

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It appears that the Members agree that the consideration of the Bill be adjourned to the next Session of the House. with the agreement of the Members the consideration of the Bill is adjourned till a later date.

16.31 hrs.

PRASAR BHARATI (BROADCASTING CORPORATION OF INDIA) BILL

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we take up item No. 26—Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Bill.

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): Sir, I submit this on behalf of the Minister who has been called to the other House.

I will repeat what I stated regarding the other Bill that we are very keen to pass this Bill also because these are two very important commitments made by us—the autonomy of the Doordarshan and the autonomy of the electronic media. (*Interruptions*)

Sir, the curious part is that my friends are opposing the two Bills by which we are trying to give up power. We want to give up control over the electronic media and my friends are opposing. We want to make our Prime Minister accountable to the people, my friends are opposing. Sir, let the country judge about the *bona fides* of my friends.

About the Lok Pal Bill, there have been a number of Seminars, a number of discussions on this. (*Interruptions*)

The Minister himself has put this suggestion, and I do not find any ground whatsoever as to why this Bill should not be carried through. Our view is that we should carry through this Bill and I feel sorry that my friends of the Opposition are not cooperating

in this.

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Wardha): Sir, I am really surprised that my good friend who is also ... (*Interruptions*) His inner voice should really speak something from his throat, leave alone from his heart. He knows fully well and that is what was also agreed in the Business Advisory Committee, the drama that is being put up here now.

Sir, every one knows here that in the Business Advisory Committee, for Lok Pal Bill six hours are allotted, for Prasar Bharati Bill, 10 hours are allotted. For Delhi State Bill, it is not even given, we have not been able to allot time and if time was to be allotted, it will be not less than 10 hours.

Now, Sir, Kindly look at the watch. It is 4.30 here. Does anybody has any doubt that even a single Bill can be passed within one-and-a-half hours? (*Interruptions*). We go only up to Six O'clock. Till six O'clock if we have to sit, then one-and-a-half hours' time is there, unless of course the Government says that we will have further extension for two days or three days, it is a different matter. But is that what you are suggesting? It has not come yet. Therefore, Sir, everyone understands... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: You will agree that we pass important Bills in this House sitting late night. Therefore, we are not asking for something which is new. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Sathe Sahib, you are already wasted so much previous time of the House in useless discussion. You are wasting the precious time of the House for the last three days. Otherwise these bills would have been passed long ago.

[*English*]

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Sir, it was also

said that this Government has come to power in its own right. That also is well-known that the so-called Government of the National Front is never voted to power by the People. It is a minority; it is only 143. Did the people put their faith in you? No. Did the people put their faith in BJP? No. Did the people put their faith in the Leftist Parties? No.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM (Sivanga): Congress also 'No'.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi): You have come down from 420 to 190. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I have the honesty and the courage to say that the people rejected the Congress Party also and yet they have told the nation that the Congress Party still has the largest faith of the people in this country. Therefore, my good friend Mr. Dinesh Goswami cannot say that the people have put them in power; they have not. They are at the very poor mercy of the BJP and Communists acting virtually like crutches. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Sir, they have the phobia of BJP.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Sir, daily my good friend Shri Khurana pounces on the Home Minister and the Government on the Delhi State Bill. They are threatening this Government both inside the House and outside. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANGARAJ MALLIK (Bhadra): Do not address this side. You address the Chair. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Sir, therefore, they must not have that arrogance. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Do not feel proud that you are in power and people have given you power, there is nothing like that. (*Interruptions*)

DR. BANGALISINGH: The people gave you absolute majority but you misused it. You took kickbacks in several cases, in Bofors case also you received kickbacks.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Now that you have rightly raised the kickback issue, the people who are the outcome of the kickback, who were born on the strength of allegations in the name of kickbacks. I want to tell them that the time has come to show their courage. The documents which you could not get from Sweden, we have got them. Now what are you going to do with these documents. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BENGALI SINGH: You will know it very soon.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VASANT SATHE: The barrel of the Bofors gun has already reached you. Once the papers have been obtained, you should have courage to come out honestly. We do not want to come in your way in any manner. Your Prime Minister has said that we did, not wish to make these documents public since they do so they would not be given these documents which they are likely to get in future. So their documents cannot be disclosed. All right do not show us these documents, but they can tell this much honestly...

