[Mr. Deputy-Speaker]

be given copies of the Bills so that they will be able to decide one way or the other. I shall certainly do so.

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE

STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ISSUE OF LIFE INSURANCE (EMERGENCY PROVISIONS) ORDINANCE, 1956.

The Minister of Revenue and Civil Expenditure (Shri M. C. Shah): Sir, on behalf of Shri C. D. Deshmukh, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the statement of reasons for the issue of the Life Insurance (Emergency Provisions) Ordinance No. I of 1956, under Rule 89 (1) of the Rules of Procedure.

[*See* Appendix 1, annexure No. 26]

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

Shri Kamath (Hoshangabad): Sir, may I know what has happened to the Motion of Privilege of which notice was given yesterday?

Shri N. C. Chatterjee (Hooghly): I was told, Sir, that the Home Minister was considering the matter and I expected some date to be fixed. If it is convenient you can bring it up tomorrow.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: Tomorrow we are not sitting.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We are. I have sent up the papers to the hon. Home Minister. I will try to expedite. As soon as I receive the papers I will give intimation to hon. Members and, if necessary, fix up a particular date as early as possible.

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Minister of Legal Affairs (Shri Pataskar): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1950, and to make certain consequential amendments in the Government of Part C States Act, 1951, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

As you are aware there are on the statute-book two Representation of the People Acts—one of 1950 and the other of 1951. They really form the basis of our Election law. The first Act, that is the one of 1950, deals with what may be called matters relating to preliminary or preparatory stage of election. It deals with such subjects as allocation of seats in the different legislatures of States and the two Houses of Parliament, and the qualification of voters at such elections. The preparation of electoral rolls and matters connected with these subjects are also covered by that Bill. Delimitation of constituencies was also dealt with in the Act of 1950 but it is now done by a separate Act, *viz.*, Delimitation Commission Act, 1952. The present Bill deals with amendments proposed to this Act of 1950 only.

The last general elections were of an unprecedented character when for the first time adult suffrage led to the franchise being extended to about 18 crores of persons both men and women, for which there is no parallel anywhere else, there were many, both here in our country and outside, who were sceptical of the success of such an experiment but it proved a great success. A part of the credit of the success must be given to the Law of Election passed by Parliament in 1950 and 1951 and the rules made thereunder. Experience gained, however, in the last general election and subsequent elections revealed to us some defects and showed us the way in which this law should be amended in order to make it more suitable for achieving the purpose for which it is intended.

The present Bill was, therefore, introduced in this House on 3rd August, 1955 suggesting some amendments to the Representation of the People Act, 1950. Most of these amendments though necessary were non-controversial in character and I explained them fully to the House while moving for referring this Bill to the Select Committee on 20th September, 1955. They were also discussed with great care and in greater details in this House on that occasion.

The Select Committee to which this Bill was referred was authorised by the House to examine and deal with not only the amendments proposed in the Bill but also such other amendments to the Act as may be found necessary. The Select Committee which has gone thoroughly and exhaustively into this matter has agreed to almost all the amendments suggested in the original Bill and have in addition suggested certain further modifications in the original Act.