

this clause. You are well aware that last week two of the offenders during the emergency period were convicted and sentenced and their appeals are pending. Now, Sir, when this clause comes into force would it be possible—I am talking only of one of the accused, Shri Shukla, and not the other, Shri Sanjay Gandhi, because he held neither public nor political office during the emergency, and so he cannot come within the purview of this Act?...

MR. SPEAKER: I don't think, Mr. Kamath, that the Minister should give any assurance because this is a matter that will be decided by the court.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH: Government should give a clarification.

MR. SPEAKER: No. I am not allowing it. Any expression he might make might prejudice the court one way or the other. No, please, Mr. Kamath.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH: Please read the Clause.

MR. SPEAKER: No. Mr. Kamath. I am not allowing.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH: You are arbitrary in your ruling.

MR. SPEAKER: I will now put Clause 7 to vote.

The question is:

"That Clause 7 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 7 was added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The House has to take up Private Members' Business now. I want to know whether further consideration of this Bill should be continued on Monday or after the discussion on the Railway Budget.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): I suggest that it may be taken up after the

general discussion on the Railway Budget on Thursday.

MR. SPEAKER: All right; we will take it up further on Thursday next.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

TWENTY-EIGHT REPORT

SHRI CHATURBHUJ (Jhalawar): I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Twenty-eighth report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 28th February, 1979."

15.31 hrs.

[DR. SUSHILA NAYAR in the Chair]

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO (Mormugao): Madam Chairman, may I draw your attention to paragraph 3 of this report; at II, it is stated that the Committee met on 27th February, for classification and allocation of time for discussion of Bills (vide Appendix II). This Committee has also recommended in paragraph 7 that the allocation of time to Bills by the Committee as shown in Appendix II be agreed to by the House.

Madam Chairman, in Appendix II, you will see that the Committee has considered Bills which were given notice of only a few days ago; all Bills are of 1979. I had given notice of a Bill as early as 26th July, 1978. This Bill concerns the grant of statehood to the Union Territory of Goa, Daman and Diu which is very dear to my constituency. This Bill is being suppressed by the Home Ministry just because it does not suit them. I would request that the hon. Speaker may use his powers under the relevant rule, Rule 294(2), if I am not mistaken, and he may request or direct the Committee to look into this matter as to why the Government have delayed this type of

[Shri Eduardo Falciro]

Bills such as mine which are so important.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I may inform the hon. Member that this matter does not relate to the report which is now before the House for adoption. However, the Government has already been requested to obtain the orders of the President regarding the requisite recommendation for introduction and consideration of the Bill mentioned by the hon. Member. I would request the Minister of Home Affairs to please look into the matter.

Now, the question is:

"That this House do agree with the Twenty-eighth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 28th February, 1979.";
15th December, 1978:—

The motion was adopted.

RESOLUTION RE: REMUNERATIVE PRICES TO THE GROWERS OF COMMERCIAL CROPS—Contd.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up further consideration of the following Resolution moved by Shrimati Ahilya P. Rangnekar on the 15th December, 1978:—

"This House expresses its deep concern over the fall and continuous downward trend of the prices of commercial crops viz., jute, sugarcane, tobacco, cotton, etc., and resolves that immediate steps be taken to guarantee fair prices to the growers and also a high powered Committee consisting of the Members of Parliament be forthwith constituted to go into the causes of lower rates of prices of the commercial crops and suggest measures for ensuring remunerative prices to the growers."

Shri Yuvraj to continue his speech...
He is not present.

The Minister.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): Government is aware that prices of a number of agricultural commodities have marked a decline last year. However, there is no continuous downward trend for all the commodities mentioned by the hon. Member.

At the outset, I must say that we had a significant rise in production in 1977-78 and the crop outlook for commercial crops for the current crop year is also quite good. For a number of commodities, scarcity and short supplies have given way to abundant availability. This has caused a fall in the prices of certain commodities.

I will make a brief mention of the price situation of commodities stated in the Resolution, and the measures which Government has taken to stabilize prices.

Regarding jute, the average annual index of jute prices which was 130.0 in 1976-77 had risen to 151.8 in 1977-78. It means that in 1977-78, the prices had gone up. In the current year, with the arrival of the new crop, the jute price index came down steadily to 135.9 in September 1978 but moved up thereafter to 145.1 in November 1978. In the last 3 months it has again come down to the level of 138.0 on 3rd February 1979. It may, however, be mentioned that in order to stem any sharp fall in the prices of jute, Government took measures right from the beginning of the marketing season. The Jute Commissioner withdrew the ceiling on the holding of raw jute stock by mills. It means they could have more stocks. The Jute Corporation of India was asked by Government to gear up its machinery and to open purchase centres in remote areas also. The Corporation has procured about 787,467 bales of raw jute during this season till 10th February, 1979 as compared to only 65,000 bales purchased in 1977-78, for