(*Interruptions*)

Sir, I do not and to say anything regarding this *Chamcha* Party of India as these people have no credibility. They do not adhere to any principle. Such type of people they are. (*Interruptions*) Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Let them inform the Speaker at least. We would like to know from my friends Goswami and Upendraji whether the names of our party leaders or any other person belonging to Congress or their family Members are there. Please tell this. (*Interruptions*) Had there been any such names, then they must have informed the Press and not to us. This

[Sh. Vasant Sathe]

is what they normally do. (*Interruptions*) How can you say with certainty whether the next Session would be held or not. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JAGPAL SINGH (Hardwar): There are twelve M.Ps. with V.P. Singh and he has fifteen Ministers. This has been stated by your Deputy Prime Minister.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI MANDHATA SINGH (Lucknow): I am raising a point of order. When you called out the item on the agenda, certain Members were making submissions. Earlier on two other occasions, you immediately asked the Minister to respond to those submissions. Instead of asking the Minister to respond to the suggestions offered, we are being compelled under duress to listen to all this. Such things should not have been uttered in the House. When Mr. Sathe, who is our good friend has said that he is in doubt, whether the next Session will be held at all, he is putting a question mark on the existence of this House. One should not go into all that. That is indulging in absurdity. They have always been indulging in that kind of absurdity.

I request you to bring the House to order and ask the Minister concerned to respond to the suggestions made from the various sections of the House. We are not prepared here to listen to lecture on Bofors papers. If they want to hear anything, let them know that instead of Bofors papers, they will have to go to jail.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: A threat is given.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am giving you time to speak.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: There is no point of order and otherwise also, here my good friend, Shri Dinesh Goswami, made a threat.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He has made a submission. These are issues which can be discussed.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: This is of grave concern to us. Kindly allow me two minutes. He gave the threat to say that once the truth is known, it will hurt us. Then who is stopping you? That is what we are asking and again if you cannot place this Swedish document which you have acquired at last, I would say what about those documents which are in your possession, the PMO files. That also they are not willing to place. I would like to know what happened at least to those documents which were connected with your leakage? This Government is leaking Government? What can you do? It leaks everywhere.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not a point of order. It was a submission.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM (Shivaganga): Yesterday they leaked to the documents which we placed.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Yesterday we placed documents which leaked out. What can we do?

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VASANT SATHE: One more thing I would like to bring to your notice. After this, I will stop. There was a judge from whom they obtained an order, Mr. R.C. Jain, you know. The Law Minister is here. I would like to know, Mr. Law Minister, is it a fact or not that Mr. R.C. Jain who was to pass order on 47 people's names for freezing of their accounts, passed orders only on five people and as a penalty you transferred that judge. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: I am responding to you.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I have a document here, their own FIR.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is off the mark.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: It is not off the mark. It is relating to Bofors only. Here is a document. Have ever heard after the FIR is filed, you attach a slip like this? (*Interruptions*) See. You attach slip to the names of Shri Amitabh Bachhan, Mr. Wilson and Hindusjas etc including the names of some other people in the FIR. What kind of check is this? What are you doing? Therefore, this is all related to this document. (*Interruptions*) It needs courage. He must place the documents on the Table.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHOGENDRAJHA (Madhubani): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I request to all my friends to listen to all. Related facts are being leaked by those who are perturbed over Bofors deal enquiry. We have no objection to the discussion on that subject. About that the Prime Minister also had said yesterday that the discussion on this subject could be taken up after the Constitution Amendment Bill was passed. However, that issue was not raised. Even then we shall support a discussion on this subject in the next Session.

