RAJYA SABHA

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIAN): Now, the question is:

That the Bill to provide for the adjudication by the National Tax Tribunal of disputes with respect to levy, assessment, collection and enforcement of direct taxes and also to provide for the adjudication by that Tribunal of disputes with respect to the determination of the rates of duties of customs and central excise on goods and the valuation of goods for the purposes of assessment of such duties as well as in matters relating to levy of tax on service, in pursuance of article 323B of the Constitution and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration.

The motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIAN): Now, we shall take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 to 30 were added to the Bill

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

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

SHRI HANSRAJ BHARDWAJ: Sir, I beg to move:

That the Bill be passed.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Demand for revival of ailing Sugar Mills in the Country

SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA (Maharashtra): Sir, it is a welcome step to reduce interest on term loan to aiding sugar mills from 15 per cent to 10 per cent; and NABARD is also providing liquidity support of Rs. 500 crore for their restructuring. Whether this package will achieve its envisioned objectives, will depend upon Government's solving the problem in a holistic manner. Low production due to capacity under-utilization, in power supply, comparatively less sucrose content of the sugarcanes, strife in industrial relations, lobbying by vested interests, mounting arrears of payments to farmers, etc. are major contributory factors and vulnerable

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sugar mills are succumbing to this deteriorating situation, thereby becoming 'ailing.'

The proposed reduction in term loan would, no doubt, be a much-needed succour, but it hardly contributes in a significant manner towards revival of all the ailing sugar mills. This package is for all cooperative sugar mills that were operational in 2002-2003, are commercially viable, have term loans outstanding as on March 31,2005, and, have adequate operational surplus to repay the loans. Even out of this year payments (till May) to farmers, there is an outstanding amount of Rs. 77 crore. There are 553 sugar mills in 18 States, out of which 55 per cent are in the cooperative sector and NABARD analysed the condition of 170 mills for preparing the package. Thus, let the Government come with a more comprehensive package whereby this ailing sugar industry is put on a steady road of complete revival, and, thus apart from fulfilling its domestic consumption responsibilities, it simultaneously looks towards its export potential.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIAN). Shri Kalraj Mishra; not present. Shri Santosh Bagrodia.

Impact of sickness of PSEs on the Small Scale Industries in the Country

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA (Rajasthan): Sir, first of all, I need your permission to speak from here because the hon. Minister has spread his office.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIAN): Okay. Yes, yes.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, my Special Mention relating to impact of sickness of PSEs in the small-scale sector is of urgent public importance.

I rise to draw the attention of the House on the wide prevalence of sickness in small-scale sector particularly among the ancillary units of large companies around when industrialisation took place. A large number of ancillaries were set up that were directly or indirectly dependent on the parent PSE. Till early 90s, these PSEs remained the engines of industrial growth in their respective regions. Each of the PSE had a Plant Level Committee to coordinate its demands and supplies with the ancillaries.

However, in the fate 90s, such a guideline to set up Plant Level Committee was withdrawn. In the new liberalized regime, the PSEs

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