

12.34 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE. DISAPPROVAL OF NORTH-EASTERN AREAS (REORGANISATION) AMENDMENT ORDINANCE, 1975 AND NORTH-EASTERN AREAS (REORGANISATION) AMENDMENT BILL

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jagannathrao Joshi.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): Sir, I rise on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: He is on item No. 9. He has not yet spoken anything.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: It is regarding the business of the House. My submission is only this. Yesterday, we were not told that this item would be coming up today. We were preparing to speak on the Railway Demands. Suddenly, they change the order without giving any information to us.

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH): I will explain.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: You will explain and, ultimately, we will accept.

MR. SPEAKER: These are the Ordinances. They have to be brought before a particular date.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: That is true. In that case they should have consulted us. But they didn't consult us and it is very difficult for us.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Banerjee, a supplementary notice was issued that this will come up today.

श्री अमरावत राव जोशी (भाजापुर) :
 मध्यम महोदय, मैं विम्बितिकित सकल्प पेश करता हूँ :

"यह सभा राष्ट्रपति द्वारा 20 जनवरी 1975 को प्रख्यापित पूर्वोत्तर क्षेत्र

(पुनर्गठन) संशोधन अध्यादेश, 1975
 (1975 का अध्यादेश संख्या 2) का निरनुमोदन करती है।"

12.38 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

वास्तव में यह जो विधेयक लाया गया है इसका दायरा बहुत ही सीमित है। किन्तु दो बातों को लेकर मैं इसका विरोध करता हूँ। आपने उपाध्यक्ष महोदय छोटी मोटी बातों को लेकर अध्यादेश जारी करने की प्रवृत्ति जो सरकार के अन्दर पैदा हुई है अपनी नापसन्दी प्रकट की थी। इनना होने के बाद भी सरकार ने इस अध्यादेश को जारी करके उम्मी उपक्रम को जारी रखने का परिचय दिया है। मैं समझता हूँ कि आपानकालीन स्थिति में ही अध्यादेश जारी करने का महारा लिया जाना चाहिये। कोई एक दम में घटना घट जाए और ससद् का सत्र न चल रहा हो तो उस समय महामहिम राष्ट्रपति महोदय सविधान प्रदत्त अधिकारों का उपयोग करके अगल अध्यादेश जारी करें तो किसी को कोई आपत्ति नहीं हो सकती है। किन्तु यह जो अध्यादेश जारी किया गया यह पूर्वोत्तर क्षेत्र (पुनर्गठन) संशोधन विधेयक जो पहले ही पारित हो चुका था और जिसमें यह व्यवस्था थी कि स्टेट इलेक्ट्रिसिटी बोर्ड और स्टेट बेयर हाउसिंग कार्पोरेशन इसको आपने अलग से बनाना है और जो पहले से ये सभ्य काम कर रहे थे दो सालों के अन्दर उनका पुनर्गठन होना आवश्यक था, वह चीज दो सालों के अन्दर नहीं हो सकी। इसलिए पहले बानि संस्थानों का कार्यकाल एक साल और बढ़ा दिया गया 1974 में। उसके बाद में एक साल के भीतर भीतर स्टेट इलेक्ट्रिसिटी बोर्ड के बारे में सारे पुनर्गठन की जो प्रक्रिया पूरी होनी थी वह नहीं हुई। इसलिए इस अध्यादेश को जारी किया गया है और अब इसके स्थान पर एक संशोधन विधेयक लाया गया है। इसमें 36 महीने के बदले 38 महीने बानी दो महीने और उसका कार्यकाल बढ़ाया जाना है। लेकिन आप देखें कि दिसम्बर में हमारा सत्र

[श्री जगन्नाथ राव जांशः]

चालू था। क्या उस समय यह कल्पना नहीं की जा सकती थी कि बीस जनवरी तक यह सारा काम पूरा नहीं होगा? अगर की जा सकती थी तो बीस दिसम्बर तक हमारा सत्र चला उससे पहले ही क्यों नहीं एक संशोधन विधेयक लाकर उसको यहाँ पास करा लिया गया? जैसे अभी आए हैं वैसे ही कार्यकाल बढ़ाने वाला विधेयक लेकर तब जा सकते थे। दो महीने के बजाय तीन या चार महीने कार्यकाल को बढ़ाया जा सकता है। किन्तु एक बार कार्यकाल एक साल के लिए बढ़ाने के बाद भी जब यह काम नहीं हुआ तो इन्होंने अध्यादेश जारी करना जल्द ही समझा और यह जो अध्यादेश इन्होंने जारी किया सबसे पहले इस पर मैं अपना विरोध प्रकट करना चाहता हूँ। लोकतन्त्र में अध्यादेशों का सहारा लेकर, इनको आधार बना कर हारें बार चलाया ठीक नहीं है। कोई आपातकालीन घटना नहीं घटी थी कर्ट आरम्भिक घटना घट गई हा, ऐम. बात नहीं थी कर्ट ऐम. बात नहीं थी जिस की इन्होंने कल्पना न की हो और जिसका मुकाबला करने के लिए आपको अध्यादेश जारी करना पड़ा हो। ऐसी स्थिति कोई पैदा नहीं हुई थी कि राष्ट्रपति जी को अधिष्ठान द्वारा प्रदत्त अधिकारों का उपयोग करके अध्यादेश जारी करने की जबरन महसूस होती। इस मामले में इसका विरोध करता हूँ।

