

[Dr. Rajendra Kumari Bajpai]

Sir, the main fear expressed from all sides was that there will be paucity of funds, that there will be no funds with the State Government and that the Bill after passing will be put in the waste paper basket and it will meet the same fate as is met by many other Bills. I do not agree with this sort of an argument because if we agree to this, that means there should be no social legislation. Rather I think that this is a very revolutionary social legislation and we must go for it. You all know that the United Nations has passed only in 1985 such guidelines recommending them to all the Member States and we are one of the Member States. We think that after passing this legislation we will be doing what the U.N. has directed us to do, directed all the Member States to do. I do not agree that this Bill will remain only as cosmetic "Mahaz shringar ban kar rah jayega". I do not think that this will be the case, because the Bill is there, the Children's Act is there. The only thing is that we have to bring uniformity and at the same time those lacunae which were preventing its implementation those who have tried to remove. So, we will be able to implement it. We all know that the socio-economic reasons are primarily responsible for children becoming delinquent. And for that, there are other programmes, economic programmes, 20-point programme, which are meant for the poorer sections of society and for those who are living below the poverty line. So, attempts are going on. We have to try for preventive measures. At the same time, if there is any disease, and if we find symptoms of the disease, treatment must also be there. So, treatment for this disease is needed. These symptoms exist in the society and we cannot shut our eyes when such a situation prevails. We have to act and face the situation, and in facing this, we have to take the help from all sections of the society, from voluntary agencies, from State Governments and from the people as a whole. This is the main purpose of this Bill and I hope this Bill meets

our requirements and it is very much needed for the welfare of our children, and this will help in building up a healthy nation. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. BAPU KALDATE): The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the care, protection, treatment, development and rehabilitation of neglected or delinquent juveniles and for the adjudication of certain matters relating to, and disposition of, delinquent juveniles, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. BAPU KALDATE): We shall now take up clause by-clause consideration of the Bill.

*Clause 2 to 63 were added to the Bill.
Clause 1 the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.*

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI:
I move:

"That the Bill be passed."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE INFANT MILK FOODS AND FEEDING BOTTLES (REGULATION OF PRODUCTION, SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION) BILL, 1986

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the regulation of production, supply and distribution of infant milk foods and feeding bottles with a view to the protection and promotion of breast feeding and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

The World Health Assembly adopted in May, 1981, an international code of marketing of breast milk substitutes, for the proper nutrition and health of the world's children. The Government of India recognised the Code and adopted the Indian Nation

Code for Protection and Promotion of Breast-Feeding, in December, 1983.

This Code envisages that there shall be no advertising or other form of sales promotion of infant milk foods, feeding bottles, etc. The Code, in accordance with this general principle, enjoins the health authorities to encourage and protect breast-feeding, and also prescribes several measures to control the marketing and promotion of infant milk foods, feeding bottles and so on.

The Bill proposed to give effect to the principles and aims of the Code. Accordingly, it prohibits advertisements of infant milk foods and feeding bottles and also prescribes measures to ensure that in the marketing of infant milk foods, etc., no impression is given that bottle feeding is equivalent to, or better than, mother's feeding practices. The provisions relating to labelling and quality control of such foods and bottles are proposed to be implemented through the concerned Departments in the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations under the overall control of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Contravention of the provisions of this Bill will be punishable with imprisonment with a term which may extend to three years or with fine which may extend to Rs. 5,000 or with both. However, the contravention of certain provisions of the Bill relating to labelling or quality control of such foods will be punishable with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than six months but which may extend to three years and with fine which shall not be less than Rs. 1,000. Sir, the other provisions are clear. I do not want to go into the details. With these words, I commend the Bill for the consideration of the House.

The question was proposed.

SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, who is closer to man than Nature herself? Likewise mother's milk to a child. Mother and child form not only one biological unit, but one emotional and ethical unit also. It is between the sucking child and the mother that this affinity is

created. It is natural and it is best. Nobody is going to deny that.