Now we have reached the item 24, 25 and 26 of the agenda. My request to all of you would be to taken up discussion on the situation in Kashmir leaving the subjects listed in the present agenda. The hon. Minister also should not insist on the discussion on these Bills because it is not possible to hold discussion on 3 Bills together. Therefore, we should start discussion on Kashmir in right earnest postponing the discussion on these Bills. Well discuss Bofors in the next Session. I request all of you to discuss Kashmir problem and leave these Bills (*Interruptions*) We should not waste our time. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There are other subjects which are very pertinent to

you and you will have more time to speak on that.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI AJIT PANJA (Calcutta North East): Item Number 26 was introduced in the last session. What was the good idea of the Government to delay it until the due date before the close of the session? It was introduced in the last session. The so-called debate throughout the country started. The Government is not at all serious about it. They are all the time shouting "autonomy", autonomy. When it was introduced in the last session, what was the good idea of stopping it until the date before the session ends. And the whole structure is sought to be changed. The Government itself likes to change it as they find that they themselves are unreliable and in capable. They cannot do justice to the Doordarshan or the All India Radio, whereas the efficient officers there have been controlling effectively for such a long time. We have moved amendments. I have moved about 20 amendments. Is it right that 20 amendments will be considered like that? I am very sorry to say that the Minister himself remains busy in pleasing his political God Mr. NTR. The Minister purported to change rules without taking Parliament in confidence. When the Parliament is in session, two days before that, he brings changes in the rules for tele-casting a film of NTR... (*Interruptions*) If you want to apply your mind and bring this Bill for the purpose of making a real debate, the Minister should agree to our proposal. He was always talking about autonomy, autonomy and autonomy but he did not bring the Bill. We have been waiting for it for three months. He wanted to get it passed without any debate. This has to be adjourned till the next session. Hon. Members will please realise that it is their own power to ask questions on Doordarshan. They talk of purported autonomy. You will have no powers to ask even a question about Radio or TV because if anything goes wrong, the Government would plead helplessness as both the media would be answerable to none.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I would like

to know whether it has to be discussed now or later on.

SHRI AJIT PANJA: Therefore, it needs two full days discussion and hence it has to be postponed to some later date. The Minister should apply his mind here and not go on doing his private business with doordarshan. *(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have expressed your views. Other Members are also there to express their views. Let them do it now.

(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (New Delhi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, all the three Bills listed at serial No. 25, 26 and 27 are directly related to me. Previously a joint committee was constituted which worked for four or five years.

(Interruptions)

Panjaji has levelled certain allegations but I do not intend to pay him in the same coin. I am related to these Bills in the sense that I wanted that the 'PRASAR BHARATI BILL' should also be passed in the present Session along with other Bills. It had already been introduced in the last Session, so it should have been taken up in this Session. But I was astonished when I received a notice from the Government saying that the Opposition is of the view that it should be referred to the Select Committee and that any extension would be acceptable to them provided the Bill is referred to the Select Committee. Extension of the Session will be acceptable to them purely on this condition. I don't know how far this is correct. Government has informed me that the opposition is of the view that the present Government is likely to last a few days only, so voly they

should give up their control over AKASHVANI and DOORDARSHAN?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: This** *(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: This is very good. I am very happy that they too acknowledge that this Government will last for five years.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VASANT SATHE: According to you that was the reason why you said that we were against suffering it to the Select Committee. This ** is. This**is.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Member, should refrain from such thing, he may say untruth. [*English*]

The word will not go on record.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VASANT SATHE: This Government will last for five years or five days, it all depends on you.

(Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Atleast it des not depend upon you.

[*English*]

SHRI DHARM PAL SHARMA: Sir,... is unparliamentary; it should not go on record and it should be substituted by 'untruth'. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are right. I uphold what you say. The record will be amended like that.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Calling somebody..is unparliamentary. I have not said, 'he is a ...

(Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I know that; I did not object to it at all.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I said, 'white untruth'. Is 'untruth' unparliamentary? It is not. So, please do not remove it.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: 'untruth' is not unparliamentary, but ...is.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sathe Saheb, whatever you mean will go on record. Do not worry please.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I hold the Congress Party fully responsible for the non-passage of the Lok Pal and Prasar Bharati Bills. But as far as the non-passage of 72nd Amendment Bill is concerned, I blame the Government for it. I would like to distinguish between these three Bills with which I am connected while I hold Congress responsible for the non-passage of the Lok Pal Bill and the Prasar Bharati Bill, the Bill for giving Delhi the status of a State, is not being passed because of the Government. I express my anguish and dissatisfaction on it. The Government have chosen to act in this way overriding the discussion which I had with the Government in December last about it. I am an elected member from New Delhi. We feel it our responsibility to get Delhi the Status of a State as the people of Delhi had expressed their faith in our Party on this basis and we had promised it. I feel that the promise in which the Government supported by as was not a party, we can not force it to fulfil the promise made by

us alone. But we have right to pressurise the Government to fulfil that promise in which the Government was also a party along with us. For that only I had talked to them in the month of December and they had given an assurance to implement this in the next Session. That Session came in December or January but that assurance remained unimplemented and the Bill was not presented. Thereafter this Session came, the duration of which was three months. During this period I talked to many concerned persons and every time, I got the reply that it would be brought in a day or two and that there was problem in that...*(Interruptions)* Let there be no misconception about it that I ask for a difficult thing. The people of India expect from me that I should criticise and denounce the Government on all points where it commit mistake. I shall positively criticise the Government on its failures whether it may be Rubiya's case or the case of re-calling Jagmohan or the case of giving Delhi the Status of a State or the matter of Price Rise. It will, I be done when the situation so demands. The Indian public say that nothing should be done which may pave the way for this party to come to power again. *(Interruptions)* I would like to express my dissatisfaction as a representative of Delhi. In this matter the Government has told my friend that this has been done deliberately.

[English]

Wittingly or unwittingly, it has failed the people of Delhi.

A gross injustice has been done to the people of Delhi by presenting this Bill on the last day of the Session. Even the Bill is incomplete and vague in so much so that one cannot deduce any meaning from reading it. I fail to understand how the joint efforts of the Ministry of Law and the Ministry of Home Affairs can produce such an incompetent Bill? I would like an assurance from the Government to the effect that all these three Bills would be presented in the beginning of the next Session. They need not be referred to any Select Committee. If any advice and opinion is required opposition should also be

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involved in that. It should be made clear whether all these three bills are going to be accorded priority in the next Session.

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA (Karnal): I want to say that...

"Ibtda-e-Ishc Hai, Hansta Hai Kya, Rota Hai Kya, Aage Aage Dekhiye Hota hai Kya".

[English]

DR. THAMBI DURAI (Karrur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when we took up the 26th item, that is, Prasar Bharati Bill and were discussing this thing, our hon. Member mentioned about who got the full confidence of the people and things like that.

I want to tell that our party contested 11 seats and we won in all the constituencies. We won the confidence of the people. But which party had lost the confidence? It was the DMK party which contested all the seats and lost. That is the situation which took place.

I want to say one more thing regarding the Prasar Bharati Bill. The Government, it seems, wants to give more autonomy and power. But you know what kind of autonomy is there nowadays. Is this the autonomy? How is the Government functioning? They are controlling like a remote control. We can easily control the electronic things remotely. Therefore, we want to know what is the real autonomy, and what are the powers. We want to discuss it thoroughly. We cannot do it within this one hour. Therefore, through you, I humbly request the Minister to postpone this thing for further discussion in the next session. (Interruptions)

The 27th item is also there regarding Statehood for Delhi. We have a difference of opinion about that. The Government had already given a promise about Statehood to Pondicherry. They have never fulfilled it. But they are hurrying up with this Bill. Before

giving Statehood to Delhi, we have to consider giving it to Pondicherry and other small Union Territories. Then, only, we can genuinely believe. Therefore, I request that both these Bills should be postponed for discussion in the next session.

