

Clause 2 and 3, the Schedule, clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the title were added to the Bill.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

12.05 hrs.

PONDICHERRY APPROPRIATION (NO. 4) BILL*, 1976

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): 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 Union Territory of Pondicherry for the services of the financial year 1976-77.

MR. SPEAKER: 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 Union Territory of Pondicherry for the services of the financial year 1976-77."

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: 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 Union Territory of Pondicherry for the services of the financial year 1976-77, be taken into consideration."

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the Union Territory of Pondicherry for the services of the financial year 1976-77, be taken into consideration."

Shri Aravinda Bala Pajanor.

SHRI ARAVINDA BALAJANOR: (Pondicherry): I must thank at the outset the hon. Minister for coming forward with supplementary demands so that Pondicherry can be discussed at least once again. I thought I would be the solitary member but I find I will be followed by Mr. Ravi. ...

AN HON. MEMBER: You will speak on matters other than Pondicherry also.

SHRI ARAVINDA BALAJANOR: I am speaking on other matter also and I speak much more than the members from your side. I would like others also take some interest about Pondicherry. You know Pondicherry has made a record here in this House. Of course, in the emergency we cannot say because it can be extended further. So far as President's rule is concerned, Pondicherry has achieved that record and at times I do not want to say that I am dejected and I am not interested in taking part in the discussion as far as Pondicherry is concerned because no action is taken, majority of the criticisms or suggestions that are made are not looked into when they come for the second time.

I do not know whether the Minister remembers. Last time when we met, I do not know how to call it, I made a very serious plea that you must have a committee for Pondicherry when this territory is under President's rule for the past three years like the ones you have for Tamil Nadu and Gujarat. When I suggested this, I know many Ministers also agreed with me that it was a good point and that they would consider it and that they will pass on

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†Introduced/Moved with the recommendation of the President.

[Shri Aravinda Bala Pajnor]

the suggestion to the concerned Government. When I referred to this committee and gave good reasons why I demand it very seriously, my friend referred to her as the Minister for Gujarat. Our Deputy Minister for Finance has become a permanent Minister for Pondicherry. I know Mr. Om Mehta is the Minister in charge of the Union Territories. He promised to visit our territory and promised many things. When he said this, I thought that they would consider Pondicherry as a very important matter.

Sir, when we think of this 20-point programme and, of course, the five point programme also is added to it, people understand them and think about the good things that are going to come through these plans and programmes. At the same time, they want to participate in the development of these programmes and they want to contribute their mite in lifting this country from the slums and the squalor. So, when a demand is made, I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Minister as to how casually these things are met and, of course, some progress has been made and in my territory also some progress is made. Sir, if you look into this, just to satisfy a certain formality you are printing certain things without considering to what kind of ridicule it will lead to. I know it is very difficult for the hon. Minister to go into every detail. It is the duty of the Department which supplies to the Minister both here and in my territory, to supply correct information. How sometimes does it look, I am sorry to say, odd to find certain things mentioned in these supplementary demands. I remember, when I entered this House in the beginning of the year 1974 I pleaded about the Christian women. After that you celebrated International Women's Year. I find a number of booklets and pamphlets about the status of women.

I made a remark in this House that the Pondich. Christian women are those people who are not given renaiss-

sance and are still slaves. They do not have right for property. They cannot claim shares with the male members. It was very much promised then by the then Minister, Shri Ganesan, and subsequently by other Minister Shri Pranab Kumar Mukherjee and now Shrimati Sushila Rohatgi. Nothing has been done up to this time. I requested them to introduce it in the Indian Succession Act. Scant respect was paid to this. I am afraid this may happen to many other States also. If you are going to apply this norm or scale of attention to particular things, it will finally end in Bourgeois regime. I wished to bring this to the notice of the hon. Prime Minister but it is difficult for her to go into the details. It is the duty of every Ministry. It is the duty of the Department concerned to take it very seriously and do the needful also. This is a demand about the status of women in Pondicherry. Thousands are affected. I made this demand in 1974, but up to this time nothing has been done.

