

1. That at page 2, after line 20, the following proviso be inserted, namely:-

“Provided that notwithstanding anything contained in Section 22, a party aggrieved by any actions as per sub-section (2)(a) shall be entitled to prove otherwise by resorting to legal remedies by approaching courts of competent jurisdiction.”

2. That at page 2, line 22, for the words “who has been assigned the power under”, the words “referred to in” be substituted.

The question was put and the motion was negatived.

SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM: Sir, division. ...*(Interruptions)*..

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Please...
...*(Interruptions)*..

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

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

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Now, Shri S. Jaishankar to move that the Bill be passed.

SHRI S. JAISHANKAR: Sir, I move:

That the Bill be passed.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

...*(Interruptions)*...

The Indian Antarctic Bill, 2022

and

Amendment for reference of the Indian Antarctic Bill, 2022 to Select Committee

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Now, we will take up the Indian Antarctic Bill, 2022. ...*(Interruptions)*... Dr. Jitendra Singh to move a motion for consideration of the Indian Antarctic Bill, 2022. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY; AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill to provide for the national measures for protecting the Antarctic environment and dependent and associated ecosystems and to give effect to the Antarctic Treaty, the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources and to the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

...(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Mr. Minister, do you want to say something on this Bill? *...(Interruptions)...*

DR. JITENDRA SINGH: Sir, the Lok Sabha has already passed this Bill. *...(Interruptions)...* As we all know, Antarctica is a very unique land with its area of 14 million square kilometres. *...(Interruptions)...* It is virtually a 'no man's land' but has certain constraints of geo-politics. *...(Interruptions)...* We have four Treaties in place as far as the Antarctic continent is concerned, that is, Antarctic Treaty, the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources and to the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty. *...(Interruptions)...* Now, as far as the Antarctic Treaty is concerned, it was signed in 1959. *...(Interruptions)...* India became a signatory in 1983, and of the total 54 countries or the nations which are signatory to this treaty, India is among those 29 who have a consultative status, and, on the consultative members, it is mandatory that they bring in a law which is *... (Interruptions)...*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): No point of order when the Members are in the Well. If everybody goes back to his seat, I will allow you. *...(Interruptions)...*

DR. JITENDRA SINGH: As we all know, India has two establishments over there, one 'the *Maitri*' and the other 'the *Bharati*.' ...(*Interruptions*)... and, therefore, in order to take view ...(*Interruptions*)... of any inappropriate or offensive act happening over there, I seek the endorsement of this House, as also already proposed by the lower House, that a Bill, a legislation may be brought in so that the Indian law would be applicable on the Indian jurisdiction therein. ...(*Interruptions*)... After the legislation is passed, a Committee would be constituted to frame the rules. ...(*Interruptions*)... I, therefore, request that the Bill may be considered and passed. ...(*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): I have told, you all will have to go to your own seats, and then I will allow the point of order. ...(*Interruptions*)... You go to your seats. ...(*Interruptions*)... You go to your seats. You go to your respective seats. ...(*Interruptions*)... You cannot sit anywhere. ...(*Interruptions*)... You have to go to your respective seats, and I will listen to you. ...(*Interruptions*)... Mr. Siva, I will listen to you. Let the House be in order. ...(*Interruptions*)... I will listen to you, Mr. Siva. ...(*Interruptions*)...

So, the motion moved. ...(*Interruptions*)... There is one amendment by Dr. John Brittas for reference of the Indian Antarctic Bill, 2022 as passed by Lok Sabha to a Select Committee of the Rajya Sabha. ...(*Interruptions*)... Mr. John Brittas, are you moving your amendment? ...(*Interruptions*)...

DR. JOHN BRITTAS (Kerala): Yes, Sir, I am moving the amendment. I move:

"That the Bill to provide for the national measures for protecting the Antarctic environment and dependent and associated ecosystems and to give effect to the Antarctic Treaty, the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources and to the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by Lok Sabha, be referred to a Select committee of the Rajya Sabha, consisting of the following Members:-

1. Shri Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharyya
2. Dr. John Brittas
3. Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha
4. Shri Jose K. Mani
5. Shri A.A. Rahim

6. Shri Tiruchi Siva
7. Dr. V. Sivadasan
8. Shri K.C. Venugopal

with instructions to report by the last day of the first week of the next Session (258th) of the Rajya Sabha." ...*(Interruptions)*...

The questions were proposed.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): All right. Very good. ...*(Interruptions)*... So, the motion for consideration of the Bill and the amendment moved thereto are now open for discussion. Members desiring to speak, they can speak. ...*(Interruptions)*... I have allowed you. ...*(Interruptions)*... Dr. John Brittas has moved an amendment. ...*(Interruptions)*... He has the right. He has the right. ...*(Interruptions)*... He has moved the amendment. ...*(Interruptions)*... Don't shout. Please go to your own seats. ...*(Interruptions)*... Dr. Brittas has moved his amendment. ...*(Interruptions)*... He has the first opportunity. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, you can raise your point of order, and you all go to your seats. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Vice-Chairman Sir, our energy is unnecessarily being spent... ...*(Interruptions)*... * I need to express our grievances. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Mr. Siva, under which Rule? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, it is under Rule 258. Shall I read it out?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Please read it out. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: You know Rule 258. I have to read it out again and again. It states, "Any member may at any time submit a point of order for the decision of the Chairman, but in doing so, shall confine himself to stating the point." Yes, I am confining myself to the point. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, when the Weapons of Mass

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

Destruction and their Delivery Systems Bill was passed... *...(Interruptions)...* The Chair has allowed me. Why are you interfering? Why are you interfering? *...(Interruptions)...* It is my point of order *...(Interruptions)...*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Please address the Chair. *...(Interruptions)...* Please address the Chair. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, I am addressing the Chair. *...(Interruptions)...*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): You are not addressing the Chair. You are addressing others. You may address the Chair. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, I am addressing you. When the Bill was put to voice vote, Shri Elamaram Kareem stood up and asked for division. * The Bill was passed without giving respect to a Member's points of view. He raised a valid point. *...(Interruptions)...* Sir, he wanted a division. The Chair should have given equal importance to us. What are we shouting for? *...(Interruptions)...* You passed the Bill, and when the House was in order, the next Bill was taken up. *...(Interruptions)...*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Please be seated. Let me react to Shri Elamaram Kareem's point. *...(Interruptions)...*
Please be seated.

SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM (Kerala): Sir, I asked for division repeatedly, but you did not hear that. *...(Interruptions)...*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): I could not hear. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM: Sir, I was on my seat. *...(Interruptions)...*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Members were in the Well of the House, saying all sorts of things and shouting. *...(Interruptions)...*

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM: Sir, when I was asking for division, how could you pass the Bill? ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): You cannot raise a point of order from the Well of the House. You cannot demand a division from the Well of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM: Sir, I was speaking from my seat. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): You cannot demand a division from the Well of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*... You should have requested your colleagues to maintain order. All of them were in the Well of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*... When Mr. Siva wanted to raise a point of order, I heard him. When Mr. Derek O'Brien wanted to raise a point of order, I heard him. ...*(Interruptions)*... But when the House is not in order, when all of you are in the Well of the House, in a disorderly manner, how can I allow a division? It was not heard. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let me make it clear. ...*(Interruptions)*... You may go back to your seats. Only then would I allow you. ...*(Interruptions)*... You are disturbing your own Leader of the Opposition. The Congress Party is disturbing its own Leader of the Opposition. You are not allowing him to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*... The Leader of the Opposition wants to speak, but you are not allowing him ... *(Interruptions)*... The Congress Party is not allowing him to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*... Go back to your seats. You are disturbing the Leader of the Opposition. The Congress Party is disturbing its own leader, the Leader of the Opposition. ...*(Interruptions)*... How can the House function like this?

विपक्ष के नेता (श्री मल्लिकार्जुन खरगो) : एक चीज़ तो यह है कि * और जब हाउस ऑर्डर में नहीं था तो उस वक्त आप इधर के मेम्बर को बोलते हैं कि प्वाइंट ऑफ ऑर्डर के लिए आप पहले हाउस क्लियर करो, उसके बाद बोलो। * That is one thing. Secondly, I wish to draw your attention to a matter of grave procedural irregularity. I have addressed a letter on 29th July, 2022 in this regard, wherein I had drawn attention to the fact that reference made by Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman and Shri Piyush Goyal on 28th July, 2022 to Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, who is a Member of the other House, is in gross violation of

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

the time-honoured parliamentary convention. I had sought expunction of those words, of the aforementioned reference made by Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman and Shri Piyush Goyal, and also sought their apology. ...(*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Mr. Chairman will look into the record. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: * ...(*Interruptions*)... I have written a letter on 29th. ...(*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): You cannot defy Mr. Chairman. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: I have written a letter on 29th. ...(*Interruptions*)... *

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): It is under consideration of Mr. Chairman. ...(*Interruptions*)... Leave it at that. ...(*Interruptions*)... It is under consideration of Mr. Chairman. Leave it at that. ...(*Interruptions*)... Thank you very much. ...(*Interruptions*)... Now, the Leader of the House ...(*Interruptions*)...

THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): Sir, the Leader of the Opposition is casting aspersion on the Chair. ...(*Interruptions*)... The hon. Chair is fair. ...(*Interruptions*)... It is unfortunate that the Leader of the Opposition is alleging that * ...(*Interruptions*)... None of our Members was responsible for disorder. ...(*Interruptions*)... The Members of the Opposition are creating disorder and then raising a point of order. ...(*Interruptions*)... I think the Opposition should not take this dilatory tactics. ...(*Interruptions*)... We have agreed for a debate on price rise. ...(*Interruptions*)... The assurance of the collective Opposition was that once the price rise discussion starts, they will allow the House to run normally. ...(*Interruptions*)... I think it is high time the Opposition stops running away from the debate on price rise. ...(*Interruptions*)... I think the Opposition does not want a debate on price rise. ...(*Interruptions*)... They know that they are in the dock. ...(*Interruptions*)... They know that this Government has taken effective steps to stop price rise and reduce the burden of inflation on the common man. ...(*Interruptions*)... It is the opposition-ruled States who have not yet reduced the

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

VAT on petrol and diesel. ...*(Interruptions)*... They know very well that they are responsible, in their States, for the price rise. ...*(Interruptions)*... Therefore, the Opposition is running away from the debate on price rise and raising all these issues. ...*(Interruptions)*... They should sit in their seats and allow discussion and debate; they can have a division also. ...*(Interruptions)*... They should stop casting aspersion on the Chair. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): All right. ...*(Interruptions)*... Hon. Leader of the Opposition has raised an issue and the Leader of the House has properly replied to it. ...*(Interruptions)*... So, the debate on price rise will be taken up tomorrow. ...*(Interruptions)*... The Leader of the House has already promised that the debate on price rise will be held tomorrow. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, you go to your seats. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shri Nadimul Haque, please speak on the Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*... I have called Shri Nadimul Haque, not you. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. SANTANU SEN (West Bengal): I have a point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): No point of order when the House is in disorder. ...*(Interruptions)*... If they go to their seats, then there can be a point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*.. How can there be a point of order when the House is in disorder? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE (West Bengal): When the House is not in order, how can we debate on this Bill? ...*(Interruptions)*...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री भुबनेश्वर कालिता) : महँगाई के विषय पर कल चर्चा होगी। ...*(व्यवधान)*... आप अपनी सीट पर जाइए।...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Members are sitting in the Well. ...*(Interruptions)*..

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): You may appeal to your own Members. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: When the Members are sitting in the Well of the House, how can you allow the discussion on the Bill? ...*(Interruptions)*... How can you

allow? ...*(Interruptions)*... Members are asking for a point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*... They are sitting in the Well of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): I cannot take any point of order when the Members are sitting here. ...*(Interruptions)*... It cannot go simultaneously. ...*(Interruptions)*... You create disorder and then you want to raise a point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*... There is no point of order in the middle of this disorder. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: How can you allow? ...*(Interruptions)*... * ...*(Interruptions)*... The House is not in order. ...*(Interruptions)*... How can you allow?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): So, will you speak?

SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: I am speaking, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am speaking on it.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): So, please speak on the Bill.

SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: I am speaking, but the House is not in order. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): No, that is not the subject. You speak on the subject. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: All the leaders of the House are sitting in the Well. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please bring the House in order. My leader is sitting over there. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): They are your own Members. You appeal to them so that they can go. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Please bring the House in order, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*...

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Now, I am calling the next speaker, Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla - not present. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: # ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Then, Shri Sujeet Kumar to speak on this Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JOHN BRITTAS: Sir, I have a point of order under Rule 252. ...*(Interruptions)*... I had asked for a division. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): No point of order when the House is in disorder, and you have to go to your seat. ...*(Interruptions)*... Everybody will have to go to their seats. Then only...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Sujeet Kumar...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Sujeet Kumar, only your speech will go on record. ...*(Interruptions)*... Nothing else will go on record. Only Mr. Sujeet Kumar's speech will go on record. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SUJEET KUMAR (Odisha): Sir, I stand here on behalf of my Party to support the Bill because it is very much in the interest of the nation. We have two permanent stations in Antarctica -- Maitri and Bharati. We had one station called Dakshin Gangotri way back in 1980s. ...*(Interruptions)*...

