

It reads as follows :

“Where a regulation or rule or sub-rule”.

So, he must insert this word ‘byelaw’ also, sub-rule also. Otherwise, what will happen is this. The bye-laws will be framed under this Act, and if they will not be laid on the Table of the House, it is my duty to bring it to the notice that the hon. Minister should be allowed to move this at least bye-law; that should be inserted in this Bill because it is very necessary. Otherwise, it will create a problem. So, he must move it. What is the harm? If anybody advises him, it is good. The Law Department is here. They can advise him.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ABDUL GHAFUOR : It is a matter of law, it should be considered carefully. I have now followed Daga Sahib, he has mentioned something about bye-laws. Bye-laws will be drafted by the house owners and cooperative societies.

[*English*]

They will only be model bye-laws. Model bye-law does not mean that it is a real bye-law.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Bye-laws mean bye-laws made under this Act. These bye-laws will be under this Act and they will be laid on the Table. You have not inserted that in the Clause.

SHRI ABDUL GHAFUOR : They will be laid on the Table of the House. Even an individual living in the house...
(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Please listen to me.

[*English*]

Under the Act if the rules and bye-laws are framed, they must be laid on the Table of the House. Clause 23 says that every rule made under the Act will be laid on the Table of the House. I say

please insert in it ‘bye-laws’ also. Rule 234 of the Rules of Procedure says that every rule, regulation, bye-law shall be laid on the Table of the House. It is a mandatory provision. Otherwise, the Committee on Subordinate Legislation will bring this to your notice and you will have to amend this.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

‘That the Bill be passed.’

The motion was adopted.

15.32 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE :
MINISTERS (ALLOWANCES,
MEDICAL TREATMENT AND
OTHER PRIVILEGES) AMEND-
MENT RULES, 1986

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : The salaries, allowances and other privileges of Central Ministers are governed by the Salaries and Allowances of Ministers Act, 1952 and rules framed thereunder, namely, the Ministers’ (Allowances, Medical Treatment and other Privileges) Rules, 1957.

Rule 3 of the Ministers’ (Allowances, Medical Treatment and other Privileges) Rules, 1957 provided that “there shall be granted with effect from the 28th May, 1964 to the Prime Minister and with effect from the 12th August, 1952 to every other Minister who is a member of the Cabinet a Sumptuary Allowance of Rs. 500 per mensem.”

As a result of coming into force of the Salaries and Allowances of Ministers (Amendment) Act, 1985 (76 of 1985) with effect from 26.12.1985, the Prime Minister, a Cabinet Minister, a Minister of State and a Deputy Minister are now entitled to sumptuary Allowance at the rate of Rs. 1500, Rs. 1000, Rs. 500 and Rs. 300 p.m. respectively. As such, Section 1 and

[Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha]

rule 3 of the Principal rules have become ineffective.

It is, therefore, proposed to omit Section 1 and rule 3 of the Ministers' (Allowances, Medical Treatment and other Privileges) Rules, 1957.

Copy of the draft notification of the Ministers' (Allowances, Medical Treatment and other Privileges) Amendment Rules, 1986 was laid on the Table of the House on 2.4.1986 in accordance with the provisions of the Section 11 (2) of the Salaries and Allowances of Ministers Act, 1952.

The draft notification reads as under :

"G.S.R. In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 11 of the salaries and Allowances of Ministers Act, 1952 (58 of 1952), the Central Government hereby makes the following rules further to amend the Ministers' (Allowances, Medical Treatment and other Privileges) Rules, 1957, namely :—

1. These rules may be called the Ministers' (Allowances, Medical Treatment and other Privileges) Amendment Rules, 1986.

2. Section 1 and rule 3 of the Ministers' (Allowances, Medical Treatment and other Privileges) Rules, 1957 shall be omitted."

Sir, it is a matter of only procedure importance and necessity that we have come before the House and I seek your permission to move the following motion :—

"This House approves the draft Ministers' (Allowances, Medical Treatment and other Privileges) Amendment Rules, 1986 framed under sub-section (1) of section 11 of the Salaries and Allowances of Ministers Act, 1952 (58 of 1952) and laid on the Table of the House on 2nd April, 1986."

