

RAJYA SABHA

Friday, 19th September 1958

The House met at eleven of the clock, MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

NOTIFICATIONS PUBLISHING AMENDMENTS IN I.A.S. (PAY) RULES, 1954 AND I.P.S. (PAY) RULES, 1954

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI B. N. DATAR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (2) of section 3 of the All India Services Act, 1951, a copy each of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Home Affairs:—

(i) Notification G.S.R. No. 790, dated the 8th September, 1958, publishing certain amendments in Schedule III to the Indian Administrative Service (Pay) Rules, 1954.

(ii) Notification G.S.R. No. 791, dated the 8th September, 1958, publishing an amendment in Schedule III to the Indian Police Service (Pay) Rules, 1954.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-937/58 for (i) and (ii)]

MESSAGE FROM THE LOK SABHA

THE MERCHANT SHIPPING BILL, 1958

SECRETARY: Sir, I have to report to the House the following message received from the Lok Sabha, signed by the Secretary of the Lok Sabha:

"In accordance with the provisions of Rule 96 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to enclose herewith a copy of the Merchant Shipping Bill, 1958, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 17th September, 1958."

Sir, I lay the Bill on the Table.

THE MANIPUR AND TRIPURA (REPEAL OF LAWS) BILL, 1958

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time allotted for the Manipur and Tripura (Repeal of Laws) Bill, 1958 is half-an-hour.

THE MINISTER OF CO-OPERATION (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the repeal of certain laws in force in the Union territories of Manipur and Tripura, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Sir, this is quite a simple Bill . . .

SHRI H. N. KUNZRU (Uttar Pradesh): Do those laws concern Food or Agriculture?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: They concern Co-operative Societies and Money-lenders Acts.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Otherwise he will not be moving.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE (Bombay): This is what I was wondering too.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA (Uttar Pradesh): I thought that he was officiating for the Law Minister.

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: I can co-operate with anybody.

The Manipur and Tripura Bill which is before the House seeks to repeal the following enactments which are in force:—

The Manipur Co-operative Societies Act, 1947,

The Tripura Co-operative Societies Act 1958, T.E., and

The Tripura Kushid Niyamak Bidhi (2 of 1313 T.E.).

These are to be replaced respectively by the following:—

(a) The Assam Co-operative Societies Act, 1949,

(b) The Bombay Co-operative Societies Act, 1925 and

(c) The Bombay Money-lenders Act, 1946.

[Dr. P. S. Deshmukh.]

The main reason for this enactment is that the present enactments are defective from many points of view and the best thing which has been suggested by the Governments of these different areas as well as their Advisory Councils is the suggestion embodied in the Bill itself. The Manipur area is governed in many respects on the model of Assam and therefore we have suggested the application of the Assam Co-operative Societies Act, 1949, to the Manipur area instead of the present enactment. Then the Bombay Co-operative Societies Act and the Bombay Money-lenders Act will replace the present Tripura Kushid Niyamak Bidhi which is current in Tripura. The main defect for instance, in the Manipur Co-operative Societies Act is that there is no provision for division or amalgamation of societies. Since we are now trying to reorganise the existing societies so as to make them economic units, this would not be possible under the enactment as it exists today. The other defect is that plurality of votes is possible to be given under the present enactment. This contravenes the principle of co-operatives that one member, irrespective of the number of shares he has, can have only one vote. This is quite a fundamental and a serious defect. Then in section 19 of the Act it defines the right of the society in respect of recovery of debts due to it from a member or a past member from crops, cattle, fodder, implements or machinery etc. It can create a charge but it is only nominal because it does not give priority over other creditors which is also a defect. The Manipur Act does not exclude the jurisdiction of the Civil Courts as is the case wherever the Co-operative Societies Act applies because the matter is referred to arbitration and no reference to Civil Court is necessary. I don't want to detail all the defects and the reasons. I think the Bill is a very non-controversial one. For instance, in the Tripura Co-operative Societies Act also similar defects have been found. There is no provision for settlement of disputes by arbitration, there is no provision also for the

appointment of liquidators. There is also no provision for statutory audit. Similarly, the Tripura Kushid Niyamak Bidhi which is a money-lenders Act is a very old one. It is a very sketchy enactment and it provides only for licensing the money-lending business. It does not make adequate provision for regulating the business of money-lending and it is not effective enough to control the money-lenders. For all these reasons, this Bill has been brought here.

