

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 9 and 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the BILL.

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed".

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

17.39 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE:  
CONTINUANCE IN FORCE OF PROCLAMATION IN RELATION TO THE  
STATE OF GUJARAT

THE MINISTER OF HOME  
AFFAIRS \* (SHRI K. BRAHMANNANDA REDDY): I beg to move:

"That this House approves the continuance in force of the Proclamation issued by the President on the 12th March, 1976, under article 356 of the Constitution, in relation to the State of Gujarat, for a further period of six months with effect from the 24th September, 1976."

As Hon. Members would recall, the Proclamation under article 356 of the Constitution was issued by the President in relation to the State of Gujarat on 12th March, 1976, after careful consideration of the report of the Governor and other information received in this regard by the Government. This Proclamation was approved by the Rajya Sabha on 22nd March, 1976 and by the Lok Sabha on 24th March, 1976, and will expire on 23rd September, 1976.

The Gujarat Assembly was, however, kept in suspended animation and it was hoped that the political situation in the State would get stabilised during the short spell of President's Rule lasting for six months but it has

not materialised so far to the extent so as to ensure formation of a stable Ministry.

A number of steps have been taken by the Gujarat Government to tone up the administrative machinery in the wake of President's rule. The drive to weed out inefficient and corrupt officials from the public services has been intensified. Since the inception of President's Rule, 238 Government servants have been retired, including 16 Class I and 15 Class II officers. Task forces have been constituted to look into specific aspects of administration so that the administrative machinery is geared to meet the challenging task of development. Some of the departments at the Secretariat level have been reorganised to make them into viable units. Concrete steps have been taken to ensure that the grievances of the public are attended to expeditiously and effectively.

The implementation of the 20-point programme has been assigned the highest priority and in that context the gearing up of administrative machinery for fulfilling the objectives of the new economic programme has assumed special importance. A High-Power Committee headed by the Governor and backed up by departmental and inter-departmental Committees has been set up to monitor the execution of the different facets of the programme. The Panchayat Raj Institutions at all levels have been fully associated with the implementation of the programme.

The State Government have been keeping a close watch over the price trends. A number of steps were taken to streamline the public distribution system. Simultaneously, raids and inspections were intensified which enabled the Government to hold the price line. The total number of raids conducted during the President's Rule is 3,762 and 43 traders who were found indulging in malpractices, black-marketeering and profiteering were arrested under MISA.

[Shri K. Brahamananda Reddy]

All this had a very salutary effect and the prices of essential commodities which had shown some upward trend in earlier months, registered a positive fall by mid-August, 1976.

The administrative arrangements for implementation of the Land Ceiling Act have been completed and all the surplus lands are expected to be taken over by June, 1977. A Working Group has been constituted to examine the question of development and disposal of urban vacant lands vesting in Government. The State Government have also proposed to provide landless labourers with financial assistance to enable them to purchase agricultural implements and start cultivation. A comprehensive scheme in this regard has been formulated by the State Government. The disposal of Government waste land has been intensified. The earlier law providing for moratorium on rural debts has been supplemented by a new Presidential law enacted on 15th August, 1976, which provides for liquidation and scaling down of debts of specified categories of small farmers, rural labourers and rural artisans. With a view to provide alternative sources of credit to the weaker sections, efforts have been made to strengthen the primary cooperatives in the state.

It will, therefore, be obvious that the measures taken by the State Government for implementing the economic programme have been significant and this programme has laid a firm foundation for purposeful future action to hold aloft the spirit of new economic programme.

The law and order situation in the State showed significant improvement since the promulgation of the President's Rule. The crime situation has shown a downward trend after March, 1976. This was attributable to effective measures taken against the anti-social elements under MISA and normal law. The State Government

have also taken prompt and effective measures against newspapers and other publications which indulged in printing of objectionable matters and propaganda prejudicial to the interest of the country.

Gujarat was hit by a severe cyclone followed by heavy rains in June, 1976. The State again came under the grip of floods and heavy rains during July and the first week of August also. Immediate relief measures were undertaken. With a view to lessen the adverse impact of cyclone and floods on agricultural production, arrangements have been made for the supply of necessary inputs like seeds, fertilisers and pesticides and to ensure that no shortage is experienced. Government has also given a total block guarantee to the extent of Rs. 60 lakhs to all the cooperative banks in affected districts in order to enable them to provide credit facilities to cultivators for purchase of seeds and fertilisers.