दो साल पहले जो आपको समय दिया गया था उसमें यह काम क्यों नहीं हुआ, इस अवधि को बढ़ाने के बाद भी क्यों नहीं हुआ? अब इसका जो विवरण आपको रखना चाहिये था वह आपने नहीं रखा लोक सभा के पटल पर। जो कुछ आपने कहा है वह यही है :

Statement explaining the circumstances which necessitated promulgation of the North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Amendment Ordinance.

एक साल में ऐसी कौनसी कठिनाइयाँ आई हैं, जिनके कारण जो कल्पना की हुई थी, वह पूरी नहीं हो पाई है। जो विवरण दिया गया है उसमें इसका कारण नहीं बताया गया है। उसका अर्थ यह निकलता है कि अध्यादेश जारी करने का अधिकार अपने हाथ में ही है तो चिन्ता क्यों करें। कार्य काल की अवधि 21 जनवरी को समाप्त होती है, यह देखकर इनकी नींद एक दम खुल गई, 2, 3 दिन पहले क्यों नहीं किया? 21 जनवरी को एक साल की अवधि समाप्त होती है तो 20 जनवरी को राष्ट्रपति महोदय ने अध्यादेश निकाला। आखिर जब यह अवधि पूरी होने वाली थी। तो क्या सरकार 2, 4 5 या 10 दिन पहले भी इस बारे में कल्पना नहीं कर सकती थी? मन्त्री महोदय अपने भाषण में जरा इस पर रोशनी डालें कि इसके पुनर्गठन की प्रक्रिया को पूरा करने में कहा कहा कठिनाइयाँ आई? अब बैंगलूर हाउसिंग कारपोरेशन की सारी प्रक्रिया पूरी हो गई थी तो स्टेट इलेक्ट्रीसिटी बोर्ड के बारे में सारी प्रक्रिया पूरी क्यों नहीं हुई?

बाम्बे में इसका दायरा तो इतना ही है। इसके अग्रे उसका दायरा नहीं है। बाम्बे में इस सारे क्षेत्र का जो पुनर्गठन किया गया है वह इसी आधार पर किया गया है कि अग्रे चल कर इस क्षेत्र का पूरा विकास हो और इस क्षेत्र के निसर्गदत्त साधन, प्राकृतिक सम्पदा का पूरा उपयोग हो। मैं विदेशी शासन से तो यह अपेक्षा नहीं करता था किन्तु आजादी के उपरान्त 27, 28 साल होने के बाद भी जिन ध्यान से इस क्षेत्र का पुनर्गठन करने की कोशिश की गई है उसी ध्यान से इस क्षेत्र का विकास और उसकी साधन-सम्पदा का उपयोग करने की कोशिश नहीं की गई।

मैं एक सामान्य बात पूछना चाहता हूँ कि इतने सालों के बाद भी नागालैंड और मिज़ोरम अदि में सत्तारूढ़ कांग्रेस दल का अस्तित्व तक क्यों नहीं है? क्या बात है? इस क्षेत्र की बिल्कुल उपेक्षा की गई है। मेन्सालय में इनके कुछ इन्-गिने लोग हैं परन्तु उनसे नहीं है कि वे सत्तारूढ़ हो सके। यह बात मैंने इसलिये बताई कि सरकार को पूर्वी क्षेत्र के बारे में अपना दृष्टिकोण बदलना चाहिये। प्राकृतिक सम्पदा से भरा यह क्षेत्र विकास की दृष्टि से आज भी उपेक्षित है। यातायात के साधन इनके कम हैं कि वर्षों के दिनों में तो यातायात बिल्कुल टप हो जाता है। ऐसी स्थिति में लोग को यह लगने लगा कि जैसे हम बिल्कुल दूर और उपेक्षित हैं और हमारी ओर ध्यान देने वाला कोई नहीं है। मैं समझता हूँ कि हमारे नये गृह-मंत्री उस क्षेत्र में गये होंगे। वहाँ स्थिति ऐसी है जिसेको डिस्टर्ब किया जाना है। मैं चाहता हूँ कि गृह-मन्त्रालय में कोई मंत्री इस क्षेत्र की जिम्मेदारी ले और वहाँ की स्थिति का अध्ययन करे। बारम्बार यह कहने का कोई अर्थ नहीं है कि वे लोग राष्ट्रीय प्रवाह के अन्तर्गत सम्मिलित नहीं हुए हैं। इस दिशा में ठोस कदम उठाने जरूरी है।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER. That is much beyond the scope of this Bill.

SHRI JAGANNATHRAO JOSHI: Why has this area been neglected even after so many years...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There should be a different discussion on that. Here they want only two months, and those two months are nearly over now.

