

12.01 hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha :

- (i) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya Bill, 1996 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 3rd December, 1996."
- (ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Indian Contract (Amendment) Bill, 1996 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 3rd December, 1996."
- (iii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Seamen's Provident Fund (Amendment) Bill, 1996 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 3rd December, 1996."

12.01½ hrs.

BILLS — AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY GENERAL : Sir, I lay on the Table three Bills as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 3rd December, 1996 :

1. The Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya Bill, 1996.
2. The Indian Contract (Amendment) Bill, 1996.
3. The Seamen's Provident Fund (Amendment) Bill, 1996.

12.02 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILL
AND RESOLUTIONS

Second Report

[English]

SHRI SURAJ BHAN (Ambala) : Sir, I beg to present the Second Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

12.02½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Sixth Report

[English]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly) : Sir, I beg to present the Sixth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in their Thirty-sixth Report (Tenth Lok Sabha) on *Krishi Vigyan Kendras* of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research and Education).

12.03 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE

Second Report

[English]

SHRI B.K. GADHVI (Banaskantha) : Sir, I beg to present the Second Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Defence on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in their Sixth Report (Tenth Lok Sabha) on 'Defence Policy, Planning and Management'.

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHLE (Bilaspur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of Madhya Pradesh had declared 18th December a public holiday long back on account of Sant Baba Guru Ghasidas ji's birthday. Crores of followers of Baba Guru Ghasidas ji, the Satnami Samaj and the worshippers observe fast the make worship on this day. People have been celebrating this festival with pomp and gaiety. People belonging to the Satnami Samaj and worshippers live not only in Madhya Pradesh, but also on the nook and corner of the whole country.

Sant Baba Guru Ghasidas ji delivered sermons to the human society. He was of the view that falsehood can be removed by the force of Truth. Without Truth human life is a vacuum.

Satnam Sahi nam nahin jane jag sansar,
Satnam ke upkar mein bhaye sakal vistar,
Sat barabar tap nahin, jhoot barabar pap,
Jake hriday satya hai, take hriday aap,
Satya mein derti, Satya mein aakash,
Satya mein Surya kare nitya prakash,
Satnam sar hai, sab duniya maya jaal,

Jo samajh ke chale vo bhava sagar paar,
 Tan ke diyana man ke baatti,
 Prem ke tel dal ke kshama ke lou jalaye,
 Shanti daya ke kare aarti,
 Dharma ebam satya ke jyoti jala ke
 Guru andhakar day mitay.

Advising the human society Baba Guru Ghasi Das ji said that man may scale any heights, he cannot live without truth, kindness, forgiveness, love, courage and peace. Instead of bothering for the present he should think of the future and follow the Truth.

The Central Government should honour the sentiments of crores of devotees of Baba Guru Ghasi Das ji and declare 18th December a public holiday as it has done in the case of birthday of other greatmen in the country. The whole society will feel proud if this is done.

SHRI NAND KUMAR SINGH CHAUHAN (Khandwa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, due to wrong policy of the Government on newsprint all newsprint mills of India are on the verge of closure. Sir, there are as many as 6 paper mills in the public sector and 22-23 paper mills in the private sector.

12.05 hrs.

(Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, due to wrong policy of the Government on newsprint almost all the mills are on the verge of closure.

The foreign companies are hatching a conspiracy and supplying paper to India at a very cheap rate. Now they are supplying this paper at Rs. 15,000 per tonne. When all the paper mills in the country will be closed, they will raise the price to Rs. 30-35 thousand per tonne. This problem cropped up when the Government abolished import duty on paper. Due to this, lakhs of people are becoming jobless. They are facing starvation and the Government is paying no attention to this.

The newsprint mill in Nepa Nagar in Madhya Pradesh is the oldest mill in the country which was set up by the former Prime Minister, late Shri Jawaharlal Nehru. It has since been closed and 15,000 workers of this mill have been rendered jobless. Alongwith this other newsprint mills are also on the verge of closure. Their workers will also become jobless. The Government should reconsider its policy on newsprint. It should increase duty on import of paper so that the policy will be beneficial to the country. The Government should not be in a hurry so that lakhs of people could be saved from starvation and joblessness.

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South): Thank you, Sir.

The country will be celebrating, in the next year, the birth centenary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose from

23rd January. I request the hon Prime Minister, through the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, that whatever the plan of action the Government is going to announce regarding it may be announced in this Session. Parliament is in session. The hon. Prime Minister is the Chairman of this Committee. He should announce immediately in this House the plan of action of the Government regarding celebration of the birth centenary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.

Secondly, the Government should declare 23rd January as a national holiday to pay homage to the great son of the soil.

Sir, the people of the country want to know whether Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose is alive or not because in the latest report from Moscow it is reported that after the plane crash in Japan, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose went to Moscow. We are having this document. That is why, may I request the Government to realise the sentiments of the people of the country? We are going to celebrate the birth centenary next year. The Government should investigate the matter and we should know about the tragic missing of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. The people of the country want to know the truth. So, I would request the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to react in this matter. The Government should investigate the matter so that the people of the country should know as to what happened to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs should request the hon Prime Minister to announce in this House about the plan of action. Parliament Session is going on. He should announce it within this Session because there will be no Session before 23rd of January. This is the Winter Session. That is why I am making this submission. I think the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs should react ... (Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum): Sir, 23rd January should be declared a holiday on an all-India plan... (Interruptions) You should make a request to the Government that 23rd January may be declared a national holiday. It is not declared as such. It is declared a holiday only in West Bengal ... (Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, the Prime Minister should announce about the national holiday in the House... (Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Sir, we are approaching you to kindly request the Government to consider this proposal of declaring 23rd January, 1997 as a national holiday... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central): It must be there... (Interruptions)