The present Presidential Proclamation for Gujarat will expire on 23rd September, 1976. Government is now fully engaged in giving a boost to the economic programme and implementing the measures aimed at increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of the State administration. It will be desirable to maintain the current tempo and speed up development and welfare measures in the State for some time more. Government, therefore is of the view that President's rule in Gujarat should be continued for another period of six months with effect from 24th September, 1976.

With these words, I commend the Resolution for the approval of this House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That this House approves the continuance in force of the Proclamation issued by the President on the 12th March, 1976, under article 356 of the Constitution, in

relation to the State of Gujarat, for a further period of six months with effect from the 24th September, 1976."

Mr. K. C. Halder.

\*SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER (Ausgram): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose this resolution brought forward by hon. Shri Brahmanand Reddy for the extension of the President's rule in Gujarat by six months. I oppose it because I find that the policy of the Government is different for different places. The life of the coalition Ministry in Kerala is being extended again and again. On the other hand in Tamilnadu the Ministry was dissolved even when the elections were only two months away, because the Congress failed to machinate defections in that State, and President's rule was clamped there. In Gujarat again the Congress was defeated. Even after spending colossal amount of money and utilising of the publicity media like radio etc., the Congress failed to gain a majority in Gujarat. Various opposition parties joined together and contested the elections successfully and the Congress were reduced to a minority. Various rightist parties formed the Janata front there, we have of course our basic differences with rightist parties, the Congress reluctantly allowed the opposition parties to form a Government as they themselves were reduced to a minority. But ever since the formation of the opposition Government in Gujarat, Congress efforts were afoot to engineer defections of the MLA's. The Ayarams-Gyarams were bribed and tempted in various other ways to defect and support the Congress. As I have said the Tamilnadu Ministry which commanded a brute majority was dissolved, the life of their own coalition Government in Kerala is being extended again and again and in Gujarat after the Congress was defeated and duly elected opposition Government came in power

constant plans were being hatched to effect the defections and topple that Government. In the international field our Government always propagate the philosophy of co-existence among various systems of Government like capitalism, socialism etc. but in our internal politics the noble philosophy of co-existence is totally absent. In our country democracy means, the rule of Congress or of a party loyal to the Congress. No opposition Government is tolerated in any State. The philosophy of peaceful co-existence is to be propagated for others only. You very well know, Sir, that the Nambudripad Government was not tolerated for long. Today's Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi who was the Congress President at that time set an example to show how a duly elected Government can be removed from power by extra parliamentary methods even when they command a majority. No purpose will be served by criticising and defaming the opposition parties. The actions of the Congress are there for everybody to see and judge. Since the declaration of the emergency the Prime Minister herself and various other Ministers of the Congress are continuing unilateral propaganda against the opposition parties, and they have the cheek to speak about democracy!

When the President's rule was first clamped in Gujarat, it was said in this House that this was for the purpose of bringing about stability in that State. The United Opposition parties have different ideas and ideologies and as a result of this they are unable to run the Government efficiently and hence President's rule was necessary to bring about stability in that State. This was the argument of the Government. On the one hand, the Congress say that they want opposition and that there is no opposition party capable of forming a Government. On the other hand, whenever a opposition Government is formed in any State the Congress forthwith adopts all sorts

\*The original speech was delivered in Bengali.

[Shri Krishna Chandra Haider]  
 of under hand methods in order to topple that Government. When the President's rule was imposed it was also stated that it was for the purpose of stability and it will not last for long. But now we find that stability according to them means stability of President's rule only. Since the imposition of the President's rule vigorous efforts were afoot to effect defections and purchasing of MLA's etc since the beginning of August 1978 we are getting hints in the press that elect ons are likely in Gujarat now and in their language a democratic Government is going to be formed soon. Shri Solanki and Shri Hitendra Desai came for consultation in this connection. Some dates were announced when a democratic Government were going to be formed. Sir, Out of 178 members of the Assembly, the Congress claims that 104 members are supporting them. Sir, even with the support of 89 or 90 members an absolute majority can be attained there. I therefore fail to understand why the Congress is unable to form the Government there even when they claim the support of 104 members. The only reason is that there is a strong public opinion against the Congress in Gujarat where the Congress were defeated in the elections. Then again the majority of the members who were lured to defect and join the Congress now want to become Ministers. A factional fight is therefore raging in their party there. The question has arisen who will become the Chief Minister Hitendra Desai or M S Solanki? Later it was decided that Madhav Singh Solanki will be the Chief Minister and efforts were being made to bring Hitendra Desai in the Rajya Sabha. Now the question is why should the people of Gujarat remain in a state of uncertainty because of factional fight in the Congress ranks. Although we know that only the Congress will form Ministry in Gujarat and no body else will be allowed to do that, even then we want an end to President's rule. This is because President's rule only means the rule of the bureaucrats. If