But Sir, it is a curse on the modern society, on the modern civilisation, on the capitalist civilisation that for a long time, breast-feeding has been discouraged and artificial feeding has been encouraged. Why? This is purely for commercial purposes, for the making of monetary gains by the multi-nationals. These ideas have penetrated deep into our society. You can see how deep the curse has penetrated. Here, I would like to refer to the findings of a survey which was carried out by the World Health Organisation in India. It says that the percentage of mothers using artificial feeds among the urban elite, middle-class, urban poor and rural areas, stood at 80, 64, 30 and 20 respectively. The more educated, the more elite and the more cultured they are, the less they breast-feed their children. This is because they are under this curse of civilisation. I say, it is a curse of civilisation. This is man-made, made by the capitalist economy, made by the multi-nationals for their monetary gain. The very idea is corrupted. Not only the society is corrupted, but the idea itself, in my opinion, is corrupted. The biggest tragedy is that in the rural areas, even the poor people who breast-feed their children feel that they do this only because they are poor and they do not have enough money to buy the artificial milk foods. They consider this to be better than breast milk. Even in the case of people in the rural areas who use artificial milk foods, with pain they buy one bottle of this artificial food and dilute it with water with the result that it becomes even less nourishing. This is a curse. This corrupts the ideas also.

Therefore, the question is very basic. Breast-feeding is best for the children. Now, after much experience, world opinion is turning towards this. That is why, as the hon. Minister has pointed out, the World Health Assembly adopted in May, 1981, an International Code of Marketing of Breast Milk Substitutes. The Government of India

recognised this Code and adopted the Indian National Code for Protection and Promotion of Breast-Feeding. The Government of India have now decided to follow this. Sir, this is a vicious circle. As I said, breast-feeding had been discouraged earlier. As I said, it is a curse of modern civilisation, it is a curse of the capitalist civilisation and it is corrupting the ideas also. It has penetrated deep into the root of the society. We have to amend this. How to amend this? By passing this Bill, will the Government be able to disoblige the multi-nationals who have been making monetary gains? There is this contradiction, Government is passing this Bill to be in line with the world opinion. But at the same time, the Government is trying to appease the multi-nationals. That is the tragedy.

Now, so many things are connected with this. The health of the child and the mother is connected with this. Let us see the position in regard to malnutrition and infant mortality in our society. Let us see the percentage. 114 out of one thousand infants die within one month of their birth. The problem is too big. Infant mortality is due to many things, such as malnutrition, infection, disease, mothers ill health, etc. Therefore in terms of percentage of malnutrition and child death, India tops the list. So far as child labour, mortality, malnutrition, illiteracy, backwardness, etc. are concerned India tops the list in the world. I am sorry to state that. So many things are connected with this. There is the question of health care of mother and child, there is the question of advertisements and publications. It will be useful if advertisements are given that the mother's feed is good for the child and we should try to turn the public opinion. It is not the question of principle only. We have to combine principle with practice. Banning of baby food a diet is all right, but what about adulteration? Sometimes artificial feed, bottle feed is necessary for the child when the mother is ill or when she does not have enough milk to feed the child. There can be other

reasons also when we have to give an artificial feed to the children. But then this artificial food is also adulterated by private and multi-national companies. Once Pandit Nehru said, for one crime of adulteration the culprit will be tied to the lamppost and shot dead. This Government has passed so many Bills like ESMA, NSA, but how many of them, who have adulterated baby food, have been arrested? We should remember what Pandit Nehru said that for one crime of adulteration the culprit has to be tied to the lamppost and shot dead. This is the worst crime of adulterating baby food. What are you doing about this? That is one point.

Another point is about child care. For this you have to educate the woman, train the expectant mothers, lactation mothers. They have to be trained because they have got wrong ideas. They do not know how to rear the child. Give them the scientific ideas. You should train mothers against fundamentalists, against superstitions and religious taboos. Educate mothers against all these things. This is important so far as this Bill is concerned. So, you have to protect children against malnutrition, you have to protect expectant mothers against malnutrition and also you have to protect mothers during their lactation period against malnutrition. This is important. How to protect them? When more than 50 per cent of the population is below the poverty line, how to protect them against malnutrition? Arrange to do something, at least as a short-term programme, this Government should give enough nourishing food and medicines to those children, to the expectant mothers. Give them these things, protect them against malnutrition and that is why I say that it is not enough to pass this Bill. This Bill is all right, but it is not adequate. Really give stringent punishment to those people? Will you be able to do so? I am afraid, I do not know whether those people? Will you be able to do it or not because their interests will collide sometimes with those of multi-nationals, producers and advertisers.