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved :

"This House approves the draft Ministers' (Allowances, Medical Treat-

ment and other Privileges) Amendment Rules, 1986 framed under sub-section (1) of section 11 of the Salaries and Allowances of Ministers Act, 1952 (58 of 1952) and laid on the Table of the House on 2nd April, 1986."

Shri Srihari Rao.

SHRI SRIHARI RAO (Rajahmundri) :
Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose the Statutory Resolution on Ministers' (Allowances, Medical Treatment and other Privileges) Amendment Rules, 1986 which was laid on the Table of the House on 2nd April, 1986. The decision of the Government to raise the Sumptuary Allowance of the Prime Minister and the Cabinet Ministers from Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,500, and Rs. 1,000 respectively is unfortunate. The Ministers of State and the Deputy Ministers are also proposed to be paid a Sumptuary Allowance of Rs. 500 and Rs. 300 respectively.

Once again this Government has proved, beyond any doubt, that it does not care to follow what it professes. There is no coordination between what it says and what it does. On the one hand it preaches simplicity and economy and on the other it increases the salaries and allowances of its own Ministers.

This House is well aware that there is a ban on recruitment to Government services as a point of its austerity measures. Many of the key appointments and postings have been held up. As a result, many of the programmes and other welfare measures are not reaching the poorest of the poor. Unemployment is a very big problem in our country nowadays. Yet, the Government is refusing to provide employment on the plea that it wants to reduce the Government expenditure. But now the Government is hiking the salaries and other allowances of the Ministers.

The working journalists have been agitating for a long time to revise their wages. Now they are on the war path. Yet this Government does not feel the urgency to revise their wages. The newspapers are not coming daily and sometimes we are not getting any newspaper because the employees there are going on strike. Instead of dealing with urgency

such an important matter, the Government is proposing to increase the salaries and allowances of the Ministers.

In many developing countries, Ministers set an example for others by leading a simple life. In countries like Vietnam, we hear that Ministers go by bicycles. But here, in our country, Ministers are leading a luxurious life. Even then they want higher salaries and allowances. For some time our Ministers make us forget that ours is a land of Mahatma Gandhi. The majority of our countrymen live for below poverty line. Day by day their number is increasing. Much has to be done to remove poverty in the country. But Government wants to increase the sumptuary allowance and salaries and other allowances of the Ministers. The Ministers have got every facility in this country. They get every kind of allowance like the travelling allowance, the medical facilities, free transport and accommodation and what not. Almost everything is free for themselves ! Nowadays the Ministers are modern Gods ! And yet they want more salaries and more allowances. Suppose an ordinary worker demands increase in his wages, the Management will throw him out of his job. This is the situation faced by the ordinary worker. But, our Ministers behave like this. Socialism is our goal. Our Constitution speaks about our socialistic pattern of society. To reach that goal the persons who are in the saddle should set an example by leading a very simple and austere life. They should not waste public money on their luxurious lives. I hope that at least now the Government will realise this truth. I oppose this Resolution which has been moved by the hon. Minister. Thank you.

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the amendment which is sought to be made is really a very procedural and routine one, no doubt. Because, already a Bill has been passed and an Act has been made by this House. This sumptuary allowance of the Prime Minister and other Ministers has been increased. The figures quoted here are very small amounts—Rs. 1500, Rs. 1,000, Rs. 500 and Rs. 300. You have Prime Minister, Cabinet Minister, State Minister and Deputy Minister respectively. Sir, these are very small amounts; we do not grudge them

these amounts. Rather I would say that they can take more than this. But, Sir, what happens in this. This is only the tip of the iceberg, so far as the expenses incurred directly or indirectly on behalf of the Ministers are concerned. The Ministers do not only spend Government money; they also spend money of the public undertakings in the various trips and entertainments either here or abroad. They are spending money from all kinds of sources of which the Parliament never gets any account at all. What the Minister gets by way of salary is nothing. All the money which they receive as salary they can as well deposit in the bank ! They get much more from other sources. That is bad in any parliamentary system. The Minister takes advantage of his position that he can make up his tour programme wherever and whenever he likes. He goes to his constituency every week. Not only this. I know of a particular case where the Minister used to make arrangements for a special train to take him for a distance of little more than 200 miles. A special train used to wait for him, as he used to make his tour programme in such a way. He would say, I cannot leave before 11 O'clock at night. All the other trains would have left before 10 O'clock. At 11 O'clock, a special train will have to take him. We used to get notices of his tour programme. He used to leave only by that special goods train. What does it mean ? The Railway would have to spend 40 or 50 thousands rupees for this purpose to arrange this special train for him. If it had been by ordinary train, then, it would be free. But this special goods train is being arranged for him.
(Interruptions)

Special goods train (Interruptions). Sir, this should be condemned by the House, this should not be condoned by anybody, not by the Prime Minister, not by the Cabinet, not by his colleagues.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY (Katwa) : Why do you bring in the Prime Minister here ?