Various countries are engaging in various kinds of activities in Antarctica, just like we do. India is a signatory to the Antarctica Treaty amongst the 54 countries that are signatories to the Treaty. India is also a Member of the National Antarctic Programme called COMNAP, and Scientific Committee of Antarctica Research. ...*(Interruptions)*... These are very important international platforms which show the significance and the clout of India in Antarctica. Now, why is there a need for this Bill? ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, out of the 54 countries, 27 countries have enacted their domestic legislations to regulate activities in Antarctica. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN (Uttar Pradesh): *

SHRI SUJEET KUMAR: Now, the responsibility for undertaking any activity in Antarctica, whether it is fishing or whether it is logistics or whether it is scientific

Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

* Not recorded.

research, lies with the country that sets up the station in Antarctica. ...*(Interruptions)*... Hence, there is a need for this Bill.

SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: *

SHRI SUJEET KUMAR: As we all know, climate change is also a reality now and the activities and the research programme of India in Antarctica is only going to increase. In the future, we also anticipate that there will be a lot of shipping, lot of tourism from India going to Antarctica. ...*(Interruptions)*... As of now, there is no shipping or tourism allowed in Antarctica from India, but in the future, when it is allowed, then, I think, there will definitely be a need to regulate these activities as per the international norms and international conventions. ...*(Interruptions)*... Hence, there is a need for this domestic legislation. This is also in sync with the emergence of India as a major global power in various sectors. Now, why and how this framework will be in India's interest? First of all, this will lead to standardization of environmental clarity...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: *

SHRI SUJEET KUMAR: It will lead to standardization of environmental clarity in tune with the domestic environmental legislations. Secondly, it will give a huge boost to domestic research, scientific research and I have said this time and again that we, as a nation, spend very less on research. As a nation, we spend only 0.7 per cent of our GDP on scientific research. So, I think, this Bill, when enacted into an Act, will give a boost to scientific research in our country. ...*(Interruptions)*... Hence, we welcome this Bill.

Finally, when the world is looking at alternate logistics network, alternate supply chain, I think, India has a great opportunity to emerge as a supply chain provider of the world. So, our shipping industry will also get a boost when there is regulation and when we are in tune with global conventions and norms. ...*(Interruptions)*... So, all in all, I think, this is a wonderful Bill which will help India realise its dream of becoming a five trillion dollar economy. ...*(Interruptions)*... It will give boost to scientific research and it will finally give a boost to our scientific community. Thank you, Sir.

* Not recorded.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Next speaker is Shri Niranjan Reddy Sirgaapoor. ...*(Interruptions)*... Hon. Members, please do not disturb. It is his maiden speech. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please speak. As it is your maiden speech, you can take your time. I will allow you. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI NIRANJAN REDDY SIRGAPOOR (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, first of all, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to participate in the discussion on this Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, this is my first opportunity to speak in this august House. So, I want to start my speech by thanking the person who made it possible for me to come to this House and address this great House, that is, my Chief Minister, Shri Jagan Mohan Reddy. ...*(Interruptions)*...

Sir, I stand here to support the Bill on behalf of my party because this is a Bill that shows India as a consultative partner. India is amongst the only 29 consultative partners that has been accorded a status to be consulted with regard to the actions in Antarctica. ...*(Interruptions)*... I commend the Government for bringing this Bill because in the special capacity as a consultative partner, I think, it is our responsibility to ensure that we do the environmentally important activities. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, while I support the Bill entirely, on three or four aspects, I have a few constructive suggestions for the Government and the hon. Minister. Sir, if I may have the hon. Minister's attention... ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, I have three or four constructive suggestions, which, I think, will improve the Bill.

Sir, my first suggestion is with regard to the extent and applicability of the Act. I think, unwittingly, the Act seems to confine itself only to expeditions that are undertaken by the Indian Government. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, if I may draw your attention to two clauses. Clause 2 deals with the applicability and Clause 3(1) (k) defines Indian expedition to mean a journey undertaken by any person or persons to the Antarctica organised by India. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, as a lawyer, I can understand that this expression can be understood to mean that if it is the Government that is undertaking an expedition, only then, this Act would be applicable. While from the Statement of Objects and Reasons, I see that the intention seems to be that this Act must be made applicable to whoever is travelling from India on a permit given by our country under this Act, which also brings in tour operators. ...*(Interruptions)*... So, a small clarification is required. Some countries have a feature which mentions, 'permit granted under this Act'. So, if these words are added, any private tour operator, any private expedition, any private research organization will be covered because they will be taking the permit under this Act,

and, they will not be able to say that Act as it stands does not apply to private players. This is my first suggestion. ...*(Interruptions)*...

Sir, my second suggestion is with regard to the Committee's composition. I have no quarrel with the composition as such. It provides for ten members of the level of Under Secretary or above but it provides for only two scientific or independent experts. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, this is an Act which deals with environment and it also requires the Committee to consider environmental aspects. So, my humble suggestion to you is to consider increasing the number of independent experts to four or five because they may be able to assist the Committee better. ...*(Interruptions)*...

Sir, my third suggestion is with regard to the functioning of the Committee. ...*(Interruptions)*... Clause 25 provides that the Committee will also monitor the activities in relation to permits granted. ...*(Interruptions)*... That is a very salutary feature because it is not a committee that is only going to be granting permits and doing nothing more. ...*(Interruptions)*... So, if the committee has to monitor, I find one small lacuna in the Act which is that there is no provision made for any permit holders after completing their expedition to come back and submit a compliance report. ...*(Interruptions)*... So, Sir, if you can bring in a feature that whoever is permitted, the permit is for a particular length of time; after the length of time, they are required to come back and submit a compliance report. ...*(Interruptions)*... then the committee would be able to monitor it. You have a similar feature with regard to Clause 38 where for waste disposal requirement, they have to come back and submit a compliance report. ...*(Interruptions)*... So, it is a part of the Act but it is there only for waste and sewage disposal. It is not there in relation to the other conditions which can be laid down as a part of granting the permit itself. ...*(Interruptions)*...

Sir, the next suggestion I have, and I think this is going to be a little critical for the functioning of the Act, is on the permit granted under Clause 27. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Hon. Member, please address the Chair.