That is why I am afraid this Bill may not be as effective as we wish it to be. It is not enough. Ban against advertisement, against publicity of artificial feeding that it is next to mother's milk is all right, but actually see that there is no adulteration of baby food. Then for the health of the expectant and lactating mothers, mother's health care, child health care, protect them against malnutrition. So many things are connected with this. So the Government has to take up a comprehensive programme, has to combine principle with practice; only then at least a part of this will be effective. Otherwise I am afraid this Bill also will remain useless and ineffective as many other bills on social welfare.

Thank you.

SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I welcome this Bill. The World Health Assembly in 1981 adopted an International Code on marketing of breast-milk substitutes. This Code has been approved by the Government of India. In pursuance of that recognition, this Bill has been brought for consideration of this House.

The object of the Bill is to provide for the regulation of production, supply and distribution of infant milk foods and feeding bottles with a view to the protection and promotion of breast-feeding and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. We are happy with this Bill. It is the paramount responsibility of the Government to protect children against malnutrition. But the important point is whether it is pragmatic, whether it is possible to prevent such things. Nowadays natural feeding is not liked by urban ladies. If you see in the rural areas, natural feeding is still available, not because they are aware of the merits of natural feeding, but because they have no money to purchase other infant milk foods. If they have enough money, they will also prefer infant milk food to natural feeding. Most of the modern ladies are

dead against natural feeding. The reasons are, number one, they consider this to be uncivilised. In olden days—of course it is law of nature what they honestly feel—natural milk like cow milk and goat milk was not available in enough quantities to meet the entire needs. Now this is available and the children can be easily fed on that nutritious milk, natural milk of cow etc.

Number two, what they feel is that it affects personality also. They honestly feel that way. We may agree with it or not; that is a different matter. But they think it is not helpful in preserving their beauty. That is why the modern ladies, especially urban ladies, are against natural feeding. Whatever the reason behind it, it is a different thing. My point is, whether this is practicable. That is the only point.

In this Bill we are asking the companies to affix a label saying that mother's milk is the best for the baby. Of course, it is not a difficult task. Even of the cigarette companies we are asking to print on the cigarette packets that smoking is injurious to health. Of all the toddy and arrack shops we are asking to put up a board saying that consumption of liquor is injurious to health, to family, everything. But everything is going on. I wonder whether this type of requirement or imposition is going to help. No, for mere formalists' sake we are asking those people and they are also carrying it out. That is why I say it is very difficult to implement this Bill. How the honourable Minister is going to implement the Bill is the major point.

Then, so far as natural feeding is concerned, if we go back to legends, even from the legendary point of view we find that our goddesses were not supporting natural feeding. According to a Tamil legend, when Thirugjnana Sambandar was crying for milk, Parvati Devi, the wife of Lord Siva, did not adopt the natural method of feeding. Instead, by her divine power she

[Shri Aladi Aruna alias V. Aruna-chalam]

got a cup of milk and gave it to Thirug-jnana Sambandar. In Tamil there is a particular word but if I use that word some of my friends may say why Aladi Aruna is using this kind of word. So, I am not using that word. The word is not a nice one. That is the name of our Goddess Parvati. What I want to say is, our Goddess herself was against natural feeding. So it is no wonder that our mothers are against natural feeding.

Then, Sir, I want to suggest that the Government can check, verify and regulate and provide for severe punishment of those who produce any mal-nutritious food. For that the Government can get itself armed with necessary powers.

Nowadays, in India the dairy farms are not as well developed as we expected them, as in the Scandinavian countries. In the Scandinavian countries dairy farms provide a lot of employment opportunities for the people there. Except in the State of Gujarat, in India nowhere else are dairy farms so well developed. If you prevent this type of things, then that part of our industry will be seriously affected and it will affect employment opportunities also. But, at the same time, it is also the responsibility of the Government to provide nutritious and pure milk for the children. I am not against that. It is helpful for their healthy growth, for their physical and mental development. There is no difference of opinion on this, but the mere bringing in of this Bill is not going to serve the purpose. That is my contention.

Therefore, Sir, I would say that this is a futile attempt and this Bill is not at all going to serve the purpose despite the meritorious and good elements in it. With these words, Sir, I conclude.

DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I rise to support the honourable Minister for introducing this Bill for realizing the pre-eminent position of the mother and her well-being in our economic system and

national health policy. It is good that the Government has also realized that crores of rupees spent on advertisement by the multinationals and their Indian collaborators have resulted in the change of most of life's precious values, which has necessitated this Bill to tell the Indian mother that breast milk provides the total nutrition of the infant and that the antibodies in her milk protect the child against infectious diseases and the first feed to the new born with colostrum is most important. Once the proud mother was giving the child breast milk for the first three years, thus showering a protective halo round the child and her love and blessings to the child. This was also a major family-planning method for spacing as it is generally known that she would not become pregnant as long as she was breast feeding, and this is a scientific fact also. If breast-feeding is stopped very prematurely, not only is the child deprived of the nutrition and the protection, but the mother herself faces the risk of breast cancer because of the hormonal imbalances which occur. All the spacing methods could have been irrelevant in the Indian context, if the importance of the breast-feeding in the beginning itself could have been felt. But with the civilisation of the man-eater roaring its head—why I say 'man-eater', is that these words were pronounced by Shri T. T. Krishnamachari, the renowned Finance Minister of the Central Government—we are having disastrous results. As an example, I quote from a book entitled "Issues involved in Drug Policy" prepared by Sub-Committee on Health, Pondicherry Science Forum:

"Every year, 15 000 tonnes of health drinks are produced. Of the total market for these products one company alone, UK's Beecham International which produces Horlicks (53 per cent) and Boost (7 per cent) occupies 60 per cent of the market. The next drink Cadbury's Bournvita occupies 25 per cent of the market."

The reason why they command so much market is not because of

what they contain but because of the crores of rupees they spend on advertising. In a 30 rupee jar of Horlicks there is only about 3 paise worth of vitamins and the cost of the rest of the jar will hardly be a rupee or two. Yet millions of families spend their hard earned money. Often even starving in the process, to buy Horlicks. And many doctors prescribe it, as if it were a medicine.

"Similarly you have protein supplements like Proteinex, Complain & Protainules. Pfizer a big multinational company, sells 3.26 crores of Proteinex (1984) in just one year."

There sales are very high. This I want to bring to the notice of the august House to show how these multinationals are forcing some of these habits to be relegated to the background so that their products are sold.

But the prerogatives of a national health policy lists in the universal availability of safe drinking water, better nutrition and a safe hygienic living environment. It lies in an improved standard of living and health education. According to a leading nutrition expert, only less than 3 million of the 23 million to be born each year will become truly healthy, physically fit, productive and intellectually capable.

Children constitute 40 per cent of the population of India. of over 390 million. A majority of them are being underweight and grossly mal-nourished. Three million of them die of easily preventable diseases. Infantile diarrhoeas which are the biggest killers. could be adequately combatted by breast-feeding and supply of potable drinking water or boiled and cooled drinking water. The bottle, the teats and the advertised baby foods and the feeding practices are the biggest culprit in causing infections.

I also emphasise the importance of the successful implementation of the national immunisation programme for the protection of the child. I want to

point out that every year 30,000 children become blind which has to be combatted with better nutrition and supply of vitamin A concentrate.

For the welfare of the child, mother's nutrition is most important. Sixty per cent of women in the low economic group are grossly anemic, and a pregnant woman requires additional nutrition and at least 300 calories more in the last trimester of her pregnancy. So, this great task has to be achieved by our planning process. Pulses which are the poor man's meat should be grown in abundance. There should be encouragement and subsidy for supply of pulses, which is the single important factor to protect the health of the nation. Protein is not only necessary for growth of the body and the mind, but also for anti-body production and the protective mechanism.

Infant mortality which is round about 120 should be lowered to 87 by 1990 and lowered down further to 60 by the year 2,000. Can we achieve these laudable objectives?

Now I come to the Bill. It adequately covers the objectives which are designed to protect, promote and support breast feeding and discourage through health education the inappropriate feeding practises of babies and curtail the inadvertant use of infant milk foods, feed bottles, teats which adversely affect the health of the child. I welcome this Bill adopting the recommendations of the World Health Organisation as an Indian National Code for protection and promotion of breast feeding.

I also support the punishment by imprisonment of a term of not less than six months which may extend to three years for those advertisers manufacturers and canvassers, who contravene the provisions of the Bill.

