

other had the banks refuse to give relief to the poor. The Government should take some concrete steps in this direction.

Supporting in particular the long term fiscal policy of the Government, I want that when we are entering the 21st century for removing the economic disparities, our Government's economic policies should be reflected in the working of the banks. With these words I conclude.

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15.31 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

[English]

Eighteenth Report

SHRI R.P. SUMAN (Akbarpur) : I beg to move :

“That this House do agree with the Eighteenth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 24th April, 1986.”

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

“That this House do agree with the Eighteenth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 24th April, 1986.”

*The motion was adopted.*

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15.32 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE : ELECTORAL REFORMS—*Contd.*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : On the last occasion the House was adjourned for want of quorum when the resolution moved by Shri D.N. Reddy was being discussed. I would like to inform the

House that already 8 hours and 11 minutes have been taken on this.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : I propose that the time may be extended by 1.1/2 hours.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Is it the pleasure of the House to extend the time on the resolution moved by Shri D.N. Reddy on 28th February, 1986, by 1.1/2 hours ?

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Mehboob-nagar) : I do not really remember what I spoke the other day. I better begin all over again.

As I mentioned the other day, there is a need to lift the level of debate on electoral reforms above the lines of party divisions. It is very gratifying to note that India has retained its democratic system though it has been only at a developing stage. In spite of interminable series of serious structural failure on the economic front, our democracy has not only survived but taken strong roots in our soil.

15.35 hrs.

[SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHA-MAN *in the Chair*]

But we will have to take note of the fact that even this singular achievement of India polity is being threatened by increasing vitiation of electoral process. The menace of total perversion of electoral machinery is really looming large on our democratic horizon. Electoral reforms are no longer an academic issue to be debated ad nauseam in symposia and seminars but, in fact, a burning problem crying for instant action. The Election Commission, in its Report this year, talked of the threat posed by three kinds of power, namely, the money power, the muscle power and the media power. I may also add two more kinds of power to this list, namely, the magisterial power and the machinery power. It is, in fact, to put in nutshell 'M' to the