The main provisions in the Bill itself are directed towards safeguarding the rights and responsibilities arising from the existence of the previous enactments so far. So while repealing and replacing them by other enactments, we have to take care that till this new enactment is made enforceable, the old liabilities and responsibilities will remain intact. Sir, I move.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to provide for the repeal of certain laws in force in the Union territories of Manipur and Tripura, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): Mr. Chairman, I would like to make certain observations with regard to this Bill, especially about the co-operative societies in Tripura. We are all in support of this Bill, because I think this amendment or rather this repealing law is necessary in view of the changed conditions there. But then it appears that the problems of the co-operative organisations and societies in these areas or territories, in Tripura and Manipur, cannot be solved merely by having a uniform set of co-operative laws. Laws are very important and in that respect certain changes are undoubtedly called for. Here, Sir, I would like the Government to take note of certain things which are there at the moment, in order that they may take steps to improve them.

First of all, I should like to point out that in the tribal areas, especially among the tribal people of Tripura, there is great need for expansion and

development of co-operative societies. It appears that about 70 per cent, according to my information, of the population there should be included or brought within the range of the co-operative societies. At the moment, co-operative societies are very few and they are not functioning well. Somehow or other, the bulk of the people have been left out of these co-operative societies. The most important function that the co-operative societies fulfil at the moment is, of course, the provision of rural credit and there is no doubt that this is an important aspect of the work of the co-operative societies and that has to be expanded. At present people do not get adequate relief or rural credit through the agencies of co-operative societies and so they remain, more or less, the victims of the traditional usurers, the money-lenders of the countryside. Tripura or Manipur is no exception to the general rule that is prevalent in this regard. Therefore, it is important that the co-operative societies should be provided with adequate funds so that the credit needs of the people, especially of the very down-trodden people in the tribal areas, are adequately and promptly met.

Next, about the management of the co-operative societies I have to say that most of these societies are not run well. It seems that there is a lot of bureaucratic interference from the top whereas the initiative at the bottom is not developed. Yet for the success of the co-operative movement in our country and for the healthy growth of co-operative societies, it would be conceded that we should develop popular initiative and make the people enthusiastic about co-operative societies. That is not being done at the moment.

It seems that the majority of the shareholders in Tripura co-operative societies—and there are not many—do not take any interest in the affairs of the co-operative societies. It follows, therefore, that something is wrong in the management of the co-operative societies which should

explain why even the shareholders or the participants in the co-operative societies do not take part in the management of the affairs of the society. The Government should pay attention to this aspect of the matter and see that the cooperative societies are not controlled by a coterie of people but they are more and more controlled, and in a very good way, by the majority of the shareholders or the participants in the co-operative society.

In this connection naturally the work of the Co-operative Department assumes certain importance and urgency. At the moment, it appears, in Tripura especially, that the Co-operative Department is not so much interested in getting the popular co-operation, in drawing the people into the activities of co-operative societies, as in somehow or other carrying on what they understand to be the mere routine job. The result has been that even the little that could be done with the existing set-up is not being done and there is considerable discontent among various sections of the people.

I have been informed from there that some relief officers themselves occupy positions—I do not know whether as *ex-officio* or not—of chairmanship, vice-chairmanship and secretaryship of all the societies and the people are left in the background. That is to say, it is more or less taken for granted that these societies should be under the management of these officials and it will be for them to lay down the lines and the policies of the co-operative societies. I think this is another matter which should be seriously considered by the Government, whether, even if this arrangement is permissible in law or under the rules, this arrangement is suitable or expedient in the situation in which these societies are functioning.