In my case file there were four cases that were pending before the High Court of Madras. Women do not get relief under the Indian Succession Act, because Christians are not covered. In Renaissance they may go to the court of law and get the right. They suffer because you did not care to introduce it in the Succession Act.

After my speech it is remarked that the Pondicherry member made a good speech. That is all. I am pleased. But people at my corner knock at my back and say what is this? I say that the respect for democracy will die down.

All the four cases failed and could not be taken care of because of the fact that legislators are not taken care of. If there is a Consultative Committee for Pondicherry this matter can be raised there. The Committee people can bring this to the notice of the Central Government and can correct the State Government there also.

All these matters are connected because you are having President's rule over there for the last three years. It is a record. Nobody can beat. There is no Committee to look into it. Some Administrative Officers and Secretaries are there. I do not want to criticise them. We have a new good Governor there. He is very popular. He is, of course, serious in implementing many other things. I do not want to go into that field. But you are not paying any serious attention to the simple proposition which I made last year.

I thank you with a heavy heart as you are introducing the Bill by which I can at least raise my solitary voice as a Member of Parliament. Of course, I am an ordinary Member of Parliament like any of you.

You introduced the Land Ceiling Act. You know the lacunae are there. I do not want to be over-enthusiastic. They wanted to plug many loopholes that were found in Tamilnadu Land Ceiling Act and the Kerala Act and the Andhra Pradesh Act. They made certain things. The idea of the Land Ceiling Act is to curb the big sharks—kulaks—that are holding the land. But, actually, what has happened in Pondicherry. You are simply curbing small farmers. Hundreds of cases are there.

The Settlement Deed was made in 1844, much earlier than independence. This is the biggest lacunae in the Pondicherry Act because it cannot be amended now. There is no Consultative Committee to go into the legislation. The Secretaries are there. But they have no power to curb it. The Governor cannot do it. Every Member gets .005 cents. The authorized officer is not a legally qualified man. He (the Member) is defined as a limited owner.

Since there is no Committee to look into this, the difficulties cannot be pointed out. You have introduced 'Patta'. You have introduced other reforms—seniority, reforms in the

service conditions, etc. You have not achieved the objective because there is no Committee for the purpose. If the Committee would have been there, these things could be rectified.

In these demands I find there are four heads. Under one head there is a mention about agriculture. Karagikal is the tail end of Cauvery Delta. Crops were affected last time. Short term paddy could not be grown. What help is being given to these people? Kuruvai Crop has been damaged. There is no scope for getting a single bag of paddy in that area. I am sorry to say as to what has happened—Tamilnadu is surrounding the territory of Pondicherry. When a Committee was appointed, Tamilnadu was represented, Andhra Pradesh was represented, but not Pondicherry. We cannot raise our voice there. You are neglecting Pondicherry. People over there are agitated.

You are saying about the seniority list for the teachers, etc. Your notes at page 43, say—

"The Government of Pondicherry was called upon to pay a sum of Rs. 403 as costs of writ petition filed by the teacher."

This is not the way you have to present it. Judiciary is interfering in the fixation of seniority, etc.

Two months back I argued a case. The Municipal Commissioner just because he was not happy with the clerk without giving him a show cause notice dismissed him. It is difficult to approach the Secretaries or the Governor. They will say that they cannot do anything. That man approached the High Court of Madras and got it set aside.

I was talking about Rs. 403 to be paid to the teacher. They are not prepared to pay Rs. 403 to the teacher, but are prepared to spend Rs. 2000 in the further processing of the cases.

[Shri Aravinda Bala Pajanor]

A man was dismissed without being given an opportunity to explain anything.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member's time is up.

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH): Some time was allotted originally. It is in the discretion of the Chair. He was called. I am requesting the Chair to fix some time.