SHRI DINESH SINGH (Pratapgarh): Before the Minister replies, I would like to say something. From the very morning, I have been expressing the fear that the Government is planning and trying to withhold the two Discussions under Rule 193 and the Discussion under Rule 184. It is this that I have been saying since this morning.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot agree with you.

SHRI DINESH SINGH: Despite the assurance that have been given to us, these discussions are not taken up. All this is quite unnecessary. From the morning, I have been saying that we should take up the two discussions under Rule 193 and the other discussion under Rule 184.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I agree with the later part of your submission.

SHRI DINESH SINGH: You are only saying that you are postponing this. It is not even necessary to say this. If the House adjourns today *sine die*, it is automatically postponed. But at least, we could have had a discussion Sir. My complaint is that the Government is not allowing to hold discussions on Nagaland, Kashmir and about the LTTE activities in Tamil Nadu. The hon. Minister knows that I have been making this complaint since morning. He assured that he will allow the discussions and now he is sitting and laughing. What am I to do? (Interruptions)

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: Let me assure the hon. senior Member that there has been no such intention on our part. Go to the records and find out as to how many hours have been spent in between on talking about issues which are not relevant to the items in the agenda. I was trying to point out

to Mr. Sathe that all that he has thought is not included in the Lokpal Bill. It is not that the Lokpal Bill has not been brought in the last Session only. Because of financial matters, it could not get priority and could not be brought in the House. But all these days, I was waiting in the Lobby, coming in and going out and this Bill could not be taken up due to reasons which I do not want to disclose again ...*(Interruptions)* Therefore, I would like that this Bill be taken up now. But I would like to go by the wishes of the House also. Supposing if this Bill is not taken up, then let the House give an assurance and put it on record that the Lokpal Bill would be the first item in the Legislative Business in the coming Session.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): Before I come to the comments regarding the Prasar Bharati Bill, I express my regret on the remarks made by hon. Shri Sathe about the next Session. It is every unfortunate...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Normally, it is held in July. When are you planning to hold it?

SHRI P. UPENDRA: He has cast aspersions and expressed...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANBARASU ERA: Sir, I am on a point of order?

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Sir, I am not yielding.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

SHRI ANBARASU ERA: There was a news item that on 15th August, some other Prime Minister will hoist the flag at Red Fort.

Therefore, Mr. Vasant Sathe was right in casting aspersions on whether the Government would exist and the way they are behaving...

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not a point of order.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Mr. Sathe is a very respected senior Member of this House and I do not think that he should cast doubts about the existence of Parliament and the next Session. This is very unfortunate. Probably, had they continued in power, this Parliamentary institution also must have been closed.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: Mr. Sathe, if you doubt that there will be no Session, then I think, it is very incumbent to pass this Bill in this Session itself. Let us sit some time more and pass it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P. UPENDRA: The need for Prasar Bharati Bill and creation of an autonomous Corporation arose because of the damage done to the credibility of the electronic media by the previous Government. *(Interruptions)*

We heard them patiently and they are disturbing us continuously. Let them react later. Why should they react after every sentence. Let us express our views also. *(Interruptions)*

The whole nation is aware of the large scale misuse of this media by the previous Government and the previous ruling party in the interest of an individual, a family, group or a party and that has to be ended. Therefore in the manifesto of the National Front and also in the manifestos of several other parties...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No interruptions please.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: The manifestos of the Nation Front and other political parties, and surprisingly manifesto of the Congress Party also included this item, that is granting autonomy to the electronic media perhaps not out of conviction, but out of compulsion, because everybody had included that in their manifesto...*(Interruptions)*