I would be very happy if the Government brings a similar Bill in favour of cotton fabrics. Because

[Dr. G. Vijay Mohan Reddy]

cotton wears protect the skin by absorbing the sweat and properly ventilate the skin and keep the skin healthy, while the terelenes adversely affect the health of the skin and as a petrochemical bipproduct is carcinogenic and may cause cancer. Let the neo-Gandhites, who champion the cause of Khaddar bring such a Bill so that like breast milk, the cotton wear is protected, supported and promoted which may rub the tears from eyes of the weaver and the cotton growers and save the textile industry, which was famous in our country. If breast milk saves the health of the nation, cotton wears will stabilise our national economy and self-reliance.

I support the Bill, but at the same time, as our valued colleagues have been saying that the pressure of the multi-nationals on the Government is so great that the implementation will be faulty, I also express my concern. But I would emphasise let the ICDS programmes and such other programmes which have been taken up be seriously worked out for the successful implementation of these objectives.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. BAPU KALDATE): Shri Jaswant Singh—absent.

SHRI J. P. GOYAL (Uttar Pradesh): I half-heartedly support the Bill. Of course, the objective of the Bill is commendable. At least it has occurred to the hon. Minister to bring in this Bill and to give importance to the breast feeding by our children. She deserves our congratulations for that.

I say half-heartedly because I feel that firstly we should give priority to the breast feeding by the mother's milk. Secondly, as regards the artificial milk, teat or any other feed for the children, I feel that the Government should take it over. You have not made any provision in this re-

gard. I think the entire thing should be taken over by our Government and if any feed other than the breast feeding is required by our children, it should be supplied by Government concerns. There might be cases where mother is dead just after delivering the child and the child survives. So, naturally such a child has to be given artificial feed. I would request the hon. Minister to hear me please.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: He is raising something about the multi-national which you referred to.

SHRI J. P. GOYAL: I am requesting you. This is a country having 52 per cent as have-nots and below the poverty line. The below poverty line people also produce children. Many such mothers die in the hospitals. So, what will happen to those children who are left without mothers immediately or after one or two months? Afterall some feed has to be given to them also. Since they cannot have breast feed from the same mother. So I would request whatever milk food you give to the children should be taken over by you instead of depending on multinationals. All Precautions which you are taking in this Bill alone is not enough because persons belonging to higher class in this country, I must say with great respect are not thinking about our national growth and national development. We have to think about the next generation. What is the position of health in this country today. It is nothing. Therefore, if you want to build the next generation for at least next ten years whoever will be at the helm of our country's affairs, you should take over this industry. Of course, this Bill will be passed unanimously. But I would request you to kindly bring another Bill wherein you can take over everything including health matters for our children. This is a very important thing. I request you not to rely upon our multi-nationals and other companies because they still produce these foods by bribing your officers and get everything approved. Therefore, I want the Government to take over the

health problems of the children, their feeding, etc. Just as in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu there is a mid-day meals programme and if the same programme is extended by the Government of India for children upto three years it will be good. It need not be meals but whatever food is necessary for these children you may kindly extend. When I was in England. I was told that when a baby is born he is paid £ 7 per week to the parents of the child. You can at least provide something for 10 per cent of our population. You are unearthing so much black money and there should not be any problem for your Government to finance such a scheme. If you want to feed at least start from the children. Don't give it to the elders, because we shall die, so don't worry about us. Let the next generation be benefited. With these words, I welcome the Bill. Of course, this is only a beginning and I must congratulate the hon. Minister for having brought this Bill and I also appreciate that this Bill has been introduced in this House first because she is a Member of this House. I request the Minister to think about future programme on this Bill. With these words. I once again welcome this Bill.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO (Jammu and Kashmir): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Infant Milk Foods and Feeding Bottles (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Bill, 1986. Sir, when the World Health Assembly adopted in May, 1981 an international code of marketing the Government of India recognised this code and adopted a national code for protection and promoting of breast feeding in December, 1983. It is, therefore, natural that we should form a law regulating those things and I congratulate the hon. Minister for having brought forward this Bill.

Sir, I have certain reservations as my hon. friend, Mr. Aladi Aruna was having about the implementation part of the Bill. Now with regard to the

implementation part of the Bill, I hope the Minister would tell us in her reply as to how effectively she is going to do it. Sir, I have got only a few suggestions to make for the consideration of the hon. Minister. Under clause 6 it says that on the label of the infant milk it shall be written as "mother's milk is best for your baby". Sir, this is an inscription which will not serve any purpose. Therefore, I request you to kindly bear with me and try to understand my view-point. Madam Minister, under clause 25 of this Bill, you have been empowered to make rules. So, while making those rules, I would request you to provide for the the writing of the following words—this may be examined by your Ministry and if it is found to be acceptable, it may be done under clause 25;—there should be a warning in capital letters as follows: "The milk food contained in this bottle is no substitute for mother's milk through breast-feeding." I suggest writing these words instead of generally saying "mother's milk is best for your baby". This alone will bring to the notice of the mother who buys that particular container that this warning is being issued by the Ministry.