SHRI ARAVINDA BALA PAJANOR: I am representing to the Chair. But anyway this matter has come out. From the very beginning my complaint is this. There is no popular government for the past 3 years. If at all the voice of the people can be heard it is to be heard here through me in this House. If you feel that I cannot speak, I cannot deal with some more points.

MR. SPEAKER: You have already taken 20 minutes. You can take a few minutes more and conclude.

SHRI ARAVINDA BALA PAJANOR: When you take up cases like these the administration advises you to go appeal. I want to cite one or two cases only. It shows the mentality of the bureaucratic administration. If somebody goes wrong, he never admits, he never corrects himself. That is the mentality. People below feel whether this is the 20 point programme. If you do like this you are doing the greatest disservice to the Prime Minister. Last time also I raised this matter. We made a representation to Mr. Om Mehta. I saw in the papers also about this. Our beloved Governor also made the representation. So many times I have raised these points here. What happened to the setting up of a university in Pondicherry? What happened to the Ariyankuppam project? What happened to the airport? In Samachar or in some other source

some news appears but such things do not find a place in the budget or anywhere else. These are matters which are many years old. Mr. Om Mehta came there. We want many things to be done for deep-sea fishing, for having modern boats and so on. What has happened to the thermal station? Of course, the policy decision is not to go in for medium thermal stations or small thermal stations. But what about this thing? a Member of Parliament for Pondicherry if I don't raise such things they think you are not getting it done for them. Our Governor says it is being done. Our Secretary says it is being done. But actually it is not being done.

From the very beginning I have been saying this. Our teachers' salaries were subjected to certain anomalies. I said, you appoint a committee to look into these things and to rectify these things. The mistakes should be rectified. Such a step is necessary so that the government servants may feel happy. You should go into their seniority list and rectify mistakes if any. For the past 10 years these headmasters and other teachers are there and they have not been made permanent. If you don't rectify this in a small State like Pondicherry I doubt whether you can do it in big States. After the 44th Amendment you are going to have labour and administrative tribunals. They will have more powers. The danger will be much more now and these anomalies should be rectified in time. The grievances of small officials should be properly heard and their grievances rectified. Otherwise it will not be good for the administration and for the country. I hope the hon. Minister will reply to all these points raised by me when she replies.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): When the hon. Member said he is the solitary speaker, I felt many more should

have spoken. But, Sir, he may have been the solitary speaker but I must say in all fairness that he has very eloquently and very strongly put forward almost all the points relating to that State. I do remember last time also he referred to the question of setting up of consultative committee. It is a matter which is taken up with Home Ministry. Again it will be taken up. As far as I know probably there is no provision for Union Territory for having such consultative committee. But I am sure they will look into the suggestion made. So far as the other points are concerned, I am told, none of the work is suffering. Regarding teachers salaries and such matters if there is any specific complaint it can be looked into.

MR. SPEAKER: About the other points you can send them to proper quarters for consideration.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: I will forward all the points raised by the hon. Member to the Ministries concerned, and I am sure they will be considered.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation for certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the Union Territory of Pondicherry for the services of the financial year 1976-77, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: We take up clause-by-clause consideration. There are 10 amendments.

The question is:

"That Clauses 2 and 3, the Schedule, Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

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

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

12.28 hrs.

ELECTRICITY (SUPPLY) AMENDMENT BILL

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI K. C. PANT): Sir, I beg to move*:

"That the Bill further to amend the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, be taken into consideration".

The hon. Members are aware that the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, was originally framed in 1948 when we were just starting the planned development of the power sector. This Act provided the framework for the growth of the industry. During the last nearly 30 years there has been no major change in the structure of the organisation for the power industry in the country. The power sector has, meanwhile, recorded phenomenal growth, with the installed capacity increasing ten-fold in the period 1950-1975.

Fast growing organisations require periodic reviews of their structure, so as to adjust to the changing demands

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.