श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी : वहाँ केवल दो महीने कर के, केवल अपने विचारों वाले लोगों को बिठाने से काम नहीं चलेगा। एक व्यक्ति के बलबूते पर कुछ नहीं होगा।

जैसे काश्मीर में शेख साहब हों या कोई भी हो, एक व्यक्ति के बलबूते पर समय क्षेत्र का विकास नहीं होता है और विकास का फल दूर तक नहीं पहुँचना है।

इसलिये सरकार को हम प्रवृत्ति को छोड़कर, वास्तव में उस क्षेत्र के विकास और प्राकृतिक सम्पदा का उपयोग करने की ओर ध्यान देना चाहिये। मंत्री महोदय इस बात पर रोगनी डाले कि अध्यादेश जारी करने के कारण क्या थे ?

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं इनका बराबर करना हूँ।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Resolution moved

"This House disapproves of the North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Amendment Ordinance, 1975 (Ordinance No. 2 of 1975) promulgated by the President on the 20th January, 1975."

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri F. H. Mohsin)—rose

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I do not want to obstruct this debate. But will the Deputy Minister kindly explain how came it that he is substituting for Mr. Brahmananda Reddy?

SHRI F. H. MOHSIN. He has given me authority.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER I have nothing before me.

SHRI F. H. MOHSIN: I have received a copy of it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER But that should be before me and not before you.

SHRI F. H. MOHSIN. I am sorry if it has not reached you. Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Act, 1971, as passed by Rayya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The Bill seeks to replace the North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Amendment Ordinance, 1975, which was promulgated by the President under article 240 of the Constitution on the 20th January, 1975, to meet a minor administrative difficulty which had arisen partly due to the time taken in reaching an agreement between the Governments of Assam and Meghalaya in regard to the future functioning of the Assam State Electricity Board. As a result of reorganisation of the composite State of Assam under the principal Act of 1971, as from the 21st January 1972, the Assam State Electricity Board was one of the bodies corporate which became inter-State bodies under section 53 of the Act. In accordance with the provision in sub-section (3) of the same section, as amended by the North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Amendment Act, 1974, the Assam State Electricity Board was to cease to function and stand dissolved on the expiry of the period of three years from the date of reorganisation, i.e. on the 20th January, 1975.

As already indicated, there were prolonged discussions between the representatives of the Governments of Assam and Meghalaya with a view to evolving mutually acceptable arrangements for the future functioning of the Electricity Board. It was only on the 19th January 1975 that the Minister of Energy was successful in persuading the representatives of the two States to reach an agreement. Since, however, all the details necessary for incorporation in the statutory order to be issued by the Central Government for the taking over of the undertakings, assets, rights and liabilities of the inter-State Electricity

Board by the new inter-State Electricity Boards set up by the two Governments for their respective States, were not immediately available and the Union Territory of Mizoram, which was a necessary party, was also to be consulted, it was found necessary to extend the life of the inter-State Electricity Board by a brief period of two months beyond the 20th January 1975, on which date it was otherwise due to stand dissolved. To achieve this object, and since the Parliament was not in session, the President was pleased to promulgate the North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Amendment Ordinance, 1975, substituting the words "three years" occurring in sub-section (3) of Section 53 of the Act, by the words "thirty-eight months." The present Bill is intended to replace the Ordinance.

I now refer to the individual clauses of the Bill.

Clause 1 relates to short title and commencement.

Clause 2 seeks to make the substantive amendment by substituting the words "three years", occurring in sub-section (3) of section 53 of the principal Act, as amended by the Amendment Act of 1974, by the words "thirty-eight months".

Clause 3 relates to repeal and saving.

Sir, my hon friend Shri Jagannathrao Joshi has stated that there are no reasons mentioned for this extension of time. Sir, even in the Statement that was placed before the House, this fact was mentioned. I quote, Sir. This fact is mentioned in the statement itself.

"Necessary order of the Central Government to enable the taking over of the functions of the inter-State Assam State Warehousing Corporation by the inter-State warehousing corporation set up by the two States were issued under clause (a) of sub-section (4) of section 53 by the Ministry of Agriculture and

Irrigation (Department of Food) on the 20th day of January 1975; and another Order dissolving the inter-State body corporate as from the 21st day of January 1975, has also issued thereafter."

With the order of the 20th of January 1975 the warehousing Corporation stands dissolved. But the talks regarding the Electricity Board and the Agreement between the states took place on 18th of January 1975 and the details had to be worked out; and Mizoram had also to be consulted. Hence, within one day everything could not be finished. So, what we seek by this amendment is only an extension of 2 months, not much period; and that is also going to expire tomorrow.

SHRI JAGANNATHRAO JOSHI (Shajapur): What did you do in the whole year?

SHRI F. H. MOHSIN: It has been already extended by one year by the amendment and this Bill only seeks to extend the time by two months which is going to expire tomorrow. This is a very simple Bill. I do not think there can be any objection to this Bill.

