like Laxmi Cotton Mills, Ahmedabad? The hon. Minister comes from Anand, near Ahmedabad. He knows the textile industry very well and I do not have to impress upon him the need for spending more money for modernisation of textile machinery and textile industry in general. Therefore, I feel that the affairs of these mills—Laxmi Cotton Mills, Ahmedabad, and several other sick mills at Kadi, Kalol, Bhavnagar and Mahuva, Priya Laxmi Mills at Baroda, Shubha Laxmi Mills at Cambay—are required to be looked into. If the State Government takes the responsibility of them, at least the Central Government must give money to run those sick mills on behalf of the Centre.

There is a mention about loan to Delhi Transport Corporation. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like you to give a directive to all the Ministers of the Union Government at least once in a week to use public transport and not their private automobiles and

[Prof. P. G. Mavalankar]

official cars. Then only they will realise how some of us living in Delhi, are suffering from totally inadequate public transport. I do not understand why Government cannot spend not only massively and judiciously but in time on proper development of Delhi transport. I find that loans after loans are given. I repeatedly said in this House that Government servants, students, patients going to hospitals, workers, factory going people and many others including the Members of Parliament who do not have any transport and who want to go to various places of work and meetings, suffer because of inadequate transport facility. Taxies are not only expensive but often times, they are not available at the time when we want them with the result that we miss some of the engagements and meetings. Therefore, let there be a rule that every Minister must use the public transport once in a week and then they will realise the difficulty.

There is a Demand of the Ministry of Communications with regard to telephone services etc. That is all right. I repeat what I said last week. Why should the Minister of Communication not be told that in all important metropolitan and other important major cities of the country where there are telephones, the entire area should be governed as one unit, and that the areas on the periphery should not be treated as outside the main city area? The result of the present arrangement is that areas in the periphery of an urban city like Ahmedabad are deprived of this facility of telephone services. Vatva is a place near Ahmedabad. Mr. H. M. Patel knows it, he has visited the area also. In Vatva, because of the funny policy of the Government, STD has to be used for all the telephones not on the local basis. I think that must be looked into.

As regards the demand of the External Affairs Ministry, I do not have to

say anything except this that the increased assistance to Bhutan and the additional aid to Nepal is something which we welcome because we want to build up our relations with our neighbouring countries, not only in terms of an attitude of equality—we must see to it that the big brother attitude is got rid of—but to ensure that these neighbouring countries are given assistance in terms of economic assistance and also in terms of technical know-how, and whatever we can export from our country to these developing countries, we should do so.

For the setting up of the district industrial centres, Mr. H. M. Patel has allotted some money. It is good, but I only hope that this district industrial centre does not become another chain in the whole bureaucratic machinery. It must be very energetic, active and alert in regard to seeing to it that the properly constituted bodies which want to develop small-scale industries get enough money and other kinds of assistance in time.

Lastly, there is a Demand by him under the heading "Information & Publicity", for the Press Commission. I am glad that the Press Commission has been set up and Rs. 10 lakhs have been allotted for that and we are told that within one year their report will come. I do not mind if the report comes a little later, but I want the Commission to go into the various matters concerning the freedom of the Press, in particular in the light of what happened during the emergency, so that the freedom of the press which is considered the Fourth Estate is preserved. As my hon. friend Shri Ravi said earlier in the day, freedom of the press is very indispensable to a parliamentary democracy. Without the free press, parliamentary democracy cannot function. Therefore, the freedom of the press is as important as the independence of this House. Therefore, I hope that this money will be well spent, and even if they want more money, we will be willing to give it. I only want the Commission to go into this matter in depth, into all details and in a comprehensive way, so

that they give a valuable report. I am only sorry that some of the Members of the Commission are not upto the mark, but now that it has already been set up and has started functioning, it is no use making complaints about this and that person, or this or that individual in that Commission. I only hope that the Commission will do something good in terms of promoting the freedom of the press in this country under our Constitution.

श्री रीतलाल प्रसाद वर्मा (कोडरमा) :
सभापति महोदय, मैं इस विनियोग विधेयक का समर्थन करने के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूँ। मैं मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान केवल एक समस्या की ओर प्रक़ाशित करना चाहता हूँ। ये जो राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंक हैं, इन की जो शाखाएँ प्रखण्ड स्तर पर खोली जा चुकी हैं या खोली जा रही हैं, उन में ऐसा लगता है कि इन बैंकों में जितने एम्पलाईज हैं, वे बैठे रहते हैं कहीं भी कोई फाइनेंसिंग का काम नहीं होता है। हमारे बिहार के कोडरमा जिले में कई जगहों पर ये शाखाएँ जैसे जमुआ, डोमबांच, मरकचो, धनवार, इन में कई तो तीन वर्ष पहले खुल चुकी हैं। लेकिन इन में मुश्किल से 40-50 हजार रुपये का भी, फाइनेंसिंग नहीं हुआ होगा। लोग वहाँ जाते हैं, हरान होते हैं, घूमते फिरते हैं, लेकिन किसी को कुछ नहीं मिलता और यदि किसी को कुछ मिलता भी है तो शायद परसेन्टेज का प्रभन उस में पैदा ही जाता है। इस तरह की जितनी भी स्टेट बैंक या बैंक प्राक़ इण्डिया की शाखाएँ खुली हैं, सब बेकार पडी हैं।

