

ہیں - بحرحال میں ایک بار پہر
چیئرمین صاحب کی بات سے اپنے بھائی
سے چلکو میں نوجوان کہتا ہوں وہ
اُن کے لئے بھی کوئی مناسب انتظام
کرنے کے بارے میں سوچیں کیونکہ انکا
دل بچوں کی طرح کا ہے اور مجھے امید
ہے کہ وہ ان تہمت کلاس اور فورتمہ
کلاس کومپناریوں کے بارے میں بھی
ضرور سوچینگے - جیسا کہ انہوں نے
پارلیمنٹ کے بڑے آفیسرز کے بارے
میں سوچا ہے -

SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH: I have already said that so far as Lok Sabha staff is concerned, whatever observations have been made by hon. Members, I shall place them before the presiding officer concerned who are competent authorities in this matter. I, therefore, pray that the Bill may be passed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

.16.32 hrs.

TEA DISTRICTS EMIGRANT LABOUR (REPEAL) BILL

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF LABOUR, EMPLOY-
MENT AND REHABILITATION (SHRI
BHAGWAT JHA AZAD): Sir, I beg to
move.

"That the Bill to provide for the repeal of the Tea District Emigrant Labour Act, 1932, and for matters connected therewith, be taken into consideration."

Sir, many years ago labour was not available in Assam for the Tea Plantations. Tea Plantations being a labour intensive industry it soon became clear that unless

adequate labour force could be recruited and maintained in Assam the industry would not develop. It was also realised that labour will not by itself move into Assam as the work on the Plantations was not attractive and distances were difficult to get over. It was also realised that for adequate recruitment of labour from outside it would be necessary to arrange for a coordinated effort. Equally, that, it would be necessary to give statutory protection to labour recruited from outside Assam not only on their forward journey but also for their repatriation. Statutory protection was all the more necessary as both men and women were required for the plantations industry. It was against this background and on the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Labour in India that the Tea Districts Emigrant Labour Act was passed in 1932 and brought into operation from October of 1933.

The object of this Act was to regulate the recruitment of workers for the tea gardens in Assam so as to prevent recruitment by enticement and false representation and to ensure proper arrangements for medical attendance, feeding and rest during their journey from notified emigrant areas to Assam. Under the Act every emigrant labourer and his family have a right to repatriation at the cost of the employer after the expiry of three years from the date of entry into Assam or at an earlier date in certain special circumstances.

The Act is administered by the Central Government through the Controller of Emigrant Labour, Shillong, whose function is to supervise the recruitment and repatriation of emigrant labourers. To meet the expenses of the Controller and his establishment, the Act provides for the levy of a cess on the employing interests at a rate not exceeding rupees nine for each assisted emigrant, entering Assam,

The conditions which necessitated the bringing into existence the pattern of assisted emigrant labour for the tea gardens in Assam three decades ago have now altogether changed, the tea industry has even surplus labour and it seems that the time has come when it is no longer necessary to retain the Act on the Statute

[Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad]

Book. It also seems that some of the provisions of the Act are likely to be held to offend some of the provisions of the Constitution.

Before proceeding further we also placed the matter before the 11th Session of the Industrial Committee on Plantations in October, 1964.

While proposing repeal of the Act we have made sure that the existing rights of the labour employed at present in regard to repatriation would be protected. Clause 3 of the Bill makes this provision. After repeal of the Act, any residual functions that may be left over will be entrusted to the Government of Assam.

Sir, I commend the Bill for the consideration of the House.

16.35 hrs.

RE. ALLEGED THREAT TO A MEMBER

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contai) : Sir, I have a point of submission, not exactly connected with the Bill but on something which seriously concerns me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You cannot intervene in the midst of a debate. I am also worried about your health.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: You will understand the seriousness of the thing as soon as I explain to you. Kindly permit me. Today in the morning I have been seriously threatened over the phone by a very responsible leader of the ruling Congress party. He is a member of the Working Committee of the Ruling Congress and is its spokesman in West Bengal; because of my statement that has been issued by the *Indian Express* today he has threatened me with dire consequences and I want to place it before you. This is the statement I issued to the paper.

“Now that the princes’ case to the Supreme Court is over, it is proper that the people of West Bengal should be informed how the Government of India as well as the Government of West Bengal have wasted huge public moneys of the poor State in connection with the case. The Union, that is, the

Government of India have paid lawyers at the Centre, namely, the Attorney General and the Solicitor General and this case could have easily been argued by them and the advocates elected to the panel....”

SHRI RANDHIR SINGH (Rohtak): His first point is all right. But now he is reading from Press reports and attacking our party. So far as the threat to him is concerned, we are with him. But this is anti party propaganda. He cannot misuse this forum for that purpose....(*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: You did not write to me; nor did you raise this matter at 2 O’ clock or even earlier, before the lunch.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: He should not disturb me; I shall finish within two minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him not read that out.....(*Interruptions*).

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: The person who threatened me ? Mr. Siddhartha Shankar Ray, Because the Governor of West Bengal....

SHRI RANDHIR SINGH: He can write to the Speaker.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: He has threatened me. Who knows what will happen in the evening.

SHRI RANDHIR SINGH: He is an M. L. A. He is not present here. How can he speak against him in this House.

I controvert it. I dispute it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Guha, please conclude. I am asking you to conclude.

SHRI RANDHIR SINGH: The name he is mentioning, that person is not present here. He should have the right to be heard.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: In the princes case, the Advocate-General of the State (*Interruption*) Sir, he should allow me to proceed.