there is a elected Government in power then the people can approach them more easily to place their difficulties and grievances before them. In Gujarat the Congress tried all sorts of machinations to effect defections to their own party but on the other hand the Congress President Shri D. K. Borooah and Shri Mir Qasim and other Congress leaders are feeling grieved and hurt and are getting annoyed when the Congress MLA's in Jammu and Kashmir are leaving their party being disillusioned about their policies, and are joining the National Conference or other parties. I have got an apprehension, Sir, that one day the Centre will intervene in the affairs of Jammu and Kashmir. Perhaps Sheikh Abdullah will be removed from power and some Congress man will be put in his place. They may be hesitating in this matter because Jammu and Kashmir is a sensitive area. But no body can say for certain that no such situation will develop there. According to the Congress democracy only means the rule of the Congress and the say of the Congress. Anything else is undemocratic.

Shri Brahmanand Reddy while moving this resolution listed the various achievements in Gujarat during the course of President's rule. In this connection he mentioned about floods and cyclones in Gujarat. Here I would like to know what is the total amount that has been spent for the rehabilitation and other relief measures for the victims of floods and cyclones. And what was the total number of persons affected by floods and cyclones? I would also like to know whether the relief has been provided impartially to all the victims and sufferers irrespective of their affiliation or only those persons have been provided with relief who had leaning towards the Congress and were recommended by the present administration. I saw in the press that in the eastern hill areas of Gujarat 80 per cent of the agricultural labourers are advasis. And when these people demand the minimum wages

landlords turn them out and they are not provided with any work or avenues of livelihood. There are so many unemployed. Not only that, various atrocities are also being committed on them. Such reports we are getting in the press, Sir, they are talking about 20-point programme, economic programmes and the 4 or 5 point programmes of crown prince Sanjay Gandhi. How are all these programmes being implemented when the landlords even now refuse to pay the minimum wages to the agricultural labourers and atrocities are being committed on the poor workers by the landlords? Then what is the progress achieved under the President's rule for which they want extension of the President's rule by another six months? Sir, I would like to know how far as the tribal Area Development Plan that was adopted in this House has been implemented till now. What is the number of tribal people and what is the total tribal area that has been benefited by this Tribal Area Development Plan for Gujarat? Sir, I will conclude by saying that we are totally opposed to the extension of the President's rule again and again. We want Constitutionally elected Government to function in a State whether that may be of the Congress or any other party. There should be no undue intervention by the Centre. We find that all over the country people are being arrested indiscriminately under MISA just for wrecking political vengeance and they are not being released. Therefore I will demand that proper democracy must be re-estab-

lished not only in Gujarat but in the entire country. Sir, I strongly oppose this resolution and demand that the whole country may be allowed to know what is really happening in the State of Gujarat.

SHRI NATWAR LAL PATEL (Mehsana): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I welcome this Resolution presented by the Home Minister for extension of President's rule in the State of Gujarat. President's rule is already there in Gujarat for six months and we extend it further for six months by this Resolution. Hon. Members of the House are absolutely aware of the fact as to what happened before President's rule was imposed in the State of Gujarat.

Sir, before President's Rule was imposed in Gujarat, Janta Front Ministry was ruling in Gujarat State. (Interruptions) It is relevant to say that, I am not going to be provoked like this. I am speaking here whatever I want to speak.

I would like to tell you here that before President's Rule was imposed, the Janta Front was ruling the State of Gujarat.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may continue tomorrow.

18.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, September 1, 1978/Bhadra 10, 1898 (Saka)