In this connection, I may mention that in some cases the loans are not being properly administered and it appears that the wrong type of people are given loans, whereas the really needy people are denied what should go to them. The result is that

[Shri Bhupesh Gupta.]

the artisans and others have suffered and the economy and the trade of this area have also considerably suffered as a result of the inefficient and inadequate administration of co-operative loans. I have got a number of examples, but I need not go into them here.

It appears that certain concerns are being given loans because they are tied up with certain individuals, and it appears that it is done more or less on the basis of personal affiliations rather than on the basis of the needs and on the basis of expanding the work and encouraging the work of the co-operative societies in a democratic and popular manner. There is, for instance, the Central marketing organisation there, but it has become more or less a collection of some of the existing co-operative societies or rather the heads of these co-operative societies, with the result that it cannot really fulfil any centralised function, by way of giving leadership in the matter of marketing the products on the co-operative basis. So, it has been pointed out to me that in some cases some doubtful elements are associated with these co-operatives and these leading elements control the Central Marketing Society. The result is that some of the objectives of the Central Marketing Society are not being fulfilled. That, I think, is another point which the Government should consider.

There is also a co-operative transport society in Tripura. Here again it is under the control of the officials and it has been pointed out to me through various notes and other things that all these societies are absolutely under the grip of the officials and the people, the actual members and others, have very little say in the matter. That again has created a good deal of misgivings and discouragement among the people as far as co-operation goes.

Sir, there is yet another point which I would like to refer and in this let

me say that I am not casting any reflection on the party as a whole. It appears, however, that somehow or other, co-operative organisations in Tripura get unduly linked up with the Congress organisation and with certain personalities in the Congress organisation there. Some people have taken it into their heads that the machinery of the co-operative movement should be used for doing things which are highly partisan in nature or for advancing certain narrow party interests. I think the Government can go into it and find out. Whether it is right or wrong, there is a very great feeling among the people that some people—not all—some who are in control of things, are running the co-operative organisations in this partisan manner.

Sir, Tripura is a deficit area and as you know, it is very poor and somewhat isolated from the rest of India and communication is very difficult. Naturally there, the whole thing, whether it is production marketing or distribution or any other thing, is very important. They are all important, and it is particularly important in this connection that these organisations are run in a democratic and efficient manner, otherwise the people in these parts do not get any benefit. As far as other areas are concerned, if certain things go wrong, they can make it up through other agencies, but in these areas that is not possible. Even the Central Government's intervention in such matters takes time. Therefore, the set-up should be absolutely above board and democratic function should be ensured and the people should be associated with the co-operative organisations while always expanding these organisations on proper lines in the areas where they are very much needed.

I think these are some of the steps which the Government should take with a view to promoting co-operative societies and general co-operation in these areas, in particular, of Tripura and Manipur. What I say of Tripura also applies to Manipur. The problems should be discussed in order to

find out how best the co-operative movement could be promoted and co-operative societies run in the interest of the local people.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Rajagopal Naidu. Please be brief. Take five minutes.

SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU (Madras): He has taken nearly fifteen minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Who?

SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: The first speaker.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Half-an-hour is the time allotted.

SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: I shall be brief.

MR. CHAIRMAN: And Mr. Mulka Govinda Reddy is another speaker. I want to confine myself to the time-limit.

SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: I shall be brief.

Mr. Chairman, ordinarily I would not have taken part in this debate, because the Bill is of such a nature that it should be passed without any sort of discussion or debate. But I find that certain recommendations have been made by the Committee on Co-operative Laws, the committee which has been appointed by the Food and Agriculture Ministry, and according to those recommendations there should be uniform laws throughout the country. Therefore, I am wondering why instead of implementing this recommendation of this Committee which has been appointed by the Food and Agriculture Ministry, some of the laws of the State of Bombay and the State of Assam should be extended to these areas of Tripura and Assam. In order to implement the recommendations of the Rural Credit Survey Committee and also to facilitate the implementation of recommendations about the development of co-operation in the second Five Year Plan, and