In fulfilment of the promise made in the manifesto, the Government brought forward the Prasar Bharati Bill in the very first session of the new Government. You will agree that at that time I had promised that there would be a large scale debate all over the country involving all sections of the people and to that extent this Bill is a tentative Bill and we will bring forward a large number of amendments in pursuance of the suggestions. Accordingly, there was a debate all over the country and I am happy to say that hundreds of seminars and symposia were held all over the country. I attended; Satheji attended; Shri Panja attended...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I would request Members not to interrupt because if you are interested in taking up the discussions under Rule 193, then you should allow him to complete. It does not carry you anywhere.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: I addressed personal letters to about 1200 organizations in the country soliciting their views...

(Interruptions)

I will explain about that. Why are you in a hurry.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I expect the Members to cooperate. If you interrupt and interject, it does not carry you anywhere at all. You have made very impressive points when you were speaking and that should be enough for you. No interruptions please. Shri Panja was very cogent when he spoke.

SHRI PIYARE LAL HANDOO: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir,

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Always I want to hear you but at this point of time I don't want to hear you.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PIYARE LAL HANDOO: Sir, if he is opposing our request for adjournment, it is one thing. But if he is not opposing our request for consideration... *(Interruptions)* ... He cannot avoid taking up the discussion on Kashmir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Certain points have been made.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is well within his rights to reply to some of the points which have been raised.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: We had written to the State Governments also for their views and most of the State Governments have given their views. I convened a meeting of the Ministers of Information of various State Governments at Delhi on 18th April and the Bill was unanimously endorsed by all the Ministers representing various State Governments and various parties. But suddenly, Sir, I found a sense of rethinking on the part of the Congress Party. The Government repeatedly gave assurances in the Parliament.

(Interruptions)

SHRI M.J. AKBAR: (Kishanganj): Even the Left has put in an amendment. It was a rethinking on all sides.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, he has charged us.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This shows

that you have not been able to make your first speech very effective.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, he has charged us with..

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Kurien, it does not carry us anywhere. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Sir, he is not speaking for the postponement. He only wants to say something not only for the sake of the record but for the Press people. That is his intention.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This does not bring any glory to anybody.

SHRI BAL GOPAL MISHRA: Sir, the Press is free in this country. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHOPAT SINGH MAKKASAR (Bikaner): People will remember you for your sins. History will record the sins committed by you during the year of your regime.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Sir, all the suggestions received have been computerised and after the careful consideration of the suggestions received, amendments have been brought in. Hon. Members of this House from all parties have submitted their amendments. I had put this Bill for consideration and passing immediately after the passing of the Finance Bill on the 22nd of this month. We had not wasted even a day. Mine was the first Bill to be put on the Agenda for consideration and passing. But, Sir, suddenly I found re-thinking on the part of the Congress Party. Though I committed in the House and outside that the Government would get this Bill passed in the current Session itself, I always put a rider, i.e. subject to the cooperation of the Congress Party because I know the limitation in the Rajya Sabha. We know the Bill might get into difficulty if they don't cooperate. But my first shock was that when I heard Mr. Sathe in a Seminar saying

that we will not accede to the autonomy and he also advised me, "Don't lose this powerful weapon. You are running a Government. Don't lose this powerful weapon." That is the complete thing. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Under the rules if anybody takes my name or makes allegations is against me, then I have I right to clarify it. It is better if I do it just now so that he can continue with his speech. You please allow me to speak. (*Interruptions*)

(*Interruptions*)

He made a charge against me. You must now be able to listen to me.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Let me conclude.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI DHARAMPAL SHARMA (Udhampur): He has a right to make personal explanation.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. UPENDRA: It was not a private conversation, it was a public Seminar held in the Park Hotel where Mr. Advani was also present. It was reported. The Press was there. His advice was also reported. He has publicity I said in his speech that it is not a private conversation. I will leave Mr. Sathe's opinion apart. Even in deciding about the business of this House, for the extension of this Session by four days, to pass the Constitution (Amendment) Bills, the condition preceded was that they will not allow us to pass these Bills and these three Bills will have to be referred to the Select Committee. I have been virtually blackmailed into agreeing to this. I am using this word because they did not want us to extend the Session, until these three Bills are postponed. I had to shift them from the Priority items and bring them to the last day only to accommodate them and see that the Constitution (Amendment) Bills relating to the Scheduled Castes and

