

[Shri Sebastian Paul]

that the earlier allocation of 24 lakh tonnes should be maintained or at least, the last year's lifted quantity of 20.75 lakh tonnes should be allotted to the State at Central Issue Price. This is most urgently needed because of the advent of our annual festival season, that is, *Onam* which is falling next month.

I hope that the House and the hon. Minister will understand that the present allocation of 17.76 lakh tonnes is totally inadequate to meet the requirements of the State which is a food deficit State. Taking into account the special circumstances and facts of the situation prevailing in Kerala, I hope that the Minister will restore the earlier allocation and the promise given to the State in the last Chief Ministers' Conference will be kept.

Almost all other points have been covered by the hon. Member in this House. So, I am not repeating all those points. With this request to the hon. Minister, I once again appreciate and record my gratitude to the hon. Deputy-Speaker for inviting me to make a speech at the fag end of the day.

Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have a list of members who are yet to speak. The Hon'ble Minister is also supposed to give a reply to it. I would like to request the Hon'ble Members to take only 5 minutes so that this debate could be concluded.

...(Interruptions)

18.25 hrs.

PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE-PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, Shri Ramakant Khalap will introduce a Bill further to amend the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a bill further to amend the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, Section-2, dated 12.8.97

18.27 hrs.

STATEMENT RE : PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE - PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE—Laid

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for immediate legislation by the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections (Amendment) Ordinance, 1997.

Sir, in the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952, as originally enacted, no security deposit was prescribed. The nomination paper of the candidate, however was required to be subscribed by the candidate himself as assenting to the nomination and by two electors as proposer and seconder.

In order to discourage frivolous candidates from filing nominations to the offices of the President and Vice-President, the Act was amended in 1974 to provide that, in case of Presidential election, the nomination paper should be subscribed by the candidate as assenting to the nomination and also by at least ten electors as proposers and at least ten electors as seconders. In the case of Vice-Presidential election, the requirement was that the nomination papers should be subscribed by the candidate as assenting to the nomination and also by at least five electors as proposers and at least five electors as seconders. The amendment also provided that the candidate for Presidential and Vice-presidential elections shall have to deposit a sum of Rs. 2,500.

The aforesaid amendments are not sufficient deterrent to discourage non-serious candidates. The Election Commission of India, in February, 1997, suggested that the security deposit for elections to the offices of the President and Vice-President may be enhanced.

The Government considered the suggestion made by the Election Commission and decided to enhance the security deposit to rupees fifteen thousand. It also decided to increase the minimum number of proposers and seconders to fifty each in respect of election to the office of President and twenty each in respect of election to the office of Vice-President.

As Parliament was not in Session and the notification for Presidential election was to be issued on 9th June,