

initiated by a person from an account ...". If he uses modern technology, electronic technology, to transfer funds, and there is dishonour and he commits an offence under this Act, it will be punished. But, if he commits some other crime like cheating, that will be punished under the ordinary law. If he commits any other crime of forgery, that will be punished under the ordinary law. This section will be read, that is, he will be prosecuted for an offence under section 25 of this Act, read with corresponding sections of the penal code. The penal code is not replaced by this law. In fact, penal code laws will continue to remain. But, if he commits an offence and there is a dishonour of a transfer under electronic funds transfer, section 25 is attracted and he will be punished. So, I request the hon. Members to kindly pass the Bill.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE): I think no more clarifications are there. The Minister has replied to the hon. Members' questions and clarifications sought.

The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the regulation and supervision of payment systems in India and to designate the Reserve Bank of India as the authority for that purpose and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration".

The motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE): We shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE): There are three amendments (No. 1 to 3) by Shri Tapan Kumar Sen.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Sir, in view of the assurance given by the hon. Minister, I am not pressing my amendments.

Clause 4 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 5 to 38 were added to the Bill.

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

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, I move:

That the Bill be passed.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

MESSAGE FROM LOK SABHA

The Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Petroleum Technology Bill, 2007

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

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 120 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to inform you that Lok Sabha, at

its sitting held on the 3rd December, 2007, agreed without any amendment to the Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Petroleum Technology Bill, 2007, which was passed by Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 30th November, 2007.”

Government Bill—Contd.

The Armed Forces Tribunal Bill, 2005

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE): Now, let us take up the Armed Forces Tribunal Bill, 2005.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): Sir, I beg to move:

That the Bill to provide for the adjudication or trial by Armed Forces Tribunal of disputes and complaints with respect to commission, appointments, enrolment and conditions of service in respect of persons subject to the Army Act, 1950, the Navy Act, 1957 and the Air Force Act, 1950 and also to provide for appeals arising out of orders, findings or sentences of courts-martial held under the said Acts and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration.

The question was proposed.

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA (Rajasthan): Sir, I am grateful to you for having given me an opportunity to speak on this very important Bill. This Bill deserves very careful consideration, studied deliberations, and not hurried disposal. But the House is nearly empty.

At the fag end of the day, I would like to bring to the kind notice of the hon. Defence Minister that this Bill has been lying in the cold storage for the past one-and-a-half years and I congratulate the hon. Defence Minister, Shri A. K. Antony, to wake up the Government from its slumber.

I may mention that this Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 20th December 2005. It was referred to the Standing Committee on 27th December, that means, seven days after its introduction in the Rajya Sabha. The Report of the Standing Committee was received on 16th May 2006, and since then, the Government did not do anything about it. However, better late than never.

I specially mention that this Bill deserves very careful consideration because it deals with our Armed Forces. It deals with our guardians of frontier, the Army, the sentinels of sky, the Air Force, and the hawks of the seas, the Navy. These are the three wings of the Armed Forces the nation is proud of and on whose valour and sacrifice the security, the sovereignty, and the territorial integrity of the nation remains assured. Because it deals with very basic servicemen of our country who are India in miniature. Armed Forces are that special institution of our country which, as a buckle, binds the nation, which, as a hyphen, joins the communities, and which, as a bond, cements oneness of this country. Rising above caste, creed, religion and provinces, armed forces form a unit which deserves really careful consideration and this is the occasion for the hon. Defence Minister to look into what the state of affairs is in the Armed Forces today, and why, and what are the reasons for bringing up this Armed Forces Tribunal Bill.

It may be worth telling that there were five agencies which recommended that such