SHRI NIRANJAN REDDY SIRGAPOOR: I am sorry, Sir. My apologies. Sir, Clause 27 provides for the permit which is to be granted. ...*(Interruptions)*... It provides for three steps for a person seeking permit. Even if it is a tour operator undertaking a tour or any scientific expedition, our Act is a little cumbersome because it is providing for three different steps. ...*(Interruptions)*... If I may show Clause 27 and if I seek your indulgence to refer to it very briefly, step number one is, whoever is applying for

grant of any permit must undertake one environment impact assessment under Clause 27 (5). ...*(Interruptions)*... After he makes that assessment, he will then make an application to the committee. The committee will then decide if this would have any minor or transitory impact on environment. ...*(Interruptions)*... If it so feels, then in the next step, it will ask these persons to undertake an initial environment assessment study. After that initial environment assessment is done, if they find that it is likely to cause more damage, they will ask them to submit a comprehensive environment assessment. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, I will just take two or three more minutes. I am making some important legal points only for consideration.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Okay. Please conclude.

SHRI NIRANJAN REDDY SIRGAPOOR: Sir, the three-stage process is slightly removed from comparable international legislations like the U.K. and the U.S. where the U.S. provides that in the first instance if the person starting the project himself knows that this is likely to cause considerable damage, more than the normal damage, he can directly apply by saying that I have undertaken this comprehensive environment impact assessment. ...*(Interruptions)*... please consider for the serious one only. Otherwise, now, if someone wants to carry out any expedition which may have more than minor consequences, three-stage process is provided. ...*(Interruptions)*... And, in the comparable laws, if the first study reports that it is likely to cause less than minor damage, then the expedition can start straightaway. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Your party time is over. But since you are a new Member and this is your maiden speech, I allow you more time. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI NIRANJAN REDDY SIRGAPOOR: I am going to take only one or two more minutes. I don't want to claim that privilege and waste the House's time. ...*(Interruptions)*...

Sir, the last of my suggestions is with regard to the court's jurisdiction. Sir, we have to constitute special courts under Clause 48, and very importantly, I commend the Government for thinking through this. In Clause 48 (5), it provides that even if an offence is committed on the Antarctica glacier or the lands, it will be deemed that it has been committed in India. ...*(Interruptions)*... This is very important so that it

takes away any allegations of extra territorial application. By law, it can be deemed to have been committed in India. ...*(Interruptions)*... But, while we make this provision in Clause 48 (5), I find that we are missing out a similar provision under Clause 48 (6). ...*(Interruptions)*... Clause 48 (6), again, is a very important feature where you provide to say that apart from any offence under this Act, if a person is committing any other offence, the special court can try the other offence also. ...*(Interruptions)*... You are providing for the other offence also to be tried...*(Interruptions)*... But the Bill does not provide that even that offence will be deemed to have been committed within the territory of India. ...*(Interruptions)*... If it provides that it will be deemed to be committed like under Clause 48 (5), then there won't be a problem. ...*(Interruptions)*... Otherwise, tomorrow someone might say that an offence under this Act can be tried in India because Clause 48(5) provides for it. ...*(Interruptions)*... But an offence under IPC or some other provision cannot be tried in India because Clause 48(6) does not provide for it. ...*(Interruptions)*... I have completed my suggestions on the legality of the Bill.

Sir, this is a forward-looking Bill. It is a timely Bill. It espouses the cause of environment and establishes India as an environmentally responsible State. In the global order that we are seeking to achieve where we want to be the forerunner of environmental issues, this is a very, very important Bill.

Sir, I would conclude by only making one more request. This is a very salutary Bill in respect of any expedition to Antarctica. We have a few ecologically sensitive areas in the immediate neighbourhood of India. We have Andaman corals and we have Lakshadweep. I am suggesting that the Government may consider taking a cue from what we are doing in respect of Antarctica Bill and we can come up with some other Bill to protect the ecologically sensitive regions in our immediate vicinity which are also a part of our territory. Thank you, Sir, for granting me the opportunity.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): The next speaker is Shri A.A. Rahim. ...*(Interruptions)*... It looks like he is not going to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*... The next speaker is Shri G.K. Vasan.

SHRI G.K. VASAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, the aim of the Bill is to take national preventive measures to protect the environment of Antarctica...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Mr. Sanjay Singh, please go to your seat. ...*(Interruptions)*... Don't disturb the Member. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI G.K. VASAN: The Bill provides a comprehensive list of...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Don't disturb the Member. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI G.K. VASAN: This includes people for scientific expedition as well as individuals, companies...*(Interruptions)*... The Bill is the need of the hour not only for our country but also for the world. I extend my support to this Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. SANTANU SEN: Sir, point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Shrimati Priyanka Chaturvedi. ...*(Interruptions)*... Not present. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shri Ramji...*(Interruptions)*... Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav. ...*(Interruptions)*... Absent. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shri Abdul Wahab. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ABDUL WAHAB (Kerala): Sir, we are talking about climate change in Antarctica. ...*(Interruptions)*... But I am asking about the democratic climate in India. ...*(Interruptions)*... First you bring democratic climate in India in order, then we can talk about Antarctica climate. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Speak on the subject. ...*(Interruptions)*... The next speaker is Shrimati Vandana Chavan.

SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN (Maharashtra): Sir, there is so much disruption in the House and we are not getting a chance to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*... सर, ईडी का मिसयूज हो रहा है।...*(व्यवधान)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): You are very right. ...*(Interruptions)*... You are disturbing hon. Members. ...*(Interruptions)*... The House is missing good contribution in this House. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Sir, what about the misuse of ED? ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): The House is missing the good contribution which could have been made by Shrimati Vandana Chavan ji. ...*(Interruptions)*... The next speaker is Shri Binoy Viswam. ...*(Interruptions)*... He is not speaking. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shri Sushil Kumar Modi.