My friend has made some points regarding the development of this area. We have done much for the economic development and to remove the backwardness of this region.

SHRI JAGANNATHRAO JOSHI: Question mark.

SHRI F. H. MOHSIN: I can also give you the figures of the amount that we have spent...

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Gaubati): Mohsin Sahab, Don't provoke us into a controversy.

SHRI F. H. MOHSIN: It may be that, according to you, whatever we have spent is not sufficient. But you

cannot deny and say that we have not spent anything. (Interruptions). When my friends have raised some points, I have to reply to that.

The amount in terms of money is:

First Five Year Plan Rs. 33.01 crores
 Second Five Year Plan Rs. 82.52 crores
 Third Five Year Plan Rs. 178.68 crores

SHRI JAGANNATHRAO JOSHI: Can you give us the break-up for the different States like Meghalaya, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, etc? So that we can understand how meagre it is.

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR (Hamirpur): He is not a law-breaker.

SHRI F. H. MOHSIN: That also I can give, but it will take some time.

Fourth Five Year Plan Rs. 384.65 crores
 Fifth Five Year Plan Rs. 899.54 crores
 (Tentative)

So, all this will go to show how more and more we are spending in that region.

SHRI NOORUL HUDA (Cachar): What about the price-rise?

SHRI F. H. MOHSIN: That is quite different. I am challenging the statement that we have not spent anything.

I will also give the figures with regard to certain vital spheres of growth in that region. In regard to roads, the mileage in 1960-61 was 7763 km. In 1971-72 it went up to 55,181 km. In the sphere of education, in 1962-63 there were only 43 Arts and Science colleges in the region. In 1972-73 there were 125 colleges. In high schools also there is an increase. Even the per capita outlay in this region also compares

[Shri F H Mohsin]

very much favourably with the other areas of the country.

In this way we have made satisfactory progress in removing the backwardness of the region. Of course, I would not say that the area has become very advanced. Still backwardness is there, but, within the resources that we have made sufficient efforts and we continue to do that

Mr Joshi also said

SHRI JAGNNATHRAO JOSHI
The area is not backward. It is only undeveloped.

SHRI F. H. MOHSIN: All right. You can say 'undeveloped'. I have no quarrel. That way, the whole country is backward. I do not say that we are an advanced country. (Interruptions)

This is not the time to discuss all these things. When the Demands for Grants are discussed, we can discuss it in detail. If my friends want more information, I can give. He says that we have not even established our Party in Nagaland...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Why go into all that?

SHRI F H MOHSIN: This point coming from the Jana Sangh which has no base there at all! At least we have got some workers there, but you have no base at all.

SHRI NURUL HUDA: He does not require a base.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This is a very simple Bill. If you want to go into a controversy, it is very easy. What does this Bill want? It wants an extension by two months effective from 20th January. That two months will be over by to-day or tomorrow. What is all this?

SHRI F. H. MOHSIN: I am sorry for digression. My friends had raised some points and I thought.....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: They like to pull your legs but ministerial legs should not allow themselves to be pulled.

SHRI F H MOHSIN: I have said about the statement of objects and reasons of this Bill.

I move the Bill

SHRI S M BANERJEE: On a point of order, Sir. An alarming news has come on the teleprinter.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Point of order even on this? Mr Banerjee, please sit down. I am already aware of it. Many Members have given me some slips and I told them not to raise it now. Let this item go. Let us dispose of it.

You are a senior Member and you want that the Chair should violate the rules! And when the Chair commits some mistakes, you say, why are you doing this or why are you doing that? What is all this?

(Interruptions)

Not now. I may be aware of what it is. Let us dispose of it. I had already conveyed to some Members that after this item is disposed of I will go out of the way and listen to them. But on top of it you want to violate all the rules! What is the use of my sitting here?

(Interruptions)

Not now, please

This will not go on record. Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the North Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Act, 1971, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Now the resolution and the Bill are both before the House.

*SHRI BIREN DUTTA (Tripura West). Mr. Deputy Speaker, while speaking on the North Eastern Areas (Re-Organisation) Amendment Bill, 1975, I would like to lay stress on a few points. Just now the hon. Minister said that a lot of development has been effected in the North-Eastern region. I contest this statement. In Tripura we used to get some electricity from Assam but for some time now the supply of electricity has been stopped. Tripura does not have many industries but whatever little is there has come to stand still because of the suspension of electricity. The lot of the tribal people in the whole of the North Eastern region is very pitiable. Not only their legitimate demands are not met but they are being tortured and killed. Recently Shri Dhananjay Deb Barman was killed as he had been spearheading a demand for the formation of Four, Point Autonomous District Council in the Reserve areas. This is just one example. There are innumerable other cases of torture which is being inflicted upon the tribal people who raise their voice for the betterment of their lot.

14 hrs.

Tripura has much petroleum resources and petroleum gas already been found there. The ONGC has opined that if the gas is developed for commercial use, the money earned therefrom would be sufficient to finance exploration work in the area. But nothing is being done there. Necessary equipments are not being sent to Tripura because of communication difficulties. With our good relations with Bangladesh we could construct a small rail strip through Bangladesh to connect Tripura with the rest of the country on which really depends the development of Tripura.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Have you read the Bill.

