

to maintain the dignity. Today, the President is getting less than what a Union Minister gets. Not only that, we will also have to see that the retired Presidents and the Vice-Presidents also maintain a status of their own, but we do not keep the account of the sufferings some of them experience. As you are aware, one of such retired dignitaries was allotted a house in Karnataka and the owner of the house got it vacated by going to the court. This is a question which is connected with the dignity of the office and with this view in mind we have decided to increase the emoluments. If emoluments are increased by Rs. 5,000 Rs. 3,000 is will be deducted as income tax. Facilities being given to retired Presidents, do not include any conveyance facility. Neither are they being given a house to live in and a telephone connection. The staff they used to have earlier are not retained with them. Earlier, they used to get Rs. 12,000 only. When the prices go up, one and all suffer from it. We retained the amount of Rs. 12,000 without any change. Only thing that we have given to a retired President is the facilities a Union Minister gets while the latter is in office. As such, in view of the dignity of the office and that of the nation, it is necessary that the emoluments of the sitting President should be Rs. 20,000 per month and the pension of a retired President should be 1.20 lakhs per annum. I would, therefore, like to request all of you to pass the Bill.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

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

The motion was adopted

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill. The question is:

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

The motion was adopted

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clauses 1, the Enacting formula and 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 SUBODH KANT SAHAY: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted

15.30 hrs.

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
BILL—*CONTD.*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now the House will take up further consideration of the National Commission for Women Bill. Mr. Harish Rawat may continue his speech.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA (Jadavpur): Will you please allow me for a moment Sir?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, Mr. Harish Rawat was on his legs.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA: Kindly allow me for a moment Sir. Sir, this is a very important Bill. We are thankful to this Government that in fulfilment of their prom-

[Shrimati Malini Bhattacharya]

ise they have brought this Bill in this Session of Parliament. Since this Bill is a important one and was brought here in response to the demands of women movement and different women organisations, I would appeal to you Sir, that at this stage, we may postpone the discussion on the Bill to the next session so that the Bill may be further discussed outside the Parliament also. This is my view Sir.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: Why should it be postponed? And we have already started the discussion.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You consult your party.

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI (Bellary): The discussion had already started and Mr. Harish Rawat was on his legs the other day. What is the objection in continuing with the discussion? Do you mean to say that the Bill is incomplete? If so, then why did you bring it? Yesterday, there was an assurance from hon. Members of that side only. We were not interested in discussing this Bill. Why should we postpone the discussion?

[Translation]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the things mentioned by Madam just now are full of facts. But this Bill has been brought by the Government more for the purpose of welfare of its own and for propaganda than for the purpose of welfare of women. There is nothing in it and nowhere it has been mentioned in the Bill that it is aimed at providing rights to women.

[English]

This is just an eye-wash.

[Translation]

Despite this, we agree to the views of the hon. lady Minister that various women

organisations in the country will get an opportunity to express their views on the issue and new ideas will emerge therefrom. On behalf of my party, I support the suggestion given by the hon. Lady Minister.

[English]

The discussion may be postponed.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA: I do not think this is an eye-wash. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum): Sir, let me make a report on the delegation of women, our Members of Parliament who are very honourable Members. In fact, they approached the Speaker and in the BAC meeting, they unanimously suggested that for fuller consideration, the discussion should be shifted to the next Session. And I think the rest of the hon. Members agree to this view. I think this is the unanimous opinion of the House.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is the view of the Minister in this regard?

[Translation]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRIMATI USHA SINHA): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in deference to the feelings of the hon. Members, I think it proper to postpone the discussion. With reference to submission made by Shri Harish Rawat, I would like to tell him that we have been very much keen to bring this Bill as early as possible. It is regretted that this Bill would not be taken up despite having listed in the Agenda Paper for the last three days. I would like to inform the hon. Members that a meeting was held on 5.2.90 and representatives of all the organisations attended it. We have been waiting for their suggestions till the day the Bill was introduced in the House. But no suggestion was received by us. The

suggestions received by us from other sources, have, however, been included in the Bill. This Bill can be postponed, but I would like to request that this important Bill should be taken up first in the next session.

[*English*]

SHRI PIYARE LAL HANDOO (Anantanag): I agree with the suggestion made by our sister colleague. This Bill is a very important Bill and requires a lot of changes for the protection and safeguard of the rights of women. The aims and objectives say that it is a surveillance body created. I do not like that word to be used at all.