श्री सुशील कुमार मोदी (बिहार) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं इंडिया अंटार्कटिक बिल, 2022 के पक्ष में बोलने के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूँ।...**(व्यवधान)**... Antarctica has a history of 140 years. ...*(Interruptions)*... 20वीं शताब्दी के प्रारंभ में अनेक एक्सप्लोरर्स ने समुद्री यात्रा की, लेकिन कोई सफल नहीं हुआ।...**(व्यवधान)**... 15 दिसम्बर, 1911 को रोआल्ड एमंडसन पहली बार साउथ पोल पहुँचा और वहाँ से जिन्दा लौट कर आया।...**(व्यवधान)**... The Antarctic ice sheet is the single largest piece of ice on the earth. अगर साउथ पोल की आइस मेल्ट करने लग जाए, तो पेसिफिक और इंडियन ओशन के बहुत सारे जो आइलैंड्स हैं, वे खतरे में पड़ जाएँगे।...**(व्यवधान)**... उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, it is the fifth largest continent on earth with a geographical area of 14 million square kilometres. It is the coldest, driest and windiest continent. वहाँ मुश्किल से हजार-डेढ़ हजार लोगों की आबादी है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... वहाँ जो 40 रिसर्च स्टेशंस हैं, वे लोग साल भर वहीं पर काम करते हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**... जैसा कि बताया गया कि वहाँ पर भारत के भी दो स्टेशंस हैं - 'मैत्री' और 'भारती'। ...**(व्यवधान)**... वहाँ पर टूरिस्ट्स की संख्या, जो 2015 में 36,000 थी, वह बढ़कर 73,000 हो गई है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, इस बिल के पास होने के बाद जो मरीन फिशिंग करने का काम है, जिसमें भारत शामिल नहीं हुआ है, उसमें भारत को भी शामिल होने का मौका मिलेगा। ...**(व्यवधान)**... उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, भारत सरकार इंस्पेक्शन टीम का गठन कर सकती है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... इस बिल में इंस्पेक्शन का प्रावधान है, पैनल्टी का प्रावधान है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... अगर कोई इन प्रावधानों का उल्लंघन करता है, तो उसके लिए पैनल्टी का प्रावधान है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... इसमें अंटार्कटिका फंड के गठन का भी प्रावधान किया गया है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... साथ ही साथ, अगर कोई प्रावधानों का उल्लंघन करता है, तो डेज़िग्नेटेड कोर्ट्स को यह अधिकार दिया गया है कि वे उस पर कार्रवाई कर सकें। ...**(व्यवधान)**... उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं इस बिल का समर्थन करता हूँ और सदन से भी आग्रह करता हूँ कि इस बिल को सर्वसम्मति से पारित करें।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Now, Dr. Thambidurai. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let it be over. Then, I will take it. ...*(Interruptions)*... Dr. Thambidurai.

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI (Tamil Nadu): Sir, the Indian Antarctic Bill, 2022 was introduced in Lok Sabha on 1st April, 2022. ...*(Interruptions)*... The Bill aims to provide for the national measures for protecting the Antarctic environment, dependent and associated ecosystems and to give effect to the Antarctic Treaty, the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources and to the Protocol on

Environment Protection to the Antarctic Treaty and for matters connected therewith. ...*(Interruptions)*...

Sir, we, the AIADMK Party, are supporting the Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*... The only thing is this. The Modi Government has taken a lot of measures and AIADMK has supported all the things. ...*(Interruptions)*... Therefore, the Bill is very important in respect of environmental protection and also for promoting research in Antarctica. ...*(Interruptions)*... Already, we have stations there. The intention of the Government is good. ...*(Interruptions)*... Therefore, the AIADMK Party is supporting the Bill unanimously. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): The next speaker is Shri K. Ravindra Kumar. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I am very thankful to you for allowing me to participate in the discussion on the Indian Antarctic Bill, 2022. ...*(Interruptions)*... I and my Party, TDP, wholly support the Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): I have told him that I would allow him. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR: Sir, Antarctica is a very unique place. ...*(Interruptions)*... The total area of Antarctica is 14 million square kilometres. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is occupied mostly by researchers and scientists. ...*(Interruptions)*... The Bill proposes to prohibit Indian expedition to Antarctica or carrying of certain activities in Antarctica without a permit or the written authorisation of another Party to the Protocol. ...*(Interruptions)*... It also proposes to establish a Committee to be called the Committee on Antarctic Governance and Environmental Protection which shall perform the functions specified therein. ...*(Interruptions)*... It also proposes to provide for inspection in India by an officer designated by the Central Government as an Inspector and to constitute an inspection team to carry out inspections in Antarctica. ...*(Interruptions)*... It also proposes to provide for penalty for contravention of certain provisions of the Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*... It also proposes to provide for the constitution of the fund to be called the Antarctic fund which shall be applied towards the welfare of Antarctic research work and protection of Antarctic environment. ...*(Interruptions)*... It also proposes to provide for Designated Courts and their jurisdiction. ...*(Interruptions)*... The Bill aims to

promoting Antarctica as a natural reserve devoted to science and to ensure that Antarctica does not become an object of discord. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, the Bill aims to promoting Antarctica as a natural reserve. ...*(Interruptions)*... With these submissions, once again, I support the Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Please go back to your seats. ...*(Interruptions)*... I would take the point of order of Dr. Santanu Sen. ...*(Interruptions)*... Dr. Santanu Sen, do you have a point of order? ...*(Interruptions)*... Under what rule? ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. SANTANU SEN (West Bengal): Sir, I have a point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Firstly, you go back to your seats; otherwise I will not....*(Interruptions)*... No. ...*(Interruptions)*... I cannot take point of order until and unless you go to your seats. ...*(Interruptions)*... You go to your seat. ...*(Interruptions)*... How can I take? ...*(Interruptions)*... It is a disorder. ...*(Interruptions)*... There has to be order and then I will take the point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*... Dr. Santanu Sen. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. SANTANU SEN: Sir, one second. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): You go back to your seats. ...*(Interruptions)*... I have to hear Dr. Santanu Sen. ...*(Interruptions)*... Go back to your seats. ...*(Interruptions)*... No, no; not here. ...*(Interruptions)*... No. ...*(Interruptions)*... This is not your place. ...*(Interruptions)*... You are an hon. Member. ...*(Interruptions)*... You have been allotted a seat there. ...*(Interruptions)*... Do not bring dishonour to this House. ...*(Interruptions)*... Do not bring dishonour to this House Mr. Sanjay Singh. ...*(Interruptions)*... Go to your seat. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. SANTANU SEN: Sir, one second. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Go to your seats. ...*(Interruptions)*... I have allowed Dr. Santanu Sen. ...*(Interruptions)*... I have allowed Dr. Santanu Sen provided you all go to your seats. ...*(Interruptions)*... You all go to your seats. ...*(Interruptions)*... I cannot take. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. SANTANU SEN: Sir, there is my point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): You are bringing dishonour to this House. ...*(Interruptions)*... How can I say that you are honourable? ...*(Interruptions)*... You are bringing dishonour to this House. ...*(Interruptions)*... Dr. Santanu Sen. ...*(Interruptions)*... आप लोग अपनी सीट्स पर जाइए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... You allow him. ...*(Interruptions)*... You go back to your seats. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. SANTANU SEN: Sir, one second. ...*(Interruptions)*... My point of order.....*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Dr. Santanu Sen, I have allowed you but your own Members are not allowing you. ...*(Interruptions)*... Your own Members are disturbing you. ...*(Interruptions)*... Dr. Santanu Sen, please raise your point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please raise your point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. SANTANU SEN: Sir, my point of order is under Rule 258. ...*(Interruptions)*... One second. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Your own Members are disturbing you. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. SANTANU SEN: Sir, you listen to me. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): They have to go back to their seats. ...*(Interruptions)*... You call your Party Members to go back to their seats. ...*(Interruptions)*... You go back to your seats; then only I can hear him. ...*(Interruptions)*... Nobody is hearing anything. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. SANTANU SEN: You can listen to me, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): I am listening to you but others are not listening to you. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am listening to you. ...*(Interruptions)*... Your own Members are not listening to you. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. SANTANU SEN: One second. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Your own Members are not listening. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. SANTANU SEN: Sir, they are silent now. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): I am listening to you. ...*(Interruptions)*... Dr. Santanu Sen, I have allowed you. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am listening but your own Members are not listening. ...*(Interruptions)*... You make an appeal to your own Members so that they can go to.....*(Interruptions)*...