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Scheduled Tribes and Land Reforms are passed. In my anxiety to get these Bills passed, I postponed it. Now, they are blaming me for postponing the consideration of the Bills. That is why I am saying this. Let them be honest. Let them come out honestly and say that they stand for autonomy. I am prepared to sit here today and get these Bills passed tonight....

(Interruptions)

I would not have mentioned this also because we have to keep certain things outside the House. But they should not have blamed me for delaying the Bills. That is an unfortunate thing. While they are responsible for getting the Bills delayed, now they are blaming me that I am delaying the Bills and I have brought the Bills late. That is not fair on their part to say like that. *(Interruptions)*

I can only find one reason for their changed attitude. They have started entertaining the idea of coming back to power by hook or by crook imagining some split may occur in the ruling party. I can tell them that their dreams will not be fulfilled. This Government will remain for five years. They thought that the Meham issue will break the Government which has not happened. They are all disappointed. I know to what extent they went.

(Interruptions)

SHRI M. J. AKBAR: Let the Minister of Information and Broadcasting accurately report the statement made by the Deputy Prime Minister on Doordarshan. If you only report your own Deputy Prime Minister's statement, the letters and interviews, then you will find out the state of your own party. But his Doordarshan has on place for all that. He is a Mr. Colourful, dramatic autonomy who is talking.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: They have made a reference to the influence that the Govern-

ment is having on the media. I can only say, as it is today, in the present form, the media are still the Government organisations. There is no doubt about it. Nobody can question that. The Ministry and myself—we are responsible for the proper functioning of the media. To that extent, we have to exercise our control. There is no doubt about it. There is not autonomy today. *(Interruptions)* But I can tell you that we have given functional autonomy, in the sense that today, there are no hot-lines there, giving dictations from the Prime Minister's house or office to the media there, to the News Room. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI M.J. AKBAR: Sir, I object to this. *(Interruptions)* He has removed outside producers. *(Interruptions)* He has himself censored news programmes. He has inflicted a film of NTR to further his partisan interests, and thus come in the way of news promotion and news protection. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. UPENDRA: I will come to that; don't worry. *(Interruptions)* Sir, now the officers from the Prime Minister's Secretariat and the Ministers do not go and sit in the News Room to dictate news, and write news there. We do not do that. It is not being done. *(Interruptions)* There is functional autonomy. They are allowed to function freely; but whenever they commit mistakes, they are being pointed out. *(Interruptions)*

They mentioned about the film of NTR which was shown on Sunday in the regional network. It was repeated in my absence. Mr Panja raised it today also. *(Interruptions)* There is a rule that films winning awards should be shown, should be given priority; and in the case of Hindi films, they have relaxed it, by saying that not only award-winning films, but other films also can be shown. That was the rule fixed by them; that was being followed. I do not know why they relaxed it. I do not know the reason. But there was a discrimination against regional language films. In the case of regional language films, they were insisting that they should be award-winning films only. As a result, many languages are un-represented, because

there are no award-winning films in many languages. All the languages films do not win awards. They were not getting representation. Therefore, the file was put up to me, saying that whatever is being done in the case of Hindi films, must be adopted in the case of all language-films. I said; in fairness, it should be done. That is the position they had taken. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI AJIT PANJA (Calcutta North East): Besides NTR's films, what other films have been shown? What about Bengali films? What about films from Kerala?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Let them answer two questions. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI AJIT PANJA: We want films from Maharashtra; we want films from Kerala. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. UPENDRA: For several years, films, in which some actors not palatable to the Congress party, were all banned. There was a written ban. (*Interruptions*)