मैं चाहता हूँ कि इन की जांच की कोई व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए। आज जितना पैसा, लोगों को मिलना चाहिए, ग्राम विकास के लिए छोटे-छोटे उद्योग घरों के लिए, उन योजनाओं के लिए जिन से बेकारी दूर हो सकती है, जैसे हमारे इन्फ़ोनियर्स हैं, शिक्षित बेरोजगार हैं, इन सब लोगों को प्राप्त के बैंकों से पैसा नहीं मिल पा रहा है। मैं चाहता हूँ कि इन सब की सहायता की जाय तथा रचनात्मक कार्यों की दिशा में उस पैसे को लगाया जाय। यदि आज तक इस दिशा में काम हुआ होता, तो बहुत से लोगों का अब तक नियोजन हो गया होता, लेकिन उस दिशा में कोई प्रगति नहीं हुई है। यहाँ तक कि उन लोगों को कोई वोकेशनल—गाइडेंस देने तक की व्यवस्था नहीं है। प्रचार तो यही किया जाता है कि सब लोगों को पैसा मिलेगा, लेकिन यहाँ तो सर्वत्र यही शिकायत पाई जाती है कि पैसा नहीं मिलता है। वहाँ नहीं मैं समझता हूँ कि सर्वत्र यही मनोदशा बन गई है कि बैंक के जितने अधिकारी हैं, वे बैठे बैठे तन्ख्वाह पाते हैं। मैं खास कर बैंक प्राक़ इण्डिया की बात कर रहा हूँ। मैंने जितनी भी इस की शाखाएं देखी हैं, ऐसा लगता है कि वहाँ पर जो बैंक का मैनेजर होता है, क्लर्क्स होते हैं या चपरासी होते हैं, उन के पालन का ही यह विभाग बन गया है।

भगर सही सही उपयोग उस काहोता, तो गांवों का बहुत विकास हो गया होता। सरकार ने जो घोषणा की थी कि हम छोटी जगहों पर भी कुछ कारखाने लगायेंगे और बेकारी को दूर करेंगे और बैंकों से गरीब लोगों को कर्ज मिलेंगे भगर इस तरह की योजनाएं बनती तो लोगों को फ़ायदा होता लेकिन ऐसा नहीं हुआ है। इसलिए मैं मंत्री जी का ध्यान इस तरफ़ दिलाना चाहूंगा कि जो इस तरह के बैंकों की शाखाएं हैं जहां पर अधि-कारी और दूसरे कर्मचारी बैठे हुए हैं और उन का कोई सदुपयोग वहां पर नहीं है, उन को वहां से उठा कर स्थानान्तरण कर देना चाहिए और जो लोग दोषी पाए जाएं, उन को सजा भी देनी चाहिए।

एक बात मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि जहां तक बिहार का सम्बन्ध है, वहां पर 500 करोड़ रुपये का डिपोजिट करते हैं लेकिन जितना रुपया डिपोजिट होता है, उतनी वहां पर फाइनेंसिंग नहीं होती है। उस में से केवल 300 करोड़ रुपया ही वहां के लोगों को मिलता है और बाकी रुपया महाराष्ट्र और आन्ध्र तथा दूसरी जगह चला जाता है और यह भी देखा गया है कि जितने भी वहां पर अधिकारी हैं, वे भी इन्हीं जगहों के हैं और वे केवल अपना पालन वहां पर करते हैं। इसलिए यह केवल अफसर पालन विभाग बन गया है। इस के लिए आप को बहुत ही ठोस और रचनात्मक कार्यवाही करने की जरूरत है।

एक दूसरी बात मैं यह कहना चाहूंगा कि हमारे बिहार में जो पिछड़े हुए क्षेत्र हैं, जगहें हैं वहां पर ग्रामीण विकास का कार्य नहीं के बराबर है। कुछ ऐसे क्षेत्र हैं जहां पर रेलवे लाइन की बहुत जरूरत है लेकिन वहां पर रेलवे लाइन नहीं है। हजारों बाग में कमिश्नर का हैडक्वार्टर है लेकिन, वहां के लोग, जो एम० ए० पास करते हैं, वे एम० ए० की पढ़ाई के बाद भी वहां पर रेल नहीं देख सकते। इतना पिछड़ा हुआ वह इलाका है। इसलिए मैं चाहूंगा कि गिरिडीह से कोडरमा कोडरमा से हजारों बाग और हजारों बाग से रांची रोड, जो 200 किलोमीटर का इलाका है, वहां पर रेल बनाने की बहुत जरूरत है। 20 वर्ष से हम इसकी मांग करते आ रहे हैं और वहां पर कोयला, लोहा, अब्रक और कई दूसरे खनिज पदार्थ पाए जाते हैं, लेकिन वहां पर अभी तक रेलवे लाइन नहीं है और जब इस के लिए कहते हैं तो यह कहा जाता है कि फाइनेंस नहीं है, पैसे की कमी है। दूसरी जगहों पर भूमिगत रेलवे बनाई जाती है जिन पर 250 करोड़ रुपये खर्च किया जाता है लेकिन इन पिछड़े इलाका का विकास नहीं है। इसलिए मेरा कहना यह है कि इस दिशा में भी कोई कार्यवाही होनी चाहिए।