SHRI BIREN DUTTA: Yes Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER. Then how does Tripura arise out of the Bill. It seeks extension for 2 months only.

SHRI BIREN DUTTA. You are right, Sir. It deals with the question of supply of electricity in this area. But we do not get adequate opportunity to raise the problems of these areas. I was only suggesting, Sir, that not much has been done by the Central Government for the development of this areas, as claimed by the hon. Minister. I demand that much more has to be done for the development of this area.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GO-SWAMI (Gauhati): The Bill has a limited purpose. Nobody need object to this Bill. But the subject matter relating to the Bill is of vital importance. The subject matter is electricity. The agreement has already been concluded between the State of Assam and Meghalaya in consultation with the State of Mizoram. The salient features of the agreement should have been placed in the House. I do not have any firsthand knowledge of the agreement. But newspapers have come out with certain news and if the newspaper reports are correct, this gives serious reading. Some of the newspapers have said that Meghalaya from which you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, come, and which is fortunate to have electrical plants, will supply electricity to Assam upto 1981 after fulfilling their own requirements. After 1981 what will happen? Obviously Assam will have power-famine. And even upto 1981 we are not sure whether we will have any electricity.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We will always have enough, you can take it.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GO-SWAMI: The second aspect is this. The Government of Assam has spent

*The original speech was delivered in Bengali.

[Shri Dinesh Chandra Goswami] large amounts of money on various projects, for example, the Kirdemula project. Assam spent Rs. 2 crores during the last year. I do not know what the Centre has done regarding this.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: How do you expect Home Minister to reply? It is for the Energy Minister.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GO-SWAMI: I will not enter into any controversy. And even if Meghalaya has gained. I will hardly make it a point at issue. I have one grievance against the Central Government and in this regard. I want to give some figures so that the country may know what is happening in that region. Regarding Government's own statistics of rural electrification, the total number of villages electrified in the country is 1,22,094 number of villages in Assam is 670 and in the North-Eastern region, 1090. Mind you, this is for the entire North-Eastern Region. Compare it with the other States. The number of villages electrified in Andhra Pradesh is 9252. Here, 6 States combined, the figure is 1090; Andhra Pradesh alone, 9252. I am not complaining against Andhra Pradesh. But just look at the regional disparity.

Bihar 8,313, Haryana 6,091, not to speak of Maharashtra 13,661 and U.P. 23,755. Let us take another case. For agricultural development, what is essential is that there should be energised pumpsets. Let me look to certain statistics of the entire country upto 1972. The number of pump sets energised is more than 19 lakhs and, in Assam, out of 19 lakhs, it is 105.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Goswami, why do you go into details? How do you expect him to reply to all these things?

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GO-SWAMI: Because he is responsible for the North-eastern Council which comes under the Home Ministry.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I know that. But these details of energy and units supplied and all that are the functions of the Minister of Energy.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GO-SWAMI: But, it comes under the Home Ministry. As I said, out of more than 19 lakhs, the number of pumpsets given to Assam is 105. But for the entire eastern region, it is 131. Compare it to Andhra. It is only .0007 per cent. Still you say that enough has been done for the upliftment of the backward region of North-eastern region. You will have to bring down this regional imbalance. You compare this regional disparity with other regions. In Andhra, it is 2,22,467. In Maharashtra, it is 2,39,865.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There should be another occasion for this about the regional imbalance.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GO-SWAMI: But, the North-Eastern Council is under the Home Ministry.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let me tell you that his Ministry is not under discussion. The regional imbalance of North-Eastern region is not under discussion. What is under discussion? That is extension of time by two months to both these States and to work out certain arrangements with regard to Electricity Boards. These two months are, I think, over by today or tomorrow. What else?

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GO-SWAMI: He said that enough has been done.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: If the Minister goes out of the scope, it does not mean that you should also go out of the scope.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI: I have a right to make a statement.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have a right to bring the Member within the scope of the Bill.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI: It is within the scope of the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: All right, you satisfy me that this is within the scope of this Bill.

If you satisfy me, I am going to allow you. Please satisfy me that all that you say is within the scope of this Bill.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI: The Bill wants extension by two months in order to bifurcate the State Electricity Boards of Assam and Meghalaya.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: And to work out details.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Details have been worked out.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Goswami, why are you so much talkative? Kindly sit down. It is to work out the details of how this Electricity Board should be bifurcated. That is what you say. Why do you bring in the comparison of the North-Eastern region with other States? How does that come within the scope of the Bill? You please satisfy me on this. Because you want to come in, that is why it comes in?