It is given so in the aims and objectives, I humbly request the hon. Minister to postpone the consideration and ask the Members to make their submissions and amendments, if necessary, to make it effective and do something for the welfare of women folk which the country requires.

KUMARI MAYAWATI (Bijnor): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the discussion on the Bill regarding protection of rights of women brought in the House yesterday could not be completed yesterday. It was again to be taken up for discussion today. But, I felt it in the morning itself that if the Bill, was passed in a hurry, women would not be benefited from it as the Members particularly, the lady Members who understand the problems of women will not get adequate time to express their views. So, this Bill should be postponed for the next session so that the lady Members could be provided adequate time to express their views and offer their suggestions to the Government so that the Bill could be passed taking into account those suggestions. This Bill should be postponed for the next session.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI (Khajuraho): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I also agree with Mayawati that all the Members would like to express their views on this Bill and it is not possible to provide opportunity to all the Members who want to express their views on the Bill in such a short time, so I would

request that this discussion be postponed for the next session. I have only this much to say.

SHRIMATI SUBHASHINI ALI (Kanpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is good that all the lady Members irrespective of their affiliations and ideologies are unanimous on it and it proves that we are unanimous on the issue of development of women. You are aware that this demand of setting up a National Commission for women has been an important long out standing demand for which they have been agitating. It was the demand of the representatives of different women organisations, which do not have adequate representation in the House that they be given full opportunity to discuss this Bill and express their views, before this Bill is passed by the House. We should accept this suggestion and opportunity should be given not only to the Members of Parliament, but to all the women organisations also. The Bill should be passed after a full length discussion on it in the next session.

[*English*]

DR. THAMBI DURAI (Karur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I also join our colleagues for the postponement of further consideration of this Bill to the next session because we are now at the fag end of the session and there are only two and a half hours more. This Bill is very important. Many Members want to participate in the discussion. Also, there are certain other discussions under Rule 193 etc. which are all half-way through. Those are very important. I also join the Members that this item can be postponed to the next session.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do agree with Shrimati Subhashini Ali to adjourn the discussion on the Bill to the next session as this issue of setting up a National Commission for women is an important issue. Women are founding force of the nation, so it is not possible to hold a discussion in a short time

[Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan]

on the issue. It is necessary to hold a full length discussion on it and invite suggestions of all the women organisation of all India level so that the Bill could be amended in view of their recommendations. So, the discussion on this Bill should be adjourned to the next session.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum): It has surprised me that all the lady Members have unaniously agreed to the postponement of this Bill.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara): When all the sections of the House want postponement of this Bill, we also do not object.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I think, all the Members in the House agree that the consideration of this Bill should be adjourned to the next session; specially the lady Members of the House agree that this should be adjourned to the next session. With the agreement of all the Members and parties, consideration of this Bill is adjourned to a later date.

15.40 hrs.

COMMISSION OF INQUIRY (AMEND-
MENT) BILL

Amendments made by Rajya Sabha

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): I beg to move that the following amendment made by Rajya Sabha in the Bill further to amend the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952, be taken into consideration:—

Clause 2

For clause 2, substitute—

"2. In section 3 of the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952,—

- (a) in sub-sections (1) and (4), for the words "the House of the people or, as the case may be, the Legislative Assembly of the State", wherever they occur, the words "each House of Parliament or, as the case may be, the Legislature of the State" shall be substituted; Amendment of Section 3 of Act 60 of 1952.
- (b) sub-sections (5) and (6) shall be omitted".

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Bill was passed on the 29th of March by the Lok Sabha and it was returned by the Rajya Sabha on the 10th April with amendments and now it has again come to this House with amendment. The amendment seeks to make it obligatory on the part of the Government to place the findings of the enquiry before both House of the Parliament as the people have a right to know. I think the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha both are equally important. I would like to request that this Bill, as amended, by the Rajya Sabha should be passed so as to make the findings of the enquiry commission to lay on the Tables of the Rajya Sabha and the Council of States, as the case may be, obligatory. This is my request to the hon. Members.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved:

- That the following amendment made by Rajya Sabha in the Bill further to amend the Commission of Inquiry Act,