SHRI H. M. PATEL: Sir, you read out what the correct procedure is. Therefore, to much of what has been stated I need not reply. But, certainly, I will take note of all the points

[Shri H. M. Patel]

that have been made; in fact, I have taken note of them and they will be given the fullest consideration.

Shri Vayalar Ravi raised a point regarding the overdraft facilities and the discipline that is now sought to be introduced. He rightly said that there should be discipline. But he added that when the Centre is not subjecting itself to some discipline, it should not seek to impose discipline on the States. Of course, as a general proposition it is quite correct. Nevertheless, it is necessary both for the Centre and the States to be disciplined in certain matters and, above all, in matters such as these with regard to banks. The overdraft facilities have to be regulated and every effort must be made to see that there is compliance.

About the point that he made that because there are certain difficulties in the way of the States and, therefore, these overdraft facilities should continue, as I have said already the overdraft facilities have not been withdrawn. There are overdraft facilities. There is a considerable margin within which overdraft is permitted to every State. What is more, as you will see, even in this scheme of ours, a good deal of times is given for the States also to make adjustments so that the ultimate action does not have to be taken. But the general point that he made that if the Centre gives certain dearness allowance, then the States have to follow, is perfectly correct. Therefore, that adds to the burden which the State Governments have to provide for. This is something which is taken care of by the Finance Commission when it goes into the matter every five years. Such a Finance Commission is sitting now and it will be submitting its report very shortly. It will have taken into account all these matters, the problems that are created for the State Governments and what should be done regarding the consequent additional liabilities and what further devolution

of money should be necessary. When their recommendations come, they will be accepted. In fact, it has become a convention now that the Finance Commission's recommendations have hardly ever been not accepted.

I might also say that the various points that were made by Chief Ministers at the last National Development Council about their difficulties on this matter are also going to be taken into consideration. It is because of that there is to be a committee which has already been appointed of the Planning Commission with the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, in the Chair, Chief Ministers of all the States and the Finance Minister also to go into these questions regarding the Sixth Five Year Plan, the plans which have already been prepared by the Planning Commission provisionally and what financing arrangements should made in respect of those plans. Therefore my hon. Friend need not have any apprehension that the States will find themselves in difficulties merely because of this desire of ours to have a certain measure of discipline in regard to overdrafts. In fact, overdrafts are at times necessary. He must know, in his own private life that, if he chooses to overdraw what can happen. It is necessary that the States have equally to submit themselves to that kind of discipline. Otherwise, we will have other consequences, far more serious consequences, not only for the States but for the people. So, I hope, he will not be too apprehensive about that.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: What about the Central Sales Tax enactment?

SHRI H. M. PATEL: About that point, I would say, it did not strictly arise from this. Certainly, he has made that point that an assurance that was given by my predecessor, by the previous Finance Minister has not been honoured. I do not think that that is the case. The difference is only as to how much loss was incurred by the State Government. The State

Government considers that the loss they suffered was a higher figure than what the Central Government considers. But we have already assured him that we will go into the matter most carefully and see what can be done.

About the other points, as I have already said, this was the only major point that need explanation and, I think, the other hon. Members raised the points which were not germane to this discussion.

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: On a point of order, Sir. I do not understand the hon. Minister of Finance getting up and saying that they were not germane to the discussion. If they were not, you would not have permitted us to speak.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: Under the rules.

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: My esteemed friend often raised many of the points to the then Finance Minister. Let him not say that. He can reply later on.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: He should not take me up on one word or two words like that. I said right at the very beginning that every point that has been made by the hon. Members who have spoken, even if I do not consider that they arise from this, will be gone into by us very carefully.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1978-79, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we take up the Clauses. There are no amendments given notice of.

The question is:

"That Clauses 2 and 3 and the Schedule stand part of the Bill."

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 and the Schedule were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is....

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: Sir, on a point of order. Since the House is going to pass as much as Rs. 432 crores, let there be at least quorum in the House, let there be at least 54 Members present. It is very important. It is no longer lunch-hour; the lunch-hour was from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let the bell be rung... Now there is quorum in the House. The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

14.38 hrs.

COAST GUARD BILL

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (PROF. SHER SINGH): Sir, I beg to move:*

"That the Bill to provide for the constitution and regulation of an Armed Force of the Union for ensuring the security of the maritime zones of India with a view to the protection of maritime and other national interests in such zones and for matters connected therewith, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.