13.25 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till twenty-five minutes Past Fourteen of the Clock.

Muslim Women

(Protection of

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at twenty five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

[English]

Eighteenth Report

The MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Eighteenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 21st February, 1986."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Eighteenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 21st February, 1986."

The motion was adopted.

14.27 hrs.

MUSLIM WOMEN (PROTECTION OF RIGHTS ON DIVORCE) BILL*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri A.K. Sen.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let him move the Bill first. Then you can object.

Rights on Divorce)

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI A.K SEN): Under Rule 372, I have to move first. Then, if it is opposed, the Deputy-Speaker would be kind enough to give you a chance to make a statement and then it is for me to make a reply.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): That is a very 'sane' attitude!

SHRI A.K. SEN: I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to protect the rights of Muslim women who have been divorced by, or who have obtained divorce from their husbands and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI (Adilabad): The point which I want to raise is this.... (Interruptions) I am not opposing the introduction of the Bill.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I will call those members who are opposing the Bill one by one and they may make their statements. Shri Mool Chand Daga....He is absent. Shri Saifuddin Chowdhary. Please make a brief statement.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY (Katwa): I oppose the introduction of this Bill. This is a black Bill. The heading of this Bill is misleading. It says that the Bill is to protect the rights of Muslim women. Actually, the Bill is meant for deprivation of their rights. The very heading is a misnomer. This is not at all in accordance with the teachings of Koran. On that count, I do not want to go into detail again because on an earlier occasion when the Private Member's Bill was being discussed in the House I made my views clear and I stand by them.

This very Bill violates the Preamble of our Constitution wherein we had resolved that we shall strive to constitute India into a secular country.

^{*} Published in Gazette of India Extraordinary Part II, section 2, dated 25.2.1986.