DR. SANTANU SEN: Sir, please do not.....*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): You appeal to your Leader. ...*(Interruptions)*... You appeal to your Leader so that you can get some time. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. SANTANU SEN: Sir, you may remain silent; they are listening to me. ...*(Interruptions)*... They are listening to me, you may kindly remain silent. ...*(Interruptions)*... My point of order is under Rule 258. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): But you ask your Members to go to their seats. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. SANTANU SEN: Sir, my point of order is under Rule 258. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): I am hearing you but they are not hearing you. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. SANTANU SEN: They are listening to me. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): You go to your seat and.....*(Interruptions)*... Please go. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please go to your seat. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let Dr. Santanu Sen speak. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let Dr. Santanu Sen raise his point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*... He is not being able to do that because of his own Members. ...*(Interruptions)*... Because his own Party Members are disturbing Dr. Santanu Sen. ...*(Interruptions)*... So, you go back to your seats. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. SANTANU SEN: They are not disturbing now. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Please go back to your seat and listen to the Member. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. SANTANU SEN: They are not disturbing now. ...*(Interruptions)*... My point of order is....*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): No. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is disturbing others because they are....*(Interruptions)*... Let them go to their seat. ...*(Interruptions)*... No, no. ...*(Interruptions)*... This is....*(Interruptions)*...

DR. SANTANU SEN: Sir, they are not shouting. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): They are disturbing the Chair. ...*(Interruptions)*... How can I listen to you? ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. SANTANU SEN: How are you listening the....*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): They are disturbing the Chair, how can I listen to you? ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. SANTANU SEN: How are you listening to the discussion? ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): How can I listen to you when your own Members are disturbing? ...*(Interruptions)*... They are bringing disorder. ...*(Interruptions)*... They are not listening to you. ...*(Interruptions)*... Your own Members are not listening to you. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. SANTANU SEN: Then, how are you listening to the discussion on the Bill? ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Please go back to your seats. ...*(Interruptions)*... No. ...*(Interruptions)*... I have allowed Dr. Santanu Sen. ...*(Interruptions)*... You please go back to your seat. ...*(Interruptions)*... I have allowed Dr. Santanu Sen. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please go back to your seats. ...*(Interruptions)*... In a disorderly manner, I cannot listen to the point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*... Yes. ...*(Interruptions)*... I cannot. ...*(Interruptions)*... In that case,

go back to your seats. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am giving you one minute. ...*(Interruptions)*... Go back to your seats. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. SANTANU SEN: Sir, my point of order is under Rule 258. ...*(Interruptions)*... I have seen...*(Interruptions)*...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री भुबनेश्वर कालिता) : आप सभी अपनी-अपनी सीट पर जाइए। ...*(व्यवधान)*... They are not listening to you. ...*(Interruptions)*... You request them. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. SANTANU SEN: Sir, I have seen the...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Nothing can be heard, Dr. Santanu Sen. ...*(Interruptions)*... Your Members are disturbing. ...*(Interruptions)*... Your Members are disturbing. ...*(Interruptions)*... I will listen to you once the House is in order. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now I will take the Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*... I shall now put the Amendment moved by Dr. John Brittas for reference of the Indian Antarctic Bill, 2022, as passed by Lok Sabha, to a Select Committee of Rajya Sabha to vote. ...*(Interruptions)*... Dr. John Brittas. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. JOHN BRITTAS: Sir, I am pressing. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Have you moved it? ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. JOHN BRITTAS: Yes, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): I have heard the Amendment of Dr. John Brittas. Mr. Minister, do you want to say something?

DR. JITENDRA SINGH: Sir, I request the Chair to move the Bill for being passed. I have carefully listened to all the speakers. I thank them; Shri Sujeet Kumar, Shri Niranjana Reddy Sirgapor, Shri Sushil Kumar Modi, Dr. M. Thambidurai, Shri Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Niranjana Reddy has made some very studied suggestions which have been taken note of. More or less, they are already incorporated in the part of the Bill and when the rules are framed, the rest will be taken in. ...*(Interruptions)*... I request that the Bill passed. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Thank you. I shall first put the Amendment moved by Dr. John Brittas for reference of the Indian Antarctic Bill, 2022, as passed by Lok Sabha, to a Select Committee of the Rajya Sabha to vote.

The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the national measures for protecting the Antarctic environment and dependent and associated ecosystems and to give effect to the Antarctic Treaty, the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources and to the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by Lok Sabha, be referred to a Select Committee of the Rajya Sabha, consisting of the following Members:-

1. Shri Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharyya
2. Dr. John Brittas
3. Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha
4. Shri Jose K. Mani
5. Shri A.A. Rahim
6. Shri Tiruchi Siva
7. Dr. V. Sivadasan
8. Shri K.C. Venugopal

with instructions to report by the last day of the first week of the next Session (258th) of the Rajya Sabha."

DR. JOHN BRITTAS: Sir, I want division. ...(*Interruptions*)... Sir, I have asked for division. ...(*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): I shall now put the motion moved by Dr. Jitendra Singh to vote. The question is...(*Interruptions*)...

DR. JOHN BRITTAS: Sir, I have asked for division. ...(*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Let the lobbies be cleared. There will be division. Let the lobbies be cleared. There will be a division.

3:00 P.M.