with a view to modernising regularising and simplifying the co-operative laws, the Government of India constituted that Committee. We all know that co-operation was a transferred subject in the 1919 Act and under the present law also it is a State subject. So every State has its own law and the Rural Credit Survey Committee made several recommendations so that the State Governments could follow those recommendations. One of the most important recommendations made by the Rural Credit Survey Committee is this State's participation in the movement. The other recommendation that is made is the integration of credit, marketing and processing. None of the States have got any such provision at all. It is only with that object that the committee that was constituted on Co-operation Law came out with a model Bill. That Committee came out with its report in the year 1957 and it gave a model Bill so that every State could copy that model Bill. I wonder why, Sir, the Food and Agriculture Ministry instead of coming out with a Bill based on the recommendations made by this Committee, is extending the laws of Bombay and Assam to Manipur and Tripura. I fail to understand the reason for this. Take, for instance, the Bombay law. The Bombay law is still outmoded and outdated. Even in Bombay, there are four laws governing the Bombay State, so far as the co-operatives are concerned after the States Reorganisation. The Mysore law governs certain areas in the Bombay State which previously belonged to the Mysore State; the Hyderabad law governs certain areas in the Bombay State which formerly belonged to the Hyderabad State. So, there is no uniformity of law even in Bombay. That being so, I wonder how such laws can be extended to Manipur or Tripura. There may be certain defects in the laws of Manipur and Tripura but that does not mean that certain other defective laws such as those of Bombay and Assam will have to be extended to Manipur and Tripura. I wonder why the Government of India had not

[Shri P. S. Rajagopal Naidu.]

thought of giving effect to the recommendations of the Committee. The other point is, why not either the Bombay law or the Assam law be extended to Manipur and Tripura instead of two different laws for the two territories? It may be that that was the recommendation of the Advisory Committee constituted for the respective territories but we have got to see which is best for which territory. I can say that I have got some knowledge of the co-operation laws in the country. The best law is that of Madras and Bombay but there are certain defects in the laws of these two States and the State Governments had constituted committees which are going into the remodelling of these State laws. At least to my knowledge, so far as Madras is concerned, the Bill is on the anvil; probably in Bombay also it is the same but then the trouble will be that if those laws are extended then, the moment these State laws are repealed, remodelled or amended, it will be only the old law that governed Bombay and Assam which will be applicable to these territories.

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Necessary changes could be made applicable by notification.

SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: The other point which I have got is this. What is the competence of the Food and Agriculture Ministry for bringing forward a Bill dealing with the extension of the Bombay Money-lenders Act to Manipur and Tripura. It may be the collective responsibility of the Government but, whatever it is, I wonder how the Food and Agriculture Ministry was competent to deal with the Bombay Money-lenders Act and the extension of this Act to Manipur and Tripura.

These are the only few points that I wanted to urge.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY (Mysore): Mr. Chairman, while lending my support to this Bill, I am

wondering why the Minister is trying to extend the Bombay Co-operative Societies Act, 1925 and the Bombay Money-lenders Act, 1946, to Tripura and replacing the Manipur Co-operative Societies Act, 1947 by the Assam Co-operative Societies Act, 1949. Sir, the most important thing for the co-operative movement is the marketing of the produce. Under the Bombay Act, regulated market committees have been established and market facilities are afforded to the ryots but in most of the market committees, we know it for certain that the merchants try to manipulate the prices of commodities. As there is no State agency or a marketing society capable enough to compete with the merchants, the price that is offered for the commodities is after all very low many a time, and sometimes it so happens that for weeks together the commodities that are brought for sale to these regulated market committees are not sold at all so much so that the ryots will be put to hardship. They will have to wait for days together, spend some money and will be obliged to sell their commodities at prices dictated by these merchants. I would urge that when this Act is made applicable to Tripura, the Government should devise a method by which the ryots does not suffer on account of the monopoly purchase made by the merchants. The Government should also try to encourage marketing societies; they should finance such marketing societies so that the marketing societies can easily compete with the merchants and offer the maximum price for the produce of the ryots.

