

"That the Bill be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Sir, May I seek a clarification? The hon. Railway Minister is here. We find that there is a proposal to take some Members of Parliament on a tour in Palace on Wheels. Is there such a proposal? Sir, the Government is talking of reducing the expenditure and he wants to take the Members of Parliament in Palace on Wheels which is a costly train. We propose that this should be immediately abandoned. We would like to hear the hon. Minister on this.

SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF: Sir, whenever the Consultative Committee of Civil Aviation, or for that matter all the other consultative committees, take the Members of Parliament on tour they go. Similarly, when the Member of Parliament of the Consultative Committee of the Railways wanted to go, we had sent them.

SHRI BASU DEAB ACHARIA: I never asked for it.

SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF: Sir, he always say it privately but disagree publicly.

Those who are willing to go they can also go and see how the tourism is promoted. (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, this should not be allowed.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, please let the Minister speak. You wanted a statement from the Minister on a very important topic.

SHRI BUTA SINGH (Jalore): Sir, 5 workers at Ahmedabad railway station are on strike because the railways have abandoned the departmental work and they have thrown them to the contractors. May I know

from the hon. Minister whether he will do justice to these railway employees?

SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF: In the last Budget speech, we have very clearly stated that the *karamcharies* who are engaged in *safai* work will not be retrenched. If anything has gone wrong without our knowledge, we will take up the matter and no worker will be retrenched.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: (Rosera): Mr. Speaker Sir, we had met him in respect of Bihar. There is a Railway Coach factory in Samastipur, Bihar...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is also important. I will give you time after the statement is made.

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#### STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS 16.32 hrs.

##### (I) Chief of Army Staff's Press Interview

[English]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Sir, I have seen the two part report on the interview given by the Chief of Army Staff to a Press correspondent.

I have discussed the matter with the General and find that while a certain impression has been created, he made it abundantly clear to me that he stands fully committed to follow Government's policy and directions in regard to each of the various issues referred to in his interview. I am satisfied with the General's explanation.

[Sh. Sharad Pawar]

However, I feel that such interviews by serving officers are best avoided. I wish he had resisted the temptation.

I would like to recall that our Armed Forces are highly disciplined and have discharged every task assigned to them, since the attainment of Independence, with utmost devotion and loyalty. I would like to take this opportunity of assuring this House that the Armed Forces function entirely under the control of my Ministry.

It has been our tradition to insulate the Armed Forces from controversy. I, therefore, appeal to this august House not to press any further debate on this issue.

16.33 hrs.

**(II) Price policy for Rabi Crops of 1991-92 to be marketed in 1992-93 season.**

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): Sir, the Government have fixed the Minimum Support Price of Wheat of fair average quality at Rs. 250 per quintal for 1991-92 crop to be marketed in 1992-93 season. This marks an increase of Rs. 25 per quintal over the price of Rs. 225 per quintal fixed for 1990-91 crop.

The Minimum Support Price of Barley of fair average quality has been fixed at Rs. 210 per quintal marking an increase of Rs. 10 per quintal over the price fixed for the 1990-91 crop.

The Minimum Support Price of Gram of fair average quality has been fixed at Rs. 500 per quintal marking an increase of Rs. 50 per quintal over the previous year.

The Minimum Support Price of Rape-seed/Mustard has been fixed at Rs. 6.70 per

quintal marking an increase of Rs. 70 per quintal over the previous year.

The Minimum Support Price of Saf-flower of fair average quality has been fixed at Rs. 640 per quintal marking an increase of Rs. 65 per quintal over the previous year.

The Minimum Support Price of Toria of fair average quality for the marketing year 1992-93 will be fixed by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation in the light of normal market price differential with respect to rapeseed/mustard.

I am confident that the minimum support prices now fixed for different crops for the current marketing season will enthuse farmers to achieve further increases in production and productivity of these crops.

16.34 hrs.

**STATUTORY RE. SOLUTION RE DISAPPROVAL OF THE COPYRIGHT (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1991**

AND

**COPYRIGHT (AMENDMENT) BILL**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House shall now take up items 16 and 17 together. Shri Lokanath Choudhury. He is not here. Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House disapproves of the Copyright (Amendment) Ordinance, 1991 (Ordinance No. 9 of 1991) prom-