

[Sh. Bhogendra Jha]

mari, Mahananda and Mashan alone can provide durable solution to most of the ills of North Bihar and Tarai region of Nepal besides providing adequate hydel power for several States.

Even the existing industries like the Ashoka Paper Mills, Thakur Paper Mills, fruit processing factories of Madhubani and Darbhanga and OCM are languishing and the old sugar mills of Raiyann, Lohar and Sakri are not being modernised. The completion of Western Koshi canal is being delayed again and again.

Even the generating capacity of Darbhanga Station of the All India Radio is not being increased despite repeated assurances in the name of lack of resources. Per capita power consumption is less than one fifty of that of Bihar which itself is less.

In the given circumstances the people of the are a feel utterly frustrated due to continued neglect and discrimination Peaceful movements of the people are brutally suppressed as happened on 12 June, 1988.

I do, hereby, urge the Union Government to seriously attempt amelioration of the above, among others, long standing grievances of the people before it is too late.

14.40 hrs.

SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES OF OFFICERS OF PARLIAMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1990

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we will take the next item, the Bill relating to Salaries and Allowances of Officers of Parliament (Amendment) Bill. Shri P. Upendra The Minister of Information and Broadcasting and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to move.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): I beg to move.

"That the Bill further to amend the Salaries and Allowances of Officers of Parliament Act, 1953 be taken into consideration."

This Bill is complementary to the Salary, Allowances & Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 1988. By virtue of the amendment made in 1988 in the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament, Act, 1954, the Officers of Parliament, other than the Chairman of Council of States, are entitled to the Salary, Daily Allowance and Constituency Allowances at the enhanced rate with effect from 1.4.1988, whereas the emoluments of the Chairman of Council of States remain unchanged.

To overcome this anomaly, it is proposed to consider and pass the Bill further to amend the Salaries and Allowances of Officers of Parliament Act, 1953 to provide that the Chairman of the Council of States shall be entitled to Daily Allowance at the same rate as applicable to the Speaker, Lok Sabha. It is also proposed to exempt the said Daily Allowance from income tax.

The above provision would involve a recurring expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India to the tune of Rs. 54,000 per annum.

The Bill is very simple and non-controversial in nature. I hope that it would receive unanimous support of the House and may be passed without much discussion. With these words, I commend the Bill for consideration by the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Salaries and Allowances of officers of Parliament Act, 1953, be taken into consideration."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Harish Rawat.

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI: Sir, what happened to the Bill which was under consideration yesterday, regarding the National Commission on Women?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That comes after this. The agenda is circulated to you. You have it after this Bill. You read the agenda, it is there.

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI: Are you going to take up that Bill?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Of course. If the time is there, we are going to take it up.

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI: I hope it is going to be taken up.

[Translation]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, alongwith my party I support this Bill.

After seeing this Bill I now believe that hon. Shri Upendra ji can also bring such a considerate Bill. It is just a formality and it is a good thing that effort is being made to remove the earlier short-comings in this regard. I would like to say that the Vice-President should not get allowances equal to that of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha but we should specially consider about the allowances and emoluments of the officers and staff of the Parliament. In this regard a Committee was constituted which submitted its report in detail, Government has agreed to accept only certain suggestion while rests have been accepted by the Government. I want to say that the officers and Staff of the Parliament have to dispose their work with great speed in limited time. Any praise and appreciation is less for their skillful and efficient handling of work within limited time. I think that we can not fulfill our responsibility as Members of Parliament if they do not show their alertness and reasoning. A lot of Legislative business through which the

Government undertakes various Public Welfare programmes can not be performed without their active co-operation. I wish that the suggestions made by the different members of the aforesaid committee should be considered and those should not be overlooked under the excuse of financial constraints. Necessary action should be taken to implement the same. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I through you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This Bill is relating to the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

[English]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Yes, Sir, but anyway it is connected with the Salaries and Allowances of the Officers of Parliament.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not about other Officers of the House. Don't come to the other Officers. You just consider the position of the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. We are considering only that and you are referring to something else. It should not be like that.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Sir, I am referring to the original Act only.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is it not necessary for the Members to be relevant to the issue?

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: The original Act is 'Salaries and Allowances of Officers of Parliament'.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It does not relate to all officers. It is only relating to the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. The body of the Bill does not touch upon the other officers.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: I fully agree with you, Sir, that the Bill is not directly related to other Officers.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is a Bill on which you can say that this is a good Bill and you support it.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: All right, Sir. If you want to save the time, I can say this in so many words. I will go on saying for twenty minutes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You should not be appearing to be speaking about something which is not before the House.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: It is well-connected with the salaries and allowances... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please read the Statement of the Objects and Reasons of the Bill as also the body of the Bill. You will know that it relates only to the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: I am talking about both the Amending Bill and the Original Bill.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You are talking of the Title of the Bill. You are not talking of the body of the Bill.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Sir, I will come to that point. I understand that. Thank you very much for giving me this information.

