

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Shri Rasa Singh Rawat.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Yes, Sir ... (Interruptions) Mr. Speaker, Sir, earlier it was the practice that the Hon. Minister used to give the reply to the cut motion.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I shall now put cut motion Nos. 488 to 546 moved by Shri Rasa Singh Rawat to the vote of the House.

The cut motions were put and negatived.

MR. SPEAKER : I shall now put all other cut motions which have been moved together to the vote of the House.

The cut motions were put and negatived.

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh) : For obvious reasons I have not moved any cut motions. But I declare to undertake fast unto death if a railway line from Tarakeshwar to Arambagh is not sanctioned.

MR. SPEAKER : I shall now put the Demands for Grants (Railways) for 1996-97 to vote.

The question is :

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1997, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 16."

The motion was adopted.

APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS) NO. 3. BILL* 1996

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1996-97 for the purpose of Railways"

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to

* Published in the Gazette of India Extra-ordinary, Part-II, Section 2 dated 30.7.96

authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1996-97 for the purposes of Railways."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I introduce** the Bill.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1996-97 for the purposes of Railways, be taken into consideration."

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1996-97 for the purposes of Railways, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER : The House shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The questions :

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is that schedule stand part of the Bill.

The motion was adopted.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : The Question is that clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the long title stand part of the Bill.

The motion was adopted.

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

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved :
"That the Bill be passed."

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT (Nagpur) : I had given a notice on the Appropriation Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : What for is the notice?

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : I have an important question. Mr. Speaker, Sir, our country became independent on the 15th August, 1947. The Britishers went out, but the ownership of the railway train operating in Vidarbha area from Pulgaon, is with Keelik Nistan and Company. Very many years have since passed, but railway are still paying to the Company Rs.12 lakhs per year as lease, which is renewed every time.

Why this mark of the Britishers has so long been allowed to remain upto 1996? That train is called "Shakuntla Express." That has become a mockery. Kindly take a decision in that regard. That train has been operating there from the days of the British rule in India. That Company is being paid by the Railways Rs.12 lakhs every year. That lease is renewed after a period of ten years. Now it is the time of its renewal.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir I had a talk with him in this regard. I immediately called the officers and directed them to take necessary action in the matter. The Hon. member is aware that the action is being taken by us.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : It is a memento to of the British rule and a mark of slavery, which should be removed.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I think that he has replied to that. The question is .

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Member, this is for the information of the hon. Members. The dinner is ready in room No.70. It would be available. I am told, till about 10 p.m. This is also for the information of the members of the Press Gallery

20.17 hrs.

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL - CONTD.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : We now move on to item No.13. I think that we have one more Member to speak. Shri Lodha, would you like to speak. If you conclude in five minutes' time, it would be very good.

[Translation]

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the form in which the Representation of the People Bill has been brought forward in the House does not fulfill the need and the feelings of the nation for effecting reforms in the electoral system. The Bill contains less items and the specific items are not included in it which can reduce the election expenditure in the country, make the election process simple and take revolutionary steps for bringing changes in the election procedure. I want to say that utmost need in it was for state funding of elections and including in it certain specific election programmes, for example, election speeches of all candidates should be arranged at a common platform, which is missing in this Bill, although much has been talked about it earlier. The Govt. should provide such an opportunity to all recognised parties and bear its expenditure. That is also missing in the Bill. Non-inclusion of important provisions is indicative of the effort of the treasury benches to make publicity and propaganda that they have effected electoral reforms. But real reforms are totally absent. The most vital thing in the entire country at present causing concerns, is criminalisation of politics in the elections and criminal minded persons facing criminal cases get elected to legislative Assemblies and Parliament, on account of the lack of a suitable legislation in this regard, and column after column is written in respect of them in the news papers. 40-50-55 such persons are nirohed in cases under sections 302, 307 and 376 or similar type of other cases, for which our laws do not prescribe adequate punishment. If a person has been convicted under these sections for the crimes, Governor or President, in exercise of special powers vested in them, grant pardon to such criminals. On account of that they are free to fight election to Lok Sabha or other bodies. Persons convicted by courts and found guilty on the charge of murder and those who destroyed entire community or village, were given pardons and allowed to contest elections for Lok Sabha or State assemblies and they got elected to these bodies. The faith in M.Ps. which the people had earlier has since vanished. Today the need is to improve and brighten our image in the eyes of the people.

There should be a provision in the law that persons convicted in a case and given pardon by the President or the Governor, should thereafter be disqualified for contesting elections. A comprehensive Bill on electoral reforms is badly needed. Electoral reforms should not be made a source of publicity to mislead people, but in reality electoral reforms should be effected.

Public representatives after winning an elections have first of all to face accounts, which is essential for them. It is a matter of shame when they conceal truth and affix signatures on wrong accounts. If the Govt. undertakes main items of expenditure, true picture will be available. I request that all out electoral reforms