

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is :

"That the Bill to provide for the regulation of the multimodal transportation of goods, from any place in India to a place outside India, on the basis of a multimodal transport contract and for matters connected therewith or incidental there, to be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, we shall take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 to 32 were added to the Bill.

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

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: I move :

That the Bill be passed.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I must thank the Members for their cooperation and I hope the Minister will look into proper transportation of everything. Now we will take up the special mentions.

[The Vice-Chairman (Shri SYED SIBTEY RABI) in the Chair]

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Serious allegations of misuse of the ICHR by its Chairman

SHRI O. RAJGOPAL (Madhya Pradesh): Respected Vice-Chairman, would like to invite the attention of this hon. House and the Government to the things happening in a very prestigious institution under the Government of India. The Indian Council of Historical Research comes under the Ministry of Human Re-

source Development. It is a prestigious institution. Now certain things that are happening in that Ministry have been brought to light by an article published by Dr. M.G.S. Narayanan who was Member-Secretary of ICHR for a period of one year while he was in Delhi. He is a noted historian. He is the Head of the Department of History in Calicut University. He was the Secretary of the Indian History Congress also. He has published an article in a Malayalam weekly called *Matrubhoomi* dated 5th December, 1992 in which he has brought out certain aspects of the working of this institution. He has squarely charged that this institution is working in a partial manner under the guidance of the Chairman, Mr Irfan. Habib, a noted Marxist historian who was Professor of History in the Aligarh University. Dr. M.G.S. Narayanan has pointed out in his article how this prestigious institution, instead of taking an impartial stand, has been acting very partially. He has given the example

of how the Babri Masjid Action Committee has been beeting in the chamber of the Chairman of the Indian Council of Historical Research. This is the charge made by the Member-Secretary. He has also pointed out how when the Government of India sent some papers relating to the dispute regarding the Babri Masjid—the VHP on the one side and the Babri Masjid Action Committee on the other side had submitted certain very valuable documents—for independent assessment, unfortunately there was no independent assessment and instead the Chairman, Mr. Irfan Habib, wanted to give his own views as if they were the views of the entire committee. The Member-Secretary wanted the whole matter to be placed before the Committee. This was not liked by the Chairman and after that a number of *goondas* were sent after him to physically assault him. It is a very shameful matter. When the Member-Secretary wanted all the papers to be placed before the Committee for independent assessment, he was physically assaulted. This is a very bad thing. He says what he found in the Indian Council of Historical Research is very shocking. He says the misdeeds of this institution have the backing and strong support of

the officials of the Ministry. Now the officials should see to it that the institution functions in an independent manner.

Instead of that they are backing the elements which are playing a partisan political game. This is highly condemnable. And the Member-Secretary also pointed out as to how there was a concerted effort to bring a bad name to the Director-General of the Archaeological Survey of India, Dr. B. Lal. He wanted to give certain views. These were suppressed. And there was a concerted effort to bring a bad name to him. This sort of a thing is definitely shameful for the entire institution. Therefore, I would request that the Chairman should be asked to resign and there should be a comprehensive enquiry into the way in which this prestigious institution has been functioning under the present Government.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN (West Bengal): The hon. Member has raised a very important issue about the prestigious institution, I.C.H.R. I just want to clarify one point. This institution is used by the Government for examining the documents received by the Government both from the Babri Masjid Action Committee and the Vishwa Hindu Parishad to obtain an independent opinion of this prestigious institution. It is the only institution which can go into the historical and archaeological matters. This institution is headed by Irfan Habib. They are giving their opinion as wanted by the Government and not on their own. It is the Government who wanted it. So they have given it. Therefore, I don't know how the Chairman of the institute can be blamed for the action taken by him.... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI O. RAJGOPAL: The Member-Secretary is complaining. He has given details as to how the Chairman has been functioning in a very partisan manner.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: This is an attempt to mar the good name of this institution. It is bad. It is harmful for the academic life of the institution.

Serious crisis in Azam-Jahi N.T.C. mill at Warangal, Andhra Pradesh

SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I would like to bring to your notice as well as to the notice of the Government about the grave situation arising in the Azam-Jahi N.T.C. Mill. This is a very prestigious, composite textile mill in our State. Perhaps, this is the only composite mill. It was started by the erstwhile Nizam Government many, many years back. But in 1974, this mill was taken over by the N.T.C. In all these 18 years, the management and ownership has been under the control of the N.T.C. But, unfortunately, the employment in this mill has gone down from 8200 to 1401. So you can understand the gravity of the situation. This is due to the mismanagement and irresponsible attitude on the part of the N.T.C. and also the Government. During this period, say, in the last six months, about 700 workers were pressurised to go away or opt for voluntary retirement. In this situation, all the remaining workers, who were still there, and the unions representing them, formed a joint action committee. They started agitating with the support of all the political parties in that city and district. I also visited the camp, the dharna camp in the last week of September. Immediately, I wrote a letter to the Textiles Minister. Subsequently, a delegation of the workers came here and met the Prime Minister also. Incidentally, our Prime Minister also hails from the same place. He is also aware of the conditions that are existing in the Azam-Jahi Mill. It is a good thing that the Prime Minister has sent a team of experts to study the conditions of the mill. And they met various leaders including the union leaders. But the main problem that has come up in the discussion is, the N.T.C. officials who have gone there have almost given an impression that a weaving section will be closed. Thereby 400 more workers will be retrenched. Only they want to maintain the spinning section, that too subject to the approval of the Cabinet Sub-committee. As a matter of fact, this Ajamjahi Mill, in relation to