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI: You may expunge it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am not expunging it. I am pointing out to the irrelevancy.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Relevancy is one thing that is not followed here. Therefore, I am

submitting, for the purpose of record, to the Home Minister who is in charge of the North-Eastern Council, I do not have any other scope to refer to the North-Eastern Council in this debate.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: His own Ministry will be coming in shortly.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Compare this to other States. Take Tamil Nadu. The figure is 5,94,612. These disparities have increased over the years in the entire North-Eastern Region. Now a statement has been given to us also showing details of hydro and thermal project likely to be commissioned....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Goswami, kindly cooperate.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI: I am finishing within two minutes. Please permit me.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Within these two minutes you can be relevant.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Even if you hold it irrelevant, you may permit me....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have not expunged what you said. Your irrelevancy will go on record.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI: As I said, the hydro and thermal projects are likely to be commissioned from 1974-1977. The total megawatts likely to be commissioned for the whole country comes to 7838 M.W. What is Assam's share to it? A meagre 60 M.W. and in the entire north-east region it is only 70 M.W. Compare it to Gujarat. It is 905 M.W., for Maharashtra it is 465 M.W. and for Bihar, it is 353 M.W. I am only placing the facts before you, Mr. Mohsin. We are shouting at the top of our voice about this. Your Ministry is in charge of this North-Eastern Region.

[Shri Dunes Chandra Goswami]

It has decided that it is very important. But, you look to the economic development of this region. You said that you will be paying more attention to the development of North-Eastern region. But if this is the way in which these things are going on it will not be too long before you will find Mr. Joshi in that region. Therefore, in order to see that these rightists and extreme leftists may not play a detrimental role in this sensitive region, do not be complacent about the economic development of this region.

Lastly, before I conclude Mr. Qureshi has said that because of financial stringency certain projects have not been taken up but here I am told it is not because of financial stringency but it is because of lack of initiative. On the one hand in some cases you say there is financial stringency and on the other in some cases you say there is lack of initiative. This is creating a situation of intolerance. Sir, although I have been irrelevant yet I thought it my duty to put the facts on record so that the people of this country may know how things are developing in this region.

श्री सरजू पांडे (गाजीपुर) उपाध्यक्ष ज, आम तौर से मैं इस बिल का समर्थन करना चाहता हूँ, क्योंकि इस बिल में कोई ऐसी बात नहीं है जिस के लिये विरोध किया जाय। लेकिन बहुत सारे सदस्यों ने जैसा कहा है कि सिर्फ दमनात्मक रबैया अपनाने से समस्या हल नहीं होगी, इन इलाके में मैंने खुद देखा है—यह इलाका देश का बहुत ही पिछड़ा हुआ हिस्सा है, बहुत सी जगहों पर जनता को यह भी मालूम नहीं है कि हिन्दुस्तान आजाद है या नहीं। देश के बहुत सारे कार्य-कर्मियों की उन को जानकारी नहीं है और न वे इस देश के बारे में जानते हैं। आम तौर से मिडिया के बारे में मैंने देखा है

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This is an over-statement. I come from that area and I know that India is now independent.

श्री सरजू पांडे : इस लिये जैसा कि मेम्बरों ने कहा है कि दमनात्मक रबैया अपनाने से समस्या का हल नहीं होगा, इस इलाके में डवेलपमेन्ट करना जरूरी है। देश के बहुत सारे हिस्सों में यह समस्या खड़ी हो गई है। अभी माननीय मंत्री जी ने कुछ मिसालें दी हैं—डवेलपमेन्ट के लिये कुछ काम बहा किये गये हैं। यह ठीक है कि सारा देश पिछड़ा हुआ है, लेकिन जो हिस्सा ज्यादा पिछड़ा है उस पर ज्यादा ध्यान देना चाहिये। आप के पास दो आदमी आते हैं—एक 6 दिन का भूखा है और दूसरा 3 दिन का भूखा है जाहिर है कि जो 6 दिन का भूखा है उसको मन्नने पहले खाना देना जरूरी है। अभी जहाँ बिकास की प्रक्रिया चल रही है या जो इल के डवेलपमेंट हैं, अगर उन को ही लेते हैं तो बाकी जगहों पर वह समस्या खड़ी रहेगी, वहाँ ला-एण्ड० प्राडर की प्राबलम पैदा हो जायगी। इसलिये मैं चाहता हूँ कि आप कोई कम्प्रीहेन्सिव बिल लायें। यह ठीक है कि यह एक्सटेन्शन आप को मिल जायगा, हाउम इस का बिरोध नहीं करेगा लेकिन जहाँ बिकास पर ज्यादा जोर देना जरूरी है, पहले उन की तरफ ध्यान दिया जाय ताकि वहाँ के जनमानस को जीता जा सके।

SHRI BISWANARAYAN SHASTRI (Lakhumpur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, while I would like to support the Bill I would like to offer certain comments in this regard. The Bill seeks to extend the term. There is no objection to that from any quarter and there should not be any objection. Regarding the creation of electricity, Mr. Goswami has given certain figures. I do not want to repeat the same. But I would like to say that in the Fifth Five Year Plan what is the electrical capacity in the whole of the country. It is near about 2,000 m.w. whereas for the total Eastern region it is contemplated as 70 m.w. only. This itself shows how the Eastern region is neglected and badly treated.

