

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

ment, he carried out the policy of the Government. He has had some difference of perception with the Police Chief. I believe that both Mr. K.P.S. Gill and Mr. Chaman Lal hold opinions which are honest. Both of them hold honest opinions and there are honest differences. If an officer has honest differences and wishes to express his differences and therefore it is requested that he may be taken out of the scene, as the Punjab Government thought fit to relieve him, it is a matter which the Punjab Government will handle and the Punjab Government will deal with it. I will not, therefore, say that one opinion is honest and the other opinion is dishonest. Both are fine officers; both hold honest opinions. If there are perceptual differences they will be sorted out by the Punjab Government. I do not think that the Opposition can use Mr. Chaman Lal as a stick to beat the Government with. We hand-picked Mr. Chaman Lal. We placed him in a sensitive position. He did a good job. He holds an honest opinion. It is an honest difference of opinion with the Chief. Those differences will be sorted out within the system of administration by the Punjab Government. There is nothing more to it. I do not think it is proper to exaggerate it beyond all proportions.

As I said earlier, this is not the time to hold elections. Any objective, impartial observer of the Punjab scene will agree that the Government has to continue on the path which it has chosen. We have to hold Panchayat elections. We have to invite Opposition leaders. We have to hold wide consultations. The Ministerial Committee is seized of the matter and it has already held two meetings. I am sure this process that we have initiated will take us forward on the political path and will help us find a political solution.

I command this Resolution and I seek the support of this House to this Resolution.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is:

"That this House approves the continuance in force of the Proclamation issued by the President on the 11th May, 1987 under article 356 of the Constitution in relation to the State of Punjab, for a further period of six months with effect from the 11th November, 1988."

The motion was adopted.

17.33 hrs.

SALARY, ALLOWANCES AND PENSION
OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT
(AMENDMENT) BILL*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Before I call the Minister to move for leave to introduce the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, I have to inform the House that the President has, in pursuance of clauses (1) and (3) of article 117 of the Constitution of India recommended the introduction and consideration of the Bill in Lok Sabha.

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour): Sir, why is it the same day introduction and consideration? It may be introduced today and you can get it passed tomorrow. This is a matter of principle that you have to decide as in the case of other Bills. You have it introduced today. Then, let us have the time to consider it and say what we have to say on this Bill. (Interruptions)

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER : Order please.

Shri Bhagat.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The Minister may now introduce the Bill.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: I introduce** the Bill.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: Let it remain there. Don't try to press it today.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is up the House to see.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIYA: You have not told us earlier about it. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is left to the House as to what we are going to decide.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: It can be taken up for consideration tomorrow.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let us hear the Minister as to what he is saying.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: I would like to make one thing clear. Let me be frank. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: There is no urgency.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: Why do you want to stop me from saying? If you do not want to pass it, don't pass it. I have no objection. The only point is this : I had discussions on this question with the leaders of all the groups including Mr. Basudeb Acharia that we should pass this Bill and he agreed. You have all written to us. Last time, you wanted this Bill to be passed.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: I told you categorically that without discussion, we cannot pass this Bill.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: I have spoken to all the leaders in this House and that House. All of you agreed and said "Let us pass it today". The Bill is to be sent to the Rajya Sabha so that before Diwali the Bill can be passed. All of you agreed to that. If you want to record a point, that is a different thing. But if you do not want to pass it today. It is for the House. You have written to us and you have agreed that this will be passed today. There is no point in delaying. Your point has been recorded. I would suggest that the Bill be taken into consideration.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla): Mr. Basudeb Acharia should be given time to speak. I want to hear him. He wants to give suggestions.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Basudeb Acharia to speak.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: It has been said that this is a Diwali gift from the Government. If there is no principle involved, then we shall not take a gift.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: If you don't want to pass the Bill today, let it not be passed. I have absolutely no objection. I said Diwali gift because you all agreed. I spoke to you and to the leaders of all parties. I spoke to the leaders of the other House also. It was decided to pass it here today and tomorrow to pass it there.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Basudeb Acharia to speak.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Why so much hurry?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: What do you want? Do you want to discuss it?

MR. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: Shri Basudeb Acharia will speak whatever he wants to speak.

**Introduced with the recommendations of the President.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: My principal objection is that there is no time to speak on the Bill.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: If they do not want to pass it today, let it be passed tomorrow. I do not mind. Last time, they wanted it to be passed today. They write to me. They ask for more. They dream it to be passed today. Then they get up and oppose it. If they want to be practical, let them do it. If they do not want to be practical, let it be passed tomorrow, not today. You agree and then you get up. It is funny. *(Interruptions)* I am prepared for tomorrow, if you do not want it today. The House will decide. Let it be passed unanimously without any objection. The House will pass it without any opposition and without any amendment. This was decided by all the parties.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: You give us sufficient time.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It was left to the House unanimously to take the decision. If there are any differences of opinion, I cannot do anything now. You are asked to take the decision. If you say you pass the Bill, I will allow. Otherwise, if you do not want, you leave it. I cannot thrust it on you. That is all.

(Interruptions)

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: Sir, Mr. Acharia should be allowed to speak. We want to hear him. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI AMAL DATTA: He introduced the Bill. That is all right. But let it come for discussion tomorrow or let it come sometime in the course of this month. We want to study the Bill. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: Today it has to be reported to Rajya Sabha, circulated in the Rajya Sabha and passed in the Rajya Sabha tomorrow.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Order please.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I want to know from the hon. Members of this House. Is it the unanimous opinion of the House to pass this Bill today or not?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Amal Datta, please tell what is your opinion?

SHRI AMAL DATTA: We can take it up for discussion tomorrow. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The point is that Shri Amal Datta is objecting to this.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: The point is that we want to move amendments. There should be time....*(Interruptions)* I am not going to give explanation to the hon. Member. He should know the Parliamentary rules also...*(Interruptions)* Why don't you tell the Government? Why couldn't they bring it earlier? They could have introduced it yesterday. They could have circulated it long back.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Order please.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT): Sir, hon. Members of this House are aware that it concerns them. They have unanimously agreed in the Committee that was set up for this purpose to pass it. But, if they want to delay it for tomorrow and if they want to pass it tomorrow, it is up to them. If they are willing, they can do so.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I will pass on to the next item.