[*Translation*]

There is no dispute about it that Chairman of the Rajya Sabha should get Daily Allowance equal to that of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha. It is a good step and I have welcomed it in the very beginning. I was just requesting the Government to provide good facilities to all concerned in this context. The cases of not only the Chairman and Vice Chairman should be considered but the cases of all those who help them should also be considered. I would like to request the Government to consider about the Members of Parliament also, because they do not get adequate amount and there always has been improper curtailment in their allowances in

the name of economy. We should get atleast respectable amount which may facilitate our work.

With these words I support this Bill again and conclude.

[*English*]

SHRI SUSANTA CHAKRAVORTY (Howrah): Sir, the Salary and Allowances of the Officers of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 1990 is a move to plug the loopholes and remove the anomalies in the Amendment made in 1988 in the Salary and Allowances of Officers and Pension to Members of Parliament Act, 1954. In the 1988 Amendment, the emoluments of the Chairman of the Council of States remained unchanged while those of others were enhanced. Now, the National Front Government has come forward to remove the anomaly. This is a welcome step. I support the Bill and I would like to suggest, in this connection, that there are certain other anomalies in other fields which the Government should look into and remove them. I would also expect of the Government to come out with a new Bill proposing enhancement of allowances of the Officers of Parliament, as pointed out by the hon. Member, Shri Harish Rawat. This also requires revision. I support the Amendment to the Act.

[*Translation*]

SHRI JAG PAL SINGH (Hardwar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the salary and Allowances of the Officers of Parliament (Amendment) Bill and I congratulate Shri P. Upendra for that. This step of removing the anomalies between the allowances of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha and the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha is really praise worthy.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I shall conclude my speech by saying one thing only. A point regarding discrimination in the matter of pension and salary of former Members of Parliament was put forth before the former Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri H.K.L. Bhagat and it has now again been put forth

before Shri P. Upendra, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. I demand that the hon. Minister should bring another amendment Bill in the next session so that the former Member of Parliament may get housing, rail travel and other facilities. The report of the committee set up in this regard should be implemented. The pension of the former Members of Parliament should be enhanced from Rs. five hundreds to Rs. 1250 as it has been recommended by the committee.

I demand that travelling facility should be provided to all the former Members of Parliament including the Members of Constituent Assembly on the same time as are provided to the freedom fighters. I request you to give these facilities to them by bringing an amendment Bill.

You have removed the anomalies between salary and Allowances of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha and the chairman of the Rajya Sabha. This is a commendable step. I support it.

SHRI ISHWAR CHAUDHARY (Gaya): This Bill brought by hon. Shri Upendra has provided us an opportunity to do a good thing after a long time. It is good that an effort has been made to remove the anomalies between the allowances of the Speaker of Lok Sabha and the Chairman of Rajya Sabha. If there is any other anomaly like this regarding the other related officers that should also be removed.

Hon. Members have asked for the facilities to the former Members of Parliament. The recommendations of the committee in this regard should be implemented.

I am happy and welcome your effort of bringing the gap through this Bill. I support it.

[English]

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM (Salem): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I do not wish to waste the time of the House, but I must congratulate the hon. Minister for having really socialism in the real sense of the term

when it comes to salaries and allowances of the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha because it is most unfortunate that somehow while every one else had managed in 1988 to enhance their rates, when it came to the Chairman, it got slipped, but it is an anomaly which is being corrected and we must welcome it. Not only that. The fact that the Chairman also works every day in the House and on his allowance on a daily basis we will extremely welcome the Amendment that has been brought in. But I think it would not be wrong on my part to mention that a lot of water has flown under the bridge since 1988 and that is one of the reasons why many other Members have mentioned that there are demands coming from existing M.Ps. and ex-M.Ps.— I am not referring to the demands, but the demands are there. I am reasonably certain that the Parliamentary Affairs Minister, who is normally very sympathetic to us would consider it and bring it in the next Session.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Always.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Always—this is a very firm assurance. He would bring it in the next Session and ensure that we do not move around the begging bowl and also the PAC Chairman who is walking in very easily at the moment would, I am sure, do his best to influence the hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs in this regard. The Committee as I understand has already recommended and I shall be grateful if you take into consideration the point that he and I come from the Southern tip of India and we have a major problem of going to our constituencies appropriately and frequently because the number of air services that are available are very limited of course once he becomes a Minister, I think that limitation has gone, but he should understand that we are still where we were, where we always were. (Interruptions) You do not want to be; much better to have the air fare extension.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would also like to congratulate the Government on their decision in this and say that we all support the Bill and the intention behind the Bill and we hope he will continue to support all the Members of Parliament.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Members for their support to this Bill. As I mentioned earlier, there is an anomaly in regard to the pay and allowances of the Chairman of the Council of States, whereas the Speaker of Lok Sabha is covered by the Act and the Chairman was left out. As a result, there is a wide gap between the take-home pay of the Speaker and the Chairman of the Council of States now. The House will be surprised to know that the take-home pay of the Chairman of the Council of States is the lowest among all the Constitutional dignitaries. It is the lower even than the salary of the Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha, it is lower than the take-home pay of the Governor of a State. Of course, it is lower than the salary of the Speaker, the Ministers and other functionaries. This anomaly has to be removed. That is why this Bill has been brought.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Do you get more pay than the Chairman of Rajya Sabha?