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No, (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seats. One minute, Mr Upendra. I think within half-an-hour, we are going to part with each other. Let there be some feeling of comradeship and all those things. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. P. Chidambaram, please take your seat. I think the Minister is about to conclude.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. UPENDRA: The only thing I did was that I removed that ban. This is the first film of NTR in eight years which has been shown in the network. No crime has been committed of one film has been shown.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: He can make his

speech only on the motion for consideration. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. UPENDRA: I will take only one minute to conclude. (*Interruptions*)

PROF P.J. KURIEN: I am on a point of order. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. You cannot dictate me like this. I had allowed you also to speak.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. UPENDRA: In conclusion I would like to say that we are committed to pass this Bill right now if you want. We are prepared to sit late to pass this Bill if you want. We are prepared to extend the session also if you want. We have to pass this Bill. We are prepared to sit tomorrow also if you want. But if the House decides to postpone this item for further consideration, we have no objection. The interregnum will be used for wider consultation not the amendments, etc. In the very first week of the next session, we will pass this Bill. Also the choice is with the House.

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Wardha): I am on a point of personal explanation.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: But it should be very brief.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV (Sitamarhi): I am on a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of order becomes very long.

SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV: My point of Order is under Rules 349 and 352. Sir, kindly refer to this Book. The Member have to follow 20 and 11 instructions under Rules 349 and 352 respectively. It means the Members have to follow in all 31 instruc-

[Sh. Hukumdeo Narayan Yadav]

tions. I am raising point of order on the last day of the Session, because I have been observing from the beginning of the Session that the hon. Members interrupt the proceedings and senior member like Shri Vasant Sathe is also doing the same. That is why I decided to raise the point of order. The hon. Members always violate the aforesaid rules. If he behaves like this the person like me will also violate the rule and try to interrupt his speech. The hon. Members of the Ruling Party should follow these rules so that new members like me may also learn to uphold the dignity of the House. But he is a senior Member and he has been the Minister for many years and if he violates the rules, I can not bear it any longer. It should not happen. Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, please give some ruling about this issue. It should not happen from any side. There should be a rule for making statements. Under this Rule I would like to speak.. (*Interruptions*) ... He will have to hear. I would like to urge the hon. Members that they deserve sympathy, because they have lost their balance while enjoying power and as a result they are violating all rules and laws and forget all etiquettes... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention to rule 357... (*Interruptions*) It will be much better if Mr. Hukamdeo refers to Rule 357. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have risen for making a personal explanation. The hon. Minister has levelled a charge against me that in the conference in which I had participated other people were also present there... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This entire speech is not disputed. The dispute is only this much that you had opposed autonomy...

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VASANT SATHE: That is what I am also saying...

(*Interruptions*)

DR. SHAILENDRANATH SHRIVASTAVA (Patna): Your entire speech is recorded.... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI VASANT SATHE: He said that I have opposed autonomy. (*Interruptions*) I am willing to have any Committee of this House to hear that tape recorded speech of mine. I have never opposed autonomy. I always said that I am in favour of autonomy. 'Auto' means self, 'nomy' means authority, authority to the people in the Doordarshan and in AIR. That is what I want. I am not in favour of creating an independent organisation which deprives the Parliament of this country of its powers of monitoring and supervising the functioning of this media. That is what I said. And that is what I maintain. The hon. Minister has misled, because even in our manifesto we have made it very clear that we are in favour of giving autonomy to Akashvani and Doordarshan and I have always stood for that promise given in our manifesto.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: With the agreement of the House, consideration of the Bill is adjourned to a later date.

17.39 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (SEVENTY-SECOND) AMENDMENT BILL

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now we take up Item No. 27. The hon. Minister may move that the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India be taken into consideration.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have been making efforts for the last ten years for getting statehood to Delhi. I would like to say only one thing that we have been listening to the assurances of the Government for the