Another important thing in the co-operative movement which should be undertaken by the Government and which has not been so far undertaken adequately is in regard to the rural credit movement. The co-operative movement should provide moneys for these ryots and if it is provided in an adequate measure, the prosperity of the ryots will be achieved. In other countries, especially in China, the co-operative movement is at its zenith. I would very much like that the co-operative movement in India should

also reach that zenith. We know Sir, that all is not well with the co-operative movement. Many cliques and partisan attitudes have been responsible for the ugly state of affairs in the co-operative movement in India. That should be rectified without hesitation and people who are responsible for such things should be brought to book. In certain parts of the country—in Bombay I know it for certain—multi-purpose societies were formed. The nominees of the Government, especially nominees coming from the Congress Party were made the Chairmen of multi-purpose societies. This should not happen. People who are interested in the co-operative movement and who have a democratic support should be at the helm of affairs. The Government should evince more interest in seeing that the co-operative movement stabilises itself and does something concrete for the ryots.

Thank you.

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Sir, so far as the criticism about the Co-operative Department in Tripura offered by my friend, Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, is concerned, I must say that we are not aware of all the difficulties that he has pointed out. At the same time, we do not deny the fact that the co-operative movement does suffer not only in Tripura and in such backward areas comparatively, but in other places also in several ways. I have not got information with respect to the other point that he has made but I assure him that every criticism that he has made will be looked into and whatever is possible to alleviate the position there, will be certainly done by us. I may say that we cannot improve the situation merely by enacting this measure. This is meant merely to remove certain defects and difficulties in the way. The enactment by itself cannot improve the co-operative movement there. Similar criticism was voiced in the other House by a representative of these areas. We have made note of that also and we will try to see how we can improve matters. He has complained about

the majority being set at naught, about their being not effective, about their not attending the meetings, etc., etc. Of course, those are the defects of the members themselves. It will take a long time before we can recreate so much of consciousness in them but, so far as it lies in our powers as a Government to rectify the defects, I assure him that we will take the necessary steps.

Mr. Rajagopal Naidu asked us as to why it was that the model Bill which was circulated to all the States was not made applicable. Now, Sir, it is merely a model which is kept before all the States. Every State is considering the question of appointing committees, as he himself has said, before deciding which particular suggestions in the model Bill could be accepted. I can assure him that as soon as Assam, for instance, takes note of this model Bill and decides upon any changes in the Assam Act, that will be made applicable in this case also.

SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Why not the Centre itself think of it first?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: We want to relate it to local circumstances. After all this Committee is a very important Committee, a Committee of very wise people, but it is the view of a certain group of people. The States have their own circumstances; they know things better than merely the Committee discussing more or less theoretically. So, we do not want to do something only theoretically. We want to relate it to the actual facts of every State, and when we have two or three Acts with the necessary amendments made in the various States we will certainly take steps to embody the more progressive suggestions in those laws. So, the reason why we have chosen these particular enactments for being applied to these areas at present is because that was the choice of the local administrations supported by the Advisory Councils of

[Dr. P. S. Deshmukh.]
these areas. That is the reason why we have chosen these enactments. Now there are several Acts in force in the territory of the Present reorganized Bombay State, but we have selected the old Bombay law which was applicable to the old Bombay State. It does not refer to the other territories which have since been merged in the reorganised Bombay State.

I am glad the House took this opportunity to make some observations on co-operative movement as a whole. Unfortunately, this being a State subject Parliament has very little to do with it except the chance that they get in the discussions on the Budget to say anything about co-operation.

I specially welcome the points made by my friend, Shri Mulka Govinda Reddy. I know the difficulties he has pointed out are real, and none could be keener to remove them than myself. I know the difficulties of co-operative marketing societies. Even when they actually purchase the commodities from the farmers they have yet to submit themselves to the same traders and the other people who were exploiting them. For that reason we are trying to create an organisation on a national scale, and we are confident that we will be able to assist them considerably.

