

20.4 hrs.

GUJARAT APPROPRIATION (NO. 4) BILL, 1974*

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE SUSHILA ROHTAGI: I beg to move **SUSHILA ROHTAGI:** I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Gujarat for the services of the financial year 1974-75.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is.

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Gujarat for the services of the financial year 1974-75."

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI: I introduce the Bill.

I beg to move:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Gujarat for the services of the financial year 1974-75, be taken into consideration."

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 the State of Gujarat for the services of the financial year 1974-75, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now we take up clause by clause consideration Clause 2.

SHRI P. M. MEHTA (Bhavnagar): This is a totally inadequate amount and cannot meet the situation in Gujarat. The Government has failed

in fulfilling the obligations towards the people. The requirement is of the order of Rs. 200 crores for overcoming the difficulties of the scarcity-stricken areas but Government want to spend only Rs. 13 crores. This is totally inadequate and Government should come forward with further Demand, to meet the drought situation

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR (Ahmedabad) I am grateful to the Minister for her earlier remarks that the Government of India are actively considering giving all necessary assistance to Gujarat in meeting this terrible and unprecedented challenge of scarcity and drought. I wish she had elaborated a little more on this as to how the Government of India are going to give the necessary additional financial assistance in the context of the sixth Finance Commission's recommendations, as she herself mentioned. The whole difficulty is, the popular upheaval in Gujarat earlier this year upset almost everything and everybody. But unfortunately both the Government and opposition parties have not been able to pinpoint and focus the issues and problems involved in the agitation. Gujarat has never resorted to any unauthorised overdraft from the Reserve Bank in the last 14 years or from the Contingency Fund of the State. It has carried on its fiscal affairs nicely and economically. Now that we are in such a terrible grip of scarcity, should we be punished for our honest functioning administratively and fiscally all along? That is what the Gujarat people are asking. I am sure the Government of Gujarat, who is directly in charge now under President's Rule has also made some proposals to the Central Government.

Th 1974-75 and 1975-76 budgets of Gujarat are going to have lot of difficulties and dislocations in respect of planning and financial administra-

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†Introduced/Moved with the recommendation of the President.

[Shri P G Mavalankar]

tion The total amount estimated for scarcity relief is of the order of Rs 125 crores. Therefore, my feeling is that, unless financial assistance comes in a massive way and urgently, the people of Gujarat will not feel satisfied and restless.

One word about the atrocities committed on Harijans in Ranmalpur, Surendarnagar district. Harijans were tortured and beaten to death. The targeting of Ranmalpur was not an isolated tragedy. It is unfortunate that we could not discuss the problems of Harijan and Advaitas in this House because the time is being spent on many other things. The point is that the Harijans and tribals have not been given their due attention, they have not been given the attention they legitimately deserve.

Gujarat has many problems, not only within Gujarat but outside Gujarat also, i.e., with various Central Ministries. A number of trains in Gujarat still stand cancelled. The number of railway wagons provided for the industries there is inadequate. The telephone system in various cities like Surat, Baroda and Ahmedabad is not functioning properly and efficiently. The postal services are not satisfactory. The Minister has been vague in his reply. As regard television, we have been demanding a television station in Ahmedabad for a long time. Late Dr Vikram Sarabhai was responsible for many scientific and other achievements, including development of television. If he had been alive today, we would not have been in this situation asking the Government repeatedly for a television station in Ahmedabad. Because Gujarat happens to be a border State a television station is all the more necessary and essential. I hope, the Government will look into this demand seriously.

The Provident Fund Commissioner's office in Ahmedabad is absolutely in a mess. The workers are not getting their dues because there are no proper slips maintained. I wonder sometimes as to why there is no violent agitation there. Of course, I am not pleading for that. But the workers and other citizens are experiencing tremendous hardships. I would request the Government of India to look into this and set right the Provident Fund Commissioner's office in Ahmedabad, so that the workers and others get their dues.

Finally, let the Cabinet have at least one full-fledged Cabinet Minister from Gujarat. Only then we will feel that the problems and difficulties of Gujarat will be reflected at the highest level at the Cabinet level in the Government of India.

MR CHAIRMAN The question is

'That Clauses 2 and 3, and the Schedule form a part of the Bill.'

The motion was adopted.

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

Clause 1 (Short title)

Amendment made

Page 1, line 3,—

for "(No 4) substitute "(No 3)'

(Shri Pranab Kumar Mukherjee)

MR CHAIRMAN. The question is

"That Clause 1, as amended, stands part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Enacting Formula and the Title were also added to the Bill.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: Sir, I move:

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

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: Let the Minister reply to at least some of the points that I have raised. The people of Gujarat are under harassment and hardship. Let her not be in such hurry.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: I am in no hurry and I can assure the hon. Member with all the sincerity and earnestness that you have mentioned repeatedly the trials and tribulations of the State and I can assure you that our sympathies and administration for that State are second to none and I can only convey to you that whatever you have said has not fallen on deaf ears. Sir, I have nothing more to add to what I have said about the consideration of Gujarat's needs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the question is.

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

The motion was adopted.

EAST PUNJAB URBAN RENT RESTRICTION ACT (EXTENSION TO CHANDIGARH) BILL

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSIN): I beg to move: *

"That the Bill to extend the East Punjab Urban Rent Restriction Act, 1949, to the Union Territory of Chandigarh, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration.

It is a very simple Bill. It is intended only to protect the tenants from the tyranny of the landlords who are charging exorbitant rents and also to extend the East Punjab Urban Rent Restriction Act which was applicable formerly. The present Bill arises out of the result of the writ petitions challenging the application of the East Punjab Urban Rent Restriction Act, 1949 where it was held that this Act is not applicable to Chandigarh. It is only with the intention to protect those tenants that this Bill has been brought before the House.

I commend this Bill for the acceptance of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill to extend the East Punjab Urban Rent Restriction Act, 1949, to the Union territory of Chandigarh, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: As there are no amendments, I will put all the clauses, to vote.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 4 and the Schedule stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 4 and the Schedule were added to the Bill.

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

SHRI F. H. MOHSIN: I move:

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is: "That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.