

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Sir, I beg to move:

“That the Bill further to amend the Contingency Fund of India Act, 1950, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration.”

Sir, under Article 261 and Article 283 (1) of the Constitution, the Contingency Fund of India Act, 1950 was enacted providing for the establishment of the Contingency Fund of India and for the custody of such fund and for the payment of monies into and withdrawal of monies from it. The corpus of the Contingency Fund of India established under the Contingency Fund of India Act, 1950 was Rs. 50 crores at the time of the dissolution of 12th Lok Sabha. As the available budgetary grants and the Contingency Fund could not accommodate fully the commitments of the Government, an immediate augmentation of the corpus of Contingency Fund became necessary. Therefore, an Ordinance, namely, the Contingency Fund of India (Amendment) Ordinance was promulgated by the President on 28th July, 1999 to temporarily raise the corpus of fund from Rs. 500 crores to Rs. 550 crores. The Bill seeks to replace the above Ordinance.

The question was proposed.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): There is no discussion. So, I will put the motion to vote. The question is:

“That the Bill further to amend the Contingency Fund of India Act, 1950, as passed by Lok Sabha be taken into consideration.”

The motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): Now, we will take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, I move:

“That the Bill be returned.”

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1999

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): Now, we will take up the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 1999. Mr. Yashwant Sinha to move the Motion.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Sir, I beg to move:

“That the Bill further to amend the representation of the People Act, 1951, as passed by Lok Sabha be taken into consideration.”

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): Now, we shall take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause; 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, The Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be passed."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, I would like to formally thank the honourable Members for their cooperation.

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): Sir, my apology to the House for having come late.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): Now, we shall take up the Short Duration Discussions.

SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION

I. HAVOC caused by recent cyclone floods in Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and other parts.

SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, with your permission I raise a discussion on the havoc and deaths caused by the recent cyclone in Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and other parts of the country. Sir, before I come to my State of Andhra Pradesh, I express my full sympathy and solidarity, in this hour of suffering, with the people of Orissa and Bengal. Particularly; in Orissa 120 people dies and this cyclone caused extensive damage to crops and property. Sir, now again, unfortunately, there is a danger of a severe cyclone, which is likely to hit the coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Bengal, either today or tomorrow. Sir, now I come to my State, Andhra Pradesh. Already, my State, Andhra Pradesh, is facing severe drought conditions in 12 districts out of the 23 districts. Our honourable Prime Minister was kind enough to send a team for assessment of the losses that have been caused due to drought conditions. Andhra Pradesh is expecting the release of Rs. 200 crores at any moment, as an aid towards relief measures in those districts. Unfortunately, the recent cyclone, which caused a heavy damage in Orissa State, also hit the Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh. Due to the severe cyclone, over 4 lakh coconut plantations have been uprooted and another 4 lakh plantations were partially damaged in Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh. The loss of coctonut plantations,