Then he also spoke about the expansion of rural credit. Sir, I am glad to report to the House that this is going fairly fast. In 1950-51 the co-operatives advanced only a little over Rs. 22 crores. Last year advances through the co-operative movement for rural credit amounted to Rs. 100 crores, and this year we expect the total will come to Rs. 140 crores, which is about seven times the amount advanced in 1950-51 in about seven or eight years' time. So, I think we have certainly made very good progress.

One hon. Member questioned why the Food and Agriculture Ministry should bother about the Money-

lenders Act being made applicable to the Union territory of Tripura. The reason is this, Sir, that my Ministry is in charge of agricultural credit and the all-India Act, the Co-operative Societies Act. That is why I have been asked to pilot this Bill.

Sir, in respect of any other points which require to be attended to I will do my best to attend to them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the repeal of certain laws in force in the Union territories of Manipur and Tripura, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up clause by clause consideration.

Clauses 2 to 4 were added to the Bill.

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

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: I move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill be passed."

SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Sir, the hon. Minister said that committees had been constituted in the various States and they were going through the recommendations made by the Committee on Co-operative Law, and it is said, Sir, that time is not opportune for applying the recommendations of the Committee on Co-operative Law to Manipur and Tripura.

Sir, we all know that Manipur and Tripura are Union territories. We need not wait for the State Governments to consider the recommendations made by the Committee on Co-operative Law, and then wait for the opportunity to apply those provisions to Manipur and Tripura. The recommendations that had been made by the Committee on Co-operative Law

have been approved by the Government of India and it is only after the approval of the Government of India that these recommendations had been sent to the various State Governments to adopt these recommendations as far as possible taking into consideration the local conditions of each State. Now my point will be, Sir, this. Manipur and Tripura being Union territories, is it not right and proper for the Government of India to apply the recommendations made by the Committee on Co-operative Law there, and in order to set an example to the various States in the country, should not the Government of India first come out with a comprehensive Bill adopting the various recommendations made for State participation in share-capital separation of audit from accounting and all that? Sir, I see no reason why the Central Government should not have taken the first chance to get up a comprehensive Bill and see that the co-operation laws are modernised in the case of the Union territories in the first instance.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: Sir, I do not want to speak at length at this stage. I only want to say that there are certain defects in the Bombay Law, which should be rectified. I am quoting only one instance. In one cotton sales society a former managing director of that society had drawn sums to the extent of Rs. 26 lakhs as advance, and now I understand that there is no provision to recover that money; there may be some provision but no stringent provision to recover that money, and I understand the society is feeling helpless. Such a thing should not happen in Tripura when this law is made applicable. So I would like the hon. Minister to see that such flaws are eliminated.

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: He will certainly see that if there is such a lacuna or defect in the Bombay Act, the same is not allowed to work to the detriment of the people in Tripura.

Similarly, Sir, there will be no delay in applying, as far as possible, the model Bill's provisions by any one of the important States. They wish to modify their own Acts, and those changes will be incorporated and made applicable to these areas also if necessary. At this stage it would be rather risky for the Central Government to give this matter so much importance and to commit themselves to an absolutely cut and dried model, because model is a model, it is not a final thing; it has got to be modified according to the circumstances. Now we might probably have to spend time to see that Tripura and the other area get the advantage of this model law, but we would rather prefer that the States do this, and there will not be much time lost. So I hope Mr. Naidu is satisfied.

SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: We are responsible for law-making for Manipur and Tripura.

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Even so he forgets this fact; he thinks that the model, once evolved, is a sort of perfect thing and can be applied anywhere. I differ from him. It will have to be scrutinised by every State with great care, and when the States are there to do it, I do not think the Centre need bother to go through them because it would probably mean the setting up of some committee here just as they are in the States where they are already doing the work.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

REFERENCE TO THE PASSING AWAY OF DR. BHAGWAN DAS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before we take up the next item of business, my painful duty is to draw the attention of the House to the passing away of Dr. Bhagwan Das of Banaras, one of our great citizens, a great scholar and