The second point that I have to make is with regard to clause 5(h) which clearly states:

"the batch number and the date before which infant milk food is to be consumed, taking into account the climatic and storage conditions of the country."

Madam Minister. I have seen that wherever the expiry date is given on a medicine, only one date is given. That is unrealistic. I have just landed here, ten minutes back, from Kashmir. It is extremely cold there and it is unbearable. The temperature was minus 1 degree last night. But the temperature here is better. The temperature in Madras is different. The temperature in Bombay is different. I request you to kindly examine, while framing the rules, my suggestion that two dates

[Shri Ghulam Rasool Matto]

should be mentioned, one for tropical climate and another for cold climate. Particularly, the tropical climate will affect the milk food. This is a very important thing for the welfare of the infant. So it should be specifically mentioned that in tropical climate, it will have such and such expiry date and in cold climate, it will have such and such expiry date. By doing this, the saleability of the milk food can be restricted to the particular area and to the time-limit given on it.

Now, my last suggestion is a unique one. Perhaps it is not covered by this measure. Now, before I go to that, I have to say one thing more, and that is with regard to the ingredients. Now Science very clearly gives us the ingredients of mother's milk. The ingredients of mother's milk can also be specified on the container along with the ingredients of the milk food in the container. This is important to see that this measure is implemented in letter and spirit. This point occurred me because my daughter is in Saudi Arabia and a relation of mine came—it is only about two months back—to by house and asked my daughter, who had come over for the summer vacation, "Sister, will you bring two American feeding bottles from Saudi Arabia?" I asked why. She said, "In the first place, American bottles are very durable; the ingredients used in the plastic are very good. Secondly, there is less risk of contamination." So I would request the hon. Minister to see, while framing the rules, that not only the ingredients of the milk food, as I have suggested, but also the ingredients of the feeding bottles, teats, etc. are standardised and specified. My last point is there should be provision against the multinationals. You have prescribed punishment of up to five years. My friend has also said and it is a fact that some girls, in order to keep their beauty, do not breastfeed their children, they have a wrong feeling that their breasts will be all right only if they do not breastfeed their child. I think a small amount of

punishment of two months should have been prescribed for those women who do not intentionally breastfeed their children. As a Health Inspector's or a doctor's certificate should be prescribed in case a woman is to be permitted not to breastfeed her child; that is, the health inspectors or doctors should be made responsible for implementing this Bill. If any girl is not breastfeeding her child, she must produce a certificate that she has been permitted by the doctor to use those infant foods because of health reasons. Such a provision should have been there. Maybe, you will react to this and will come forward with such a provision next time.

With these observations I wholeheartedly support the Bill.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Mr. Vice-Chairman, I thank the Members for the many suggestions which they have made, but there has been a general concern for the protection of the child and the Bill has been welcomed. There have been some suggestions we have mentioned in this that bottles, teats and other equipment which comes with it would also come under the Code. We have made provision also against the evil of using various things which are mixed with it, what is called adulteration of milk food for children. There strict codes are going to be implemented. I can assure the Members that we have specifically mentioned here companies. Very often the small person somewhere who does it gets caught. We have made provision and have specifically mentioned penalties for contravention here for offences by companies' penalties are also envisaged for a person in charge of the company and who was responsible for the conduct of business of the company. So I can assure you, whether it is a multinational company or a co-operative marketing federation or whatever it is, everybody would be treated equally under the provisions here. I do appreciate the suggestion made about the wording of the warning which is to be printed. Which perhaps we could consider as we go

