

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have to inform Members that a letter has been received from Shri Suryakantbhai Acharya stating that he would be unable to attend the House due to his ill health. He has, therefore, requested for grant of leave of absence for the entire sitting of the House for the current 213th session of the Rajya Sabha.

Does he have the permission of the House to remain absent from the House during the current session?

(No. hon. Member dissented)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Permission to remain absent is granted.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION

Approving proclamation issued by President on 3rd January, 2008 in relation to State of Nagaland-contd.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, we shall take up further discussion on Statutory Resolution. Shri Rishang Keishing. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RISHANG KEISHING (Manipur): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, this proclamation has restored peace in the area. ...*(Interruptions)*... Peaceful elections will be conducted ...*(Interruptions)*... People are free to campaign in the elections. A good job has been done. ...*(Interruptions)*... I strongly support this Resolution. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, I put the Statutory Resolution moved by Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal to vote. The question is:

"That this House approves the Proclamation issued by the President on the 3rd January, 2008 under article 356 of the Constitution in relation to the State of Nagaland."

The motion was adopted.

GOVERNMENT BILL

The Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 2007.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up The Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 2007. Shri Oscar Fernandes to move the Bill.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): Sir, I move:—

"That the Bill further to amend the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, be taken into consideration."

The question was proposed.

...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We cannot help it. ...*(Interruptions)*... श्री ललित किशोर चतुर्वेदी ..*(व्यवधान)*... वृंदा जी, आप इस पर बोलना चाहती हैं ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I can't hear anything. ...*(Interruptions)*... Nobody is interested in participating in the Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*... I can't help. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is not possible. ...*(Interruptions)*... You cannot take the House for granted. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Pillai,

you can speak. ...*(Interruptions)*.... It will go on record. ...*(Interruptions)*.... You please speak. ...*(Interruptions)*.... It will go on record. ...*(Interruptions)*....

SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI (Kerala): Sir, the Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 2007 ...*(Interruptions)*.... the bonus was Rs. 250 ...*(Interruptions)*.... This is intended for the employees those who have covered under the ESI Act because ...*(Interruptions)*.... Under this amendment, instead of Rs. 250 it has been raised to thousand rupees. ...*(Interruptions)*.... My enhancement proposal is to raise it to Rs. 5, 000. ...*(Interruptions)*.... My second point is, the enforcement of this benefit is not proper. ...*(Interruptions)*.... That machinery has to be strengthened. ...*(Interruptions)*....

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Brinda Karat. ...*(Interruptions)*.... The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, be taken into consideration".

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill. In clause 2, there is one amendment (No. 3) by the hon. Minister.

Clause 2

Substitution of new section for section 8.

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: Sir, I move:

3. That at page 2, line 1 *for* the words "from time to time" the words "before every three years" be *substituted*.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

Clause 2, as amended, was added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: In clause 1, there is one amendment (No. 2) by the hon. Minister.

Clause 1- Short title and commencement

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: Sir, I move:

2. That at page 1, line 3, *for* the figure "2007" the figure "2008" be *substituted*.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

Clause 2, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Enacting Formula

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is one amendment (No.1) by the Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: Sir, I beg to move:

(c) That at page 1, line 1, *for* the word "Fifty-eighth" the word "Fifty-ninth" be *substituted*.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

The Enacting Formula, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Title was added to the Bill.

...(Interruptions)....

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: Sir, I beg to move:

That the Bill, as amended, be passed.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

...(Interruptions)....

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Short Duration Discussion. *(Interruptions)*

This cannot go on. *(Interruptions)* This cannot go on. *(Interruptions)* The House cannot always be taken for ransom. *(Interruptions)* Business has to go on. *(Interruptions)* This cannot be allowed to go on. *(Interruptions)* The House is not for agitation. *(Interruptions)* You can agitate outside the House, not in the House. *(Interruptions)*

Now we shall take up the Short Duration Discussion. *(Interruptions)* Shri Sitaram Yechury. *(Interruptions)* Allow the House to function. *(Interruptions)* Please, sit down. *(Interruptions)*

The House is adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11.00 a.m.

The House then adjourned at thirteen minutes past twelve of the clock till eleven of the clock on Thursday, 28th February, 2008.