So far as the creation of two electricity boards—one for Assam and the other for Meghalaya—and the arrangement which has been made regarding assets and liabilities something has appeared in the Press which is very disappointing. I am not sure whether the Minister will be able to reply to those points. Therefore, I am not mentioning them. Sir, I would like to impress upon the hon. Minister, since he is in charge of the North Eastern Regional Council as well as the union territories, that he has also a responsibility in this regard. Sir, it has been pointed out that after 1981, there will be no electric supply from Meghalaya where these hydel projects are there. But, we have not seen so far any hydel project being taken up in the State of Assam. The existing thermal project caters to only one tenth of the population in the State of Assam. I would like to impress upon the hon. Minister that if this state of affairs continues, no industry will come up in this area.

Secondly, Sir, since this relates to the North Eastern Regional Council. I would like to state that there are other aspects like establishment of industries, development of roads and railways etc. which should also be taken into consideration from the point of view of development of this region. I would request the hon. Minister that these matters should be brought to the notice of the respective Ministries so that effective steps can be taken for development of this North Eastern Region. Sir, it is an irony of fate and it is unfortunate, as one of the great civilians has written, that whenever there is a foreign aggression, only then some improvement takes place in the North Eastern Region. I would like to appeal to the hon. Minister to see that such an impression is not created.

*SHRI J. MATHA GOWDER (Nilgiris): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I

am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to say a few words on the North Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Amendment Bill.

As you are very well aware, Sir, in consequence of the parent Act passed in December, 1971, in January, 1972 three States—Assam, Meghalaya, Union Territory of Mizoram—were created in the north-eastern region of our country. The Government of India have taken three years to set up intra-State Warehousing Corporations in these three States. As the Government of India have not been able to constitute intra-State Electricity Boards during these three years, they are seeking through this Bill an extension of two months. I wonder whether they will be able to do the work in two months—this period is also going to expire tomorrow—what they could not do in three years. In his preliminary remarks the hon. Deputy Minister of Home Affairs has not stated whether the objective for which this Bill has been brought forward has been achieved or not. It is regrettable that the parent Act should have been amended three times for this purpose. This only shows the callous attitude of the Central Government towards the economic development of the entire north-eastern region.

The hon. Deputy Minister mentioned, while introducing the Bill, that so many crores of rupees have been spent for the economic upliftment of the north-eastern region. I would like to refer here what he has stated in his speech in the Rajya Sabha. He has mentioned in unequivocal terms that there is not even a single warehousing centre in Mizoram. Sir, you can very well imagine how the basic minimum needs of the people of Mizoram can be met in any exigency if there is no warehousing centre to store foodgrains. Assam is a surplus state in the matter of rice production.

*The original speech was delivered in Tamil.

[Shri J. Matha Gowder]

If there is a warehousing centre in Mizoram, rice can be rushed to Mizoram in times of emergency. Is this not a clear admission of the fact of negligence on the part of the Central Government in the matter of meeting the basic minimum needs of the people living in hilly areas?

I need not stress the point that the entire north-eastern region is a sensitive strategic area. If the nation's security is to be safeguarded, the people inhabiting these areas should be contented and happy. The hon. Members belonging to the ruling party who spoke before me pointed out with facts and figures the economic backwardness of the entire north-eastern region. Their speeches proved beyond doubt that all the plans and programmes to which the hon. Deputy Minister made a reference are only on paper and nothing constructive has so far been done by the Central Government for the economic upliftment of this vital region. I come from a hill area and I am aware personally that the people belonging to the hill tribes are honest and highly emotional. When they find that their manifold miseries have gone beyond their endurance, they naturally rise in revolt against the establishment which has not cared for them. If the three high Police Officers had been shot dead in Mizoram, it was only a violent expression of their discontent with the state of affairs. If the law and order situation in Mizoram is deteriorating day by day, it is only because the basic minimum needs of the people here have not been met by the authorities. The discontent among the people here cannot be met with the help of bayonets. The discontent of the people has to be rooted out by making available to them their daily necessities of life. By spending Rs. 50 lakhs or so on the Presiding Officers' Conference held last year in Meghalaya, the economic ills have not been removed in Meghalaya.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This is a very thorny issue. Better keep out

of it.

SHRI J. MATHA GOWDER: I mention this because with this money the much-needed warehousing centres could have been established in Meghalaya and also in Mizoram. I would also quote another example. Sir, Kashmir is a border State. Realising the importance of this strategic State, the Government of India are giving wheat to the people of Kashmir at subsidised rate. Why should not rice be given to the people of Mizoram at subsidised rate?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: That is a broader question.

SHRI J. MATHA GOWDER: I say this just to stress the point that, as Kashmir is an important strategic area, the States like Mizoram, Meghalaya in the north-eastern region are also sensitive border areas and it is imperative that, unless the people living in these States are supplied with their basic minimum daily necessities of life, the Central Government will not be able to maintain law and order in these States. It is not enough for the Central Government to pass laws sitting here in Delhi. Not only the laws must be translated in action, but energetic and effective steps must be initiated in these border States in the north-eastern region, with a view to mitigating the manifold miseries of the millions of people inhabiting these areas.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Mahajan.

