

14.39 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

TWENTY-THIRD REPORT

Sardar A. S. Saigal (Janjgir): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House agrees with the Twenty-third Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 14th August, 1958."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That this House agrees with the Twenty-third Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 14th August, 1958."

The motion was adopted.

14.40 hrs

RESOLUTION RE WOMEN LABOUR IN CERTAIN INDUSTRIES—Contd

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The House will now resume further discussion of the following Resolution moved by Shrimati Renu Chakravarty on the 9th May, 1958—

"This House is of opinion that a Committee consisting of Members of Lok Sabha be constituted to enquire into the rapid decrease in the number of women labour employed in coal, jute, textile and other industries, to ascertain the causes thereof and to suggest the remedial measures therefor."

Out of two hours allotted for the discussion of the Resolution, 36 minutes have already been taken, and one hour and 24 minutes are left for further discussion today:

Shri Narayanankutty Menon (Mukandapuram): Sir, the other day, supporting the Resolution, I was

pointing out the alarming tendency, especially in the industrial sector, to cut the number of women employed in each category of job. I also submitted that the basic reason for this downfall in the employment of women, especially in the industrial sector, is the growing number of beneficial labour legislation. You will find, especially, after the Maternity Benefits Act was passed, in the plantations and many other industrial sectors, deliberately there is an avoidance of the employment of women. The resolution has been tabled in order to bring to the attention of the Government the immediate necessity of taking some sort of urgent action to see that this sort of discrimination in the employment of women does not continue

As far as the actual employment position is concerned, from 1950 onwards, it has not been possible to collect information—neither the Government has done it—how far exactly the number of women employed in the industrial sector has gone up or, how far, in the new employment potential, to keep up the proportion of the past, women have been employed. I will be able to point out only certain glaring instances where both in the commercial employment side and also in the industrial side, there has been a deliberate refusal on the part of employers to employ women or a desire to get rid of the women already employed

I would call the attention of the hon Labour Minister to the speech made by the West Bengal Labour Minister on 19th June, 1958 taking note of the alarming situation of the number of women employed especially in the jute industry rapidly coming down. The Labour Minister of West Bengal at that time promised the legislature to take immediate and swift action as far as this cutting of the employment potential of women in the jute sector was concerned. But, even after that assurance was given