

The motion was adopted

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.44 hrs.

AGRICULTURAL WORKERS (MINIMUM WAGES AND WELFARE) BILL*

[English]

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA (Tamluk): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the payment of minimum wages and welfare of agricultural workers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the payment of minimum wages and welfare of agricultural workers."

The motion was adopted

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

15.45 hrs.

EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE BILL -
Contd.

by Shri Bhogendra Jha

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up the following motion moved by Shri Bhogendra Jha on the 13th September, 1991, namely:-

"That the Bill to provide for employment or for means and resources for self employment to all adult citizens of the country, be taken into consideration."

The time allotted for this Bill is two hours. Shri Bhogendra Jha had taken five minutes. So, one hour and 55 minutes are left.

Shri Bhogendra Jha was on his legs. He will now continue his speech.

[Translation]

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this Bill is slightly different from all other Bills that have so far been brought before the House in regard to problem of unemployment in the country. This Bill has not been drafted just to make a demand. For incorporating right to employment as a Fundamental Right. But at the same time it provides that it should be the duty of the State to see that people enjoy this right. Mr. Speaker, Sir, it cannot become a Fundamental Right only by making or calling it so. For example, in our country every citizen has the freedom of press and freedom to organize meetings and express his views but everybody does not have the means. Due to this, publication of newspapers of has been concentrated in the hands of a handful of people. It is ironic that though we have a provision of Fundamental Rights in the Constitution, we cannot ensure people to enjoy them. It is an irony in our society and for that matter every capitalistic society and our Constitution. As such this Bill aims at fulfilling all the the claims we make with a constitutional backing. Mr. Chairman, Sir, this Bill also contains certain other provisions. Clause - I of the Bill stipulates that it will be the responsibility of the State i.e. Union Government, State Government, and Semi-Government Organisations to provide employment to people who need work and are capable to work.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would again like to emphasise that employment should be provided for earning a livelihood. There is not a single person who is devoid of some talent or the other and that talent can be utilized for

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** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.