SHRI R. S. PANDEY (Ranjanagaon): A man ..

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Order, order. This is not the way how things should be done. I have already taken Mr. Banerjee to task; whenever he comes from outside, without knowing what is going on, he gets up and says 'I would say something. Kindly keep quiet.

Mr. Mahajan.

SHRI R. S. PANDEY:**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: That will not go on record.

SHRI Y. S. MAHAJAN (Buldana): I support the Bill which is simple in character and of a technical nature. The Bill had to be brought forward because the different States could not co-ordinate their plans in time and therefore, the time limits for statewide reorganisation of the Electricity Corporation which expires tomorrow had to be extended by two months.

In this connection, I would say that the delay has taken place probably because the North-Eastern Council is not functioning effectively. We brought it into existence with a view to co-ordinating the work of the four States and two Union Territories to secure integrated development of that area. But we find that the Council is purely recommendatory in character. It has no statutory powers. Therefore, to avoid such a situation, I suggest that the Council be endowed with some statutory powers.

There is a question relating to bifurcation of the Electricity Corporation. In this connection, there is no doubt, as some hon. members have pointed out, that that area lacks in electricity supply. The electricity consumed per head is very small as compared to that consumed in some other parts of the country. Therefore, I would suggest that steps be taken to expedite the Kopili Hydel Project, the Kamong Project and the Garo Hills Thermal project. If these are developed, it will be possible to increase the supply of electricity in that area.

I may mention in this connection that this reorganisation has not satisfied us, has really disappointed us completely. We had expected that that area would move together and would be able to register a higher rate

of progress than it has actually done. I therefore suggest that this area being predominantly agricultural in character, the Central Government should see that one very destructive and harmful system of agriculture in vogue there, namely, slash and burn or jhoom cultivation, is stopped and terracing is provided for cultivation. Then only will this area prosper.

SHRI F. H. MOHSIN: I am thankful to the Members for making suggestions, though they were not very much relevant to the Bill before the House. In particular Mr. Goswami was very vehement. I can understand his feelings because he belongs to that area and some difficulties about electricity were there. The Home Ministry is not concerned with the generation of electricity and when the agreements were entered into between two States, the Ministry of Energy was there for negotiations. So, we in the Home Ministry are unable to give how much electricity is produced, etc.

Shri Jagannatha Rao Joshi says that nothing had been done to develop those areas. I have given some figures. I do not mean to say that that was given was enough or that the area had developed very well. Much needs to be done. Within our limited resources we have provided some funds and even besides funds provided for in the Plan, we have given funds to the Northeastern Council for regional development schemes and projects. The Northeastern Council came into being during the last phase of the Fourth Plan and Rs. 50 crores were made available to this Council for regional development projects. Similarly Rs. 100 crores were made available for the Fifth Plan period, from 1974 to 1979. So far, for the Council's projects Rs. 33.10 lakhs had been sanctioned for 1973-74 and Rs. 646 lakhs for 1974-75. The annual allotment for 1975-76 is Rs. 10 crores and

[Shri F. H. Mohsin]

other schemes are being cleared. I say this to show that some amounts had been provided. We are quite aware of the problems of the North-eastern Region and every effort is being made to see that they are economically developed. I should say that the whole country is backward and the whole country has limited resources. Rapid progress had been made in some fields while in other fields development has yet to take place (Interruptions) I am saying that our country is backward compared to some developed countries, I am saying so in comparison.

Anyway various suggestions have been made by Members and they will be kept in mind and every effort will be made to see that this area comes at par with the other parts of the country.

श्री जगन्नाथ राव खोशी . उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं ने जिन दो बातों को ले कर विरोध किया था उस का कोई समाधान नहीं मिला । दो महीना भ्रष्टि बढ़ाने का विरोध नहीं था बल्कि पहले ही इस की एक साल भ्रष्टि बढ़ाने के बाद उस भ्रष्टि के अनन्तर्गत कार्य-कलाप क्यों नहीं हुआ, यह मेरा विरोध था । और दूसरा मेरा विरोध था व र-वार अध्यादेश जाग करके काराबार चलाने की जो प्रक्रिया है उस के बारे में इन दो बातों का समाधान नहीं हुआ इसलिये मैं विरोध कर रहा हूँ । मैं केवल भ्रष्टि बढ़ाने का विरोध नहीं करता, बल्कि जिस ढंग से यह किया जा रहा है उस का विरोध करता हूँ ।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"This House disapproves of the North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Amendment Ordinance, 1975 (Ordinance No 2 of 1975) promulgated by the President on the 20th January, 1975."

The motion was negatived.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the North-Eastern Areas (Reorganisation) Act, 1971, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration"

The motion was adopted

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER The question is:

"That clauses 2, 3 and 1, Enacting Formula and the Title stand part of the Bill"

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2, 3 and 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI F. H. MOHSIN I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.