AN HON. MEMBER: Sir, a point of order.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): The process of division has already started. No point of order, and if you have to take part in the division, go to your seats. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Brittas, you want a division. How can there be a division? ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. JOHN BRITTAS: Sir, it is your responsibility. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is your responsibility to bring the House in order. I am only an individual Member. ...*(Interruptions)*... How can I say? ...*(Interruptions)*... Let them cooperate.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): You appeal to your Members to cooperate; they are not listening to you. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. JOHN BRITTAS: It is your responsibility, it is not the responsibility of the Member. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is your responsibility and the Government should extend cooperation to the Opposition; that matters. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let them cooperate with the Opposition. ...*(Interruptions)*... To bring the House in order is your responsibility. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is not my responsibility.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Unless you go to your seats, I cannot go on with the voting process. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, no point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*... There is no rule like this. ...*(Interruptions)*... Unless you go to your seats, I cannot proceed with the voting. ...*(Interruptions)*... This is not the procedure. ...*(Interruptions)*... This is not the way. ...*(Interruptions)*... I allowed division. ...*(Interruptions)*... But, what to do? ...*(Interruptions)*... See, Mr. Elamaram Kareem, what the effect is. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, it looks like there is no demand for division and the Members do not want division. ...*(Interruptions)*... A majority of the Members do not want division; so, I will not go for division now. ...*(Interruptions)*... Once again I put the Amendment moved by Dr. John Brittas for reference of the Indian Antarctic Bill, 2022, as passed by Lok Sabha to a Select Committee of the Rajya Sabha to vote.

The motion was negatived.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Now I put the motion moved by Dr. Jitendra Singh to vote.

The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the national measures for protecting the Antarctic environment and dependent and associated ecosystems and to give effect to the Antarctic Treaty, the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources and to the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty 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 BHUBANESWAR KALITA): We shall now take up Clause-by-Clause consideration of the Bill. In Clause 2, there is one Amendment (No.2) by Dr. John Brittas. ... (Interruptions).. Dr. John Brittas, are you moving?

Clause 2-- Application

DR. JOHN BRITTAS: Sir, I move:

2. That at page 2, *for* lines 15 and 16, the following be *substituted*, namely:—

"If such person, entity, vessel or aircraft is part of an Indian expedition to Antarctica or enter or remain in an Indian station in Antarctica under a permit issued under this Act or the written authorisation of another Party to the Protocol and shall include any such vessel or aircraft which is registered in"

The question was put and the motion was negatived.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): In Clause 3, there are six Amendments; Amendments (Nos.3 & 4) by Dr. John Brittas ... (Interruptions)... Amendments (Nos. 24 to 27) by Shri A.A. Rahim. Dr. Brittas, are you moving the Amendments? ... (Interruptions)..

Clause 3 --Definitions

DR. JOHN BRITTAS: Sir, I move:

3. That at page 3, line 28, for the word "signed", the words "drawn up" be substituted.
4. That at page 4, line 8, for the words "came into force", the words "was acceded to by India" be substituted.

SHRI A.A. RAHIM (Kerala): Sir, I move:

24. That at page 3, line 9, for the words "fishing and commercial fishing", the words "fishing, commercial fishing and mining" be substituted.
25. That at page 3, after line 32, the following be inserted, namely:—
 “(jj) “emergency plan” means a plan to meet the environmental emergency referred to in section 39 of this Act.”.
26. That at page 4, line 19, after the words "protection of the environment;", the words "or radioactive waste material" be inserted.
27. That at page 4, after line 21, the following be inserted, namely:—
 "(y) “waste management plan” means the waste management plan referred to in sub-section (3) of section 34 of this Act;

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): I shall first put Amendments (Nos.3 and 4) moved by Dr. John Brittas to vote.

The motion was negatived.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): I shall now put Amendments (Nos.24 to 27) moved by Shri A.A. Rahim to vote.

The motion was negatived.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 4 to 7 were added to the Bill.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): In Clause 8, there are two Amendments; Amendments (Nos.28 and 29) by Shri A.A. Rahim. Are you moving it?

Clause 8-- Permit for certain activities in Antarctica

SHRI A.A. RAHIM: Sir, I move:

28. That at page 5, lines 15, 17, 19, 21 and 30, for the word "intentionally", the words "purposefully or knowingly" be substituted.
29. "That at page 5, line 32, after the words "such act was done", the words "as an act of self-defence" be inserted.

The question was put and the motion was negatived.

Clause 8 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 9 to 16 were added to the Bill.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Insertion of New Clause 16A. There is one Amendment (No.19) by Dr. V. Sivadasan. Are you moving it?

Insertion of New Clause 16a --Special Permit for introducing Native Species of animals, plants or micro-organism in other Countries

DR. V. SIVADASAN (Kerala): Sir, I move:

19. "That at page 7, after clause 16, the following new clause be inserted, namely:—

“16A. No person who returns from Antarctica shall introduce native species of animals, plants or microorganisms deliberately or inadvertently into other countries except in accordance with a permit or the written authorization of another Party to the Protocol.”	Special permit for introducing native species of animals, plants or micro-organism in other countries.
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The question was put and the motion was negatived.

Clauses 17 to 21 were added to the Bill.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): In Clause 22 there are two Amendments; Amendment (No.5) by Dr. John Brittas and Amendment (No. 30) by

Shri A. A. Rahim. Dr. John Brittas, are you moving your Amendment? ...*(Interruptions)*..

Clause 22: Prohibition of discharge of certain Products or substances

DR. JOHN BRITTAS: Sir, I move:

5. That at page 7, line 23, before the words "No vessel", the words "Save as otherwise provided in sections 12 and 13," be inserted.

The question was put and the motion was negatived

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Shri A. A. Rahim, are you moving your Amendment?

SHRI A. A. RAHIM: Sir, I move:

30. That at page 7, line 23, after the word "any", the word "waste", be inserted.

The question was put and the motion was negatived.

Clause 22 was added to the Bill.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): There cannot be a division as there is no order in the House. In Clause 23, there are seven Amendments; Amendments (Nos. 6 and 7) by Dr. John Brittas; Amendments (Nos. 10 to 12) by Shri Binoy Viswam; and Amendments (Nos. 20 and 21) by Dr. V. Sivadasan. Dr. John Brittas, are you pressing your amendments? ...*(Interruptions)*...

Clause 23: Constitution of Committee.

DR. JOHN BRITTAS: Sir, I move:

6. That at page 7, for line 34, the following be substituted, namely:-

"(a) A person of eminence in public life with wide knowledge and experience in Antarctic environment to be appointed on the recommendation of a three member committee consisting of the Prime Minister as Chairperson,

the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha and the Minister of Earth Sciences - Chairperson;" .

7. That at page 8, *for* lines 17 to 22, the following be *substituted*, namely:-

"(c) two experts to be nominated by the Central Government from the field of Antarctic environment." .

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Shri Binoy Viswam, are you moving your Amendments? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BINOY VISWAM (Kerala): Sir, I move:

10. That at page 8, line 1, *for* the word "ten", the word "five" be *substituted*.

11. That at page 8, *for* lines 17 to 20, the following be *substituted*, namely:-

"(c) five experts, with experience of eight years in fields relevant to the substantive provisions of this Act, to be appointed on the recommendation of a three member committee consisting of the Prime Minister as Chairperson, the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha and the Minister of Earth Sciences;" .