along to improve our capacity to protect the Indian child. The Bill essentially has before it two fundamental issues. One is the question of the nutrition for the child itself. Malnutrition is a big problem in this country and we believe that natural feeding practices, mother's milk, are the best nutrition for the infant child. The second problem which we face the health front is that of infection for little children because of lack of sterilisation and certain methods which are not yet popularly used. Very often we have little children affected by various disorders and infections which could have been prevented if mother's milk had been used as the normal practice. I have said that we have adopted the Code and it was necessary under the Code that we legislate to protect natural feeding practices in the country. The various objectives, everybody has agreed, are very important. What we are aiming to do here is not to ban totally the production of infant foods. The concept is that we will not allow them to be advertised in a way that would project the artificial foods as better than mother's milk. The idea is that the whole campaign should not be such that you present something else as being a better food or a better alternative. Therefore, the idea is that we would not allow campaigning with samples. The honourable Member has talked about the amount of money spent on advertising these products. The idea is that we would prevent this kind of advertising of alternative milk foods for infants and protect the natural feeding practices. You can see that And, Sir, there is nothing sacrosanct about it. We are prepared to print in different colours also to make the wording really something that would make every woman notice it before she starts using the substitute.

DR. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: It should be in all the regional languages.

SHRI THANGABAALU (Tamil Nadu): In the local languages.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: That also we have to keep in mind I suppose when it goes for printing.

Most of the points that have been raised have our support. I would like to point out—Shrimati Kanak Mukherjee is not here and she has gone—that the infant mortality rates in the country have definitely been showing a falling trend and they have not in any case increased. This problem has been dealt with. Sir, the ICDS was mentioned by one of the speakers and I am very grateful because this has been accepted as one of the most successful child welfare programmes anywhere in the world. We are today covering 1,600 development blocks in the country out of the 5,070 that we have and we are hoping that 50 per cent of the blocks would be covered by the end of this plan period. Our priority is the urban slums, the Scheduled Caste-dominated blocks and the tribal areas. The Central Government has recently added the Centrally-sponsored nutrition programmes also for areas which are prone to drought and other natural calamities. And, Sir, I can tell the House that immunization, child care service, pre-school activity and the care of the pregnant and nursing mother are part of the ICDS. We start with the pregnant mother with, as you know, nutrition and also with folic acid and other things like immunization against tetanus and so on when the mother is still pregnant. Then we start with the nursing mother and the pre-school child up to the age of six and, indeed, the assessments have been very very positive. Not only has the health status of the children in these blocks improved, but also these blocks have shown a falling birth rate as compared to the non-ICDS blocks where spacing of children and other such practices are also being followed through work in these blocks.

Sir, with regard to implementation, I do agree and I do realise that in respect of social legislation—I have been saying this before—and in respect of

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this kind of legislation, unless we really create an atmosphere and get the support of the people and the women's organisations and groups and others, it becomes very difficult to implement it as strictly as we would like to and, as I said earlier, we have to see how we can generate that atmosphere in which the voluntary groups and others would support governmental efforts in implementing legislations like this.

Sir, I am grateful to the House for the support it has rendered. A point has been made about cotton fabrics and certain other things. Maybe they are related matters. But I am not competent enough to comment on all those things. But I am sure that those concerned would look into them.

The last suggestion that has been made is that of nationalisation of all companies producing infants foods. Sir, this is a suggestion which has been made. I shall certainly place it before those concerned with such matters because a number of Ministries are involved in this. But I can assure the House that whatever steps are required to guarantee safe infant foods for the children and the protection of the rights of the children we consider as the most important starting point in our new programme of human resources development in the country and in that we believe that we have to start with the child if we are to do anything for the development of our human resources and therefore, we are committed and whatever measures we have been taking during the last few days and some of the Bills which came up during the course of the last few days have been welcomed and I can assure the House that we do mean to implement them so that they bring a better life to the children in the future.

With these words, Sir, I would request that the Bill be passed. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. BAPU KALDATE): The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the regulation of production, supply and distribution of infant milk foods and feeding bottles with a view to the protection and promotion of breast-feeding and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

6.00 P.M.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. BAPU KALDATE): We shall now take up the clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 to 25 were added to the Bill. Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be passed."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE—

Contd.

Notifications of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) and related papers

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. BAPU KALDATE): Mr. Gadhi.

SHRI B. K. GADVI: Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) together with an Explanatory Memorandum therein:—

(i) Notification No. 463/86-Customs dated the 18th November 1986, amending Notification No. 12-Customs dated the 17th January, 1984, so as to include 2, 6 Diethyl Aniline for the manufacture of Butachlor for concessional customs duty.

(ii) Notification No. 464/86-Customs dated the 18th November, 1986, exempting nine specified intermedi-