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Yes; at the moment I am getting more.

Sir, some Members have made some other points which are not directly related to this Bill, as you have correctly ruled. But, it is my duty to react to certain suggestions made by the Members. They mentioned about other Officers of Parliament and Staff. In this Salaries and Allowances of Officers of Parliament Act, 1953, the definition of Officer of Parliament means only the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Council of States and the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the House of the people. So, only four persons are covered by that Act. The officials and employees of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Secretariats are covered by different rules of Parliament Secretariat and they are not covered under this Act.

Sir, as regards Members of Parliament, some suggestions have been made. I myself had initiated a move to give some more facilities to the Members of Parliament and

also to the ex-Members of Parliament. These suggestions have been considered by the Joint Committee on Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament on 30th April and 15th May. These recommendations have been forwarded to the concerned Ministries for their approval and I hope, by the time we meet for the next Session, I will get the opinion of the Ministries concerned also. These include the pension for ex-MPs. At the moment, the pension is only Rs. 500 per month. In these difficult days, Rs. 500 per month is nothing. Therefore, the committee has proposed substantial increase in the pension of the ex-Members of Parliament and also regarding their travel and medical facilities. In regard to the existing Members of Parliament also, some suggestions have been approved by the Joint Committee. In regard to the number of free telephone calls, travel by air, travel facilities for spouse and some secretarial allowances and also some other suggestions which have been made, I do not want to spell out all those details right now until the Ministries concerned approve and the Cabinet approves it. But, we are moving in the direction and I am aware of the sentiments of the Members also.

SHRISONTOSH MOHANDEV (Tripura West): How about those Members of Parliament from Assam who could not complete the full term of five years for not fault of theirs?

SHRI P. UPENDRA: That has been taken care of. One of the recommendations of the committee is that the term need not be completed for full five years. On annual basis, it has been calculated so that the pension can be calculated on year basis. With these clarifications, I request the Members to pass the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Salaries and Allowances of Officers of Parliament Act, 1953, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"The Clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted

Clauses 2 and were added to the Bill

MR. DEPUTY -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

SHRI P. UPENDRA: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted

15.05 hrs.

PRESIDENT'S EMOLUMENTS AND
PENSION (AMENDMENT) BILL

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now we take up the Next Bill for consideration, namely President's Emoluments and Pension (Amendment) Bill.

Shri Subodh Kant Sahay.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI
SUBODH KANT SAHAY): I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the President's Emoluments and Pension Act, 1951, be taken into consideration."

I will speak at the end.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Present's Emoluments and Pension Act, 1951, be taken into consideration."

Shri Kalpnadh Rai.

[Translation]

SHRI KALP NATH RAI (Ghosi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the present Bill. I would like to inform Shri P. Upendraji that he has brought a Bill regarding the enhancement of pension from Rs. 2500 to Rs. 10,000 per month for the President. But M.L.As of many state Assemblies get a pension of Rs. 1250 per month whereas M.P.s get only Rs. 500 per month as their Pension. Similarly, the Members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha get equal constituency Allowance whereas a Member of Lok Sabha represents 9 to 11 lakhs voters. It is not possible for any member, whether he belongs to the ruling party or to the opposition parties, to visit this entire constituency due to lack of facilities. The Members get neither Steno nor Typist whereas thousands of letters come to them and they have to reply themselves to all those letters. (*Interruptions*)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, although all these things should not be raised in the House, yet I say that there is no use in living in fools paradise without adequate facilities. I request the Members of all the parties to consider it seriously Constituency Allowance is much less and the salary of M.P.s is the