12. That at page 8, lines 21 and 22, be *deleted*.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Dr. V. Sivadasan, are you moving? ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. V. SIVADASAN: Sir, I move:

20. That at page 8, line 20, *for* the word "Geo-political", the word "Geo-politics" be *substituted*.

21. That at page 8, *after* line 20, the following be *inserted*.

"(iii) Social Sciences;" .

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): I shall now put Amendments (Nos. 6 and 7) moved by Dr. John Brittas to vote.

The motion was negatived.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): I shall now put Amendments (Nos. 10 to 12) moved by Shri Binoy Viswam to vote.

The motion was negatived.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): I shall now put Amendments (Nos. 20 and 21) by Dr. V. Sivadasan to vote.

The motion was negatived.

Clause 23 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 24 to 26 were added to the Bill.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): In Clause 27, there is one Amendment (No. 31) by Shri A. A. Rahim. Are you moving it?

Clause 27: Application for Permit

SHRI A. A. RAHIM: Sir, I move:

31. That at page 10, lines 27 to 31, be deleted.

The question was put and the motion was negatived.

Clause 27 was added to the Bill.

Clause 28 was added to the Bill.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): In Clause 29, there are two Amendments; Amendment (No. 13) by Shri Binoy Viswam and Amendment (No. 32) by Shri A. A. Rahim. Are you moving, Mr. Binoy Viswam?

Clause 29: Suspension or Cancellation of Permit

SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Sir, I move:

13. That at page 11, lines 10 to 12, be deleted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Are you moving Shri A.A. Rahim?

SHRI A. A. RAHIM: Sir, I move:

32. That at page 10, line 45, after the word "concealed", the words "or suppressed" be inserted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): I shall first put the Amendment (No. 13) moved by Shri Binoy Viswam to vote.

The motion was negatived.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): I shall now put the Amendment (No. 32) moved by Shri A.A. Rahim to vote.

The motion was negatived.

Clause 29 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 30 to 34 were added to the Bill.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, we are walking out in protest. ...*(Interruptions)*...

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

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): In Clause 35, there are two Amendments; Amendment (No. 8) by Dr. John Brittas and Amendment (No. 33) by Shri A.A. Rahim. Are you moving your Amendment, Dr. John Brittas.

Clause 35 — Removal of wastes from Antarctica

DR. JOHN BRITTAS: Sir, I move:

8. That at page 14, line 28, after the word and figure "section 12", the words "or the written authorization of another Party to the Protocol" be inserted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Shri A.A. Rahim, are you moving your Amendment?

SHRI A.A. RAHIM: Sir, I move:

33. That at page 14, line 21, after the word "lake", the words "or water bodies" be inserted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): I shall now put the Amendment (No. 8) moved by Dr. John Brittas to vote.

The motion was negatived.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): I shall now put the Amendment (No. 33) moved by Shri A.A. Rahim to vote.

The motion was negatived.

Clause 35 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 35 to 40 were added to the Bill.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): In Clause 41, there are three Amendments; Amendments (Nos. 14 to 16) by Shri Binoy Viswam. Are you moving?

Clause 41 —Penalty for Contravention of certain provisions of Act by Person

SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Sir, I move:

14. That at page 15, for lines 45 to 47, the following be substituted, namely:-

“(a) section 4 or section 5 or section 19 or section 21 or sub-section (4) of section 29 shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine which shall not be less than ten lakh rupees but which may extend to fifty lakh rupees, or with both.”

15. That at page 16, line 1 and 2, be deleted.

16. That at page 16, after line 20, the following be inserted, namely:-

“(f) section 8 or section 12 or section 18 or section 20 or section 36 or section 37, shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to five years, or with fine which shall not be less than twenty lakh rupees but which may extend to five crore rupees, or with both.”

The question was put and the motion was negatived.

Clause 41 was added to the Bill.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): In Clause 42, there are two Amendments; Amendments (Nos. 17 and 18) by Shri Binoy Viswam. Are you moving?

Clause 42 — Penalty for Contravention of certain provisions of Act involving Vessel

SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Sir, I move:

17. That at page 16, for lines 23 to 26, the following be substituted, namely:-

“(a) for contravention of section 6 or section 11 or section 19 or section 21 or section 22, with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine which shall not be less than one crore rupees but which may extend to five crore rupees, or with both.”

18. That at page 16, after line 29, the following be inserted, namely:-

(c) for contravention of section 12 or section 13 or section 18, with imprisonment for a term which may extend to seven years and with fine which shall not be less than two crore rupees but which may extend to ten crore rupees, or with both.”

The question was put and the motion was negatived.

Clause 42 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 43 to 47 were added to the Bill.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): In Clause 48, there is one Amendment (No. 34) by Shri A.A. Rahim. Are you moving?

Clause 48 — Designated Court and Jurisdiction

SHRI A.A. RAHIM: Sir, I move:

34. That at page 17, line 47, after the words “Operator in”, the words “Indian station at” be inserted.

The question was put and the motion was negatived.

Clause 48 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 49 to 55 were added to the Bill.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): In Clause 56, there is one Amendment (No. 9) by Dr. John Brittas. Are you moving?

Clause 56 - Power to remove difficulties

DR. JOHN BRITTAS: Sir, I move:

9. That at page 20, clause 56, be deleted.

The question was put and the motion was negatived.

Clause 56 was added to the Bill.

Clause 57 was added to the Bill.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): In Clause 1, there are two Amendments; Amendments (Nos. 22 and 23) by Shri A.A. Rahim.

Clause 1 -- Short Title and Commencement

SHRI A.A. RAHIM: Sir, I move:

22. That at page 1, line 5, for the words "The Indian Antarctic Act, 2022", the words "The Indian Antarctic (Regulation of Activity and Implementation of Convention, Treaty and Protocol) Act, 2022" be substituted.
23. That at page 1, for line 10, the following be substituted, namely:-

"(b) any person other than a citizen of India; or".

The question was put and the motion was negatived.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): In the Preamble, there is one Amendment (No.1) by Dr. John Brittas. Are you moving?

Preamble

DR. JOHN BRITTAS: Sir, I move:

1. That at page 2, line 4, for the word "signed", the words "drawn up" be substituted.

The question was put and the motion was negatived.

The Preamble was added to the Bill.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Mr. Minister to move that the Bill be passed.

DR. JITENDRA SINGH: Sir, I move:

That the Bill be passed.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): The House stands adjourned to meet at 11.00 a.m. on Tuesday, the 2nd August, 2022.

The House then adjourned at twenty-two minutes past three of the clock till eleven of the clock on Tuesday, the 2nd August, 2022.