

12.07 hrs

PRESIDENT'S PENSION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the President's Pension Act, 1951.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the President's Pension Act, 1951."

The Motion was adopted.

SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY: I introduce† the Bill.

12.09 hrs.

MAINTENANCE OF INTERNAL SECURITY (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL*

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Maintenance of Internal Security Act, 1971.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved.

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Maintenance of Internal Security Act, 1971."

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose this Bill even at the introduction stage. MISA after numerous amendments during 1975-76 became so draconian that it was admitted by the Attorney General himself that there was no remedy against mala fide detention

and hence we thought whenever Government wants to extend life of this draconian Act it must make a review in Parliament of how it has been used or misused and how the bureaucracy is implementing and whether the experience justified some safeguards for innocent persons. The present amending Bill which the hon. Minister, Shri Brahmananda Reddy has introduced is not accompanied by any such objective review or assurance by the Government. We can appreciate that powers of detention may be necessitated by special circumstances so that anti-national, anti-social, communal and pro-imperialist forces are prevented from subverting democracy or carrying out de-stabilisation plots. But, Sir, we can never support the misuse of MISA. I give certain instances to show as to how MISA was misused or is being misused by bureaucracy which has been invested with unprecedented powers. We are opposing the introduction of this Bill because we find MISA is being grossly misused against those very forces which have been consistently fighting the rightists and reactionaries and also which have persistently supported the 20-point programme. You are aware, Sir, during that time when the self-styled Lok Nayak led the right reactionary forces in Bihar it was our comrade who had fought back to the wall and ultimately defeated and made the sinister plans of these forces abortive. And what is the position today! More than two dozen of our activists who pledged their support to the Emergency and 20-point programme are behind the bars and have been arrested under MISA in Bihar itself. I am not talking of those who are detained under DIR. They are more than one thousand. Sir, the All India Defence Employees Federation of which I am the President supported the 20-point programme and the Emergency. They stood like one

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†Introduced with the recommendation of the President.