

SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA: Sir, I move:

(No.1) That at page 1, line 1, *for* the word “Sixty-second” the word “Sixty-fifth” be *substituted*

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

The Enacting Formula, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Title was added to the Bill.

SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA: Sir, I move:

That the Bill, as amended, be passed.

The question was proposed.

...(Interruptions)...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY (West Bengal): Sir, since the amendment that we had moved has not been accepted by the House, while, accepting that the House has the right, and in protest, given our understanding, we think it is wrong for the entire working class in our country, we stage a walk out.

(At this stage, some hon. Members left the Chamber.)

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, since our amendment was negatived, in the interest of the working class, we walk out.

(At this stage, some hon. Members left the Chamber.)

SHRI K.C. TYAGI (Bihar): Sir, in protest, we also stage a walk out.

(At this stage, some hon. Members left the Chamber.)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: These are all democratic rights. No problem. *...(Interruptions)...* The question is:

That the Bill, as amended, be passed.

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, we take up the Apprentices (Amendment) Bill, 2014. Shri Bandaru Dattatreya to move the Bill.

The Apprentices (Amendment) Bill, 2014

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): Sir, I move:

That the Bill further to amend the Apprentices Act, 1961, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration.

The question was proposed.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, if you want to say something, you can say; or, you may ...*(Interruptions)*... That is enough. No need. Okay, motion moved. Now, I am starting the discussion. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, take it tomorrow. ...*(Interruptions)*... We will have a meaningful discussion tomorrow. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let the Treasury Benches say what they want. Mr. Naqvi, do you want to say something? ...*(Interruptions)*... If they agree, I have no problem. Then, I can proceed to Special Mentions. I have taken the view of the treasury benches also. The Apprentices Bill is already moved. Discussion will be tomorrow. Now, I am taking Special Mentions. Those who want to read, can read.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN, (SHRI P. RAJEEVE), *in the Chair*]

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Demand to take effective measures for eradication of leprosy in the country

SHRI VIVEK GUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, India continues to record the highest number of leprosy cases in the world even after officially achieving the total eradication of the disease in 2005. After six decades of the implementation of the National Leprosy Control Programme in 1955 by the Government of India, crores of rupees have been spent on various phases of the leprosy eradication projects but the figure of leprosy prevalence in the country is far from being satisfactory while the rate of detection of new cases is escalating each year. Sixty per cent of new leprosy cases in the world are reported to be detected in India and it is also reported that the Government statistics grossly underestimate the extent of leprosy in the country.

Many districts continue to have incidences of leprosy in spite of the WHO benchmark of elimination of leprosy whilst several States have a prevalence rate exceeding 1 per 10,000. The West Bengal Government has taken measures to mitigate the prevalence of leprosy and the number of cases detected has reduced from 1.08 to 0.87 per 10,000 from 2012 to 2014. The other State Governments should take similar measures like the State of West Bengal to reduce leprosy cases.