SHRI AMAL DATTA : I don't bring the Prime Minister...

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Jadavpur) : You please ask your Chief Minister why he has got a lift at his own

[Kumari Mamata Banerjee]

residence through the public money and why he is using the air-conditioned Toyota.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Sir, often they go to their own constituencies by making special occasions, by making tour programmes there. Sir, this is something which should not be tolerated because by spending public money showing that it is an official duty, this is ** the public and then taking the public money by means which is not approved by this Parliament, by this House, or by any of its enactments. Moreover, we find that the public undertakings are always at their back and call. Whichever Minister is in charge of a Department which has a number of public undertakings under him, for instance, there are a lot of Ministers even sitting here who, whenever they go to a particular place, the public undertakings will place all the cars and everything at their disposal and give them red carpet treatment. Is this visualised in this? Why this sumptuary allowance is being given to them? Why this ceiling of Rs. 1500 or Rs. 1000 or Rs. 500 given to them? Because they are supposed to confine their expenditure within this limit, not because they will call upon the public undertakings to incur expenditure on their behalf. I do not say that they say, 'You go on spending money on my behalf', but when they do go, I know and everybody knows that all the public undertakings Chairman or anybody comes there, and places a car for them. Many of the Ministers even go and stay in five-star hotels and all that. This is happening in this country, So, what is the point in this? Is it not a farce this Ministers' Salaries Bill for which this particular amendment is needed? The amount of money which is being spent for Ministers directly or indirectly by the Government, semi-government institutions and others is enormous, is astronomical. Let there be a Committee of Parliament to go into that account, let every public undertaking give an account to the Parliament of how much money they spent for a particular Minister

and let that go to a particular Committee of Parliament. I suggest if you dare to do so, if you have the courage, set up a Committee of Parliament which will go into the expenditure incurred for Ministers' trips, and for them even in Delhi. I know, in Delhi also many Ministers get public undertakings to give parties, to call for meetings and all that and lavishly spend on their behalf. This happens and this should be prohibited and a parliamentary committee should be set up.

Another thing is, when the Ministers go on their official visits, they are welcome to do so. Whichever State they want to go, whether it is ruled by Congress Party or whether it is ruled by Opposition Party, they are welcome to go because they have to look after people all over India, in what condition they are living, what can be done and all that.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : Chief Ministers even go abroad.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : I am not saying that they should not. They should, if occasion arises. If it is necessary they should go abroad. I am not saying anything about that. But when they go to other States, they should not mix up their prerogative as a Minister with their functions or role as a politician. If that happens, this is very bad. This means, again taking advantage of his public position, spending public money, then go and castigate some other State Government or Minister of some other State being politically motivated, Sir, the latest example of that is that of the Prime Minister himself. He went to Karnataka to visit drought affected areas. Sir, it was a nine-hour trip, I admire the Prime Minister for underking an arduous nine-hour trip.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : It is a false allegation, it is not correct. Our Ministers are very much flexible and our Ministers are very much cooperative.

(Interruptions)

**Expunged as ordered by Chair.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Sir, why are you allowing this ?** I am speaking, I am on my legs, I am not yielding. Just sit down.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Why should I sit down ? You cannot do it in your State.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Can you not call her to order ? Sir, why don't you call her to order ? I am making a serious speech and she is shouting.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Order please.

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA
(Tamluk) : Mr. Chirman,**

(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE :**

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Order, order.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : The latest example I was saying was the Prime Minister's visit itself which has created a commotion in the whole nation, when he had gone to see the condition of the people who were stricken by drought, not only this year but three years successively. Their condition is pitiable. Rather than doing something for them, he said that the Chief Minister, who happen to belong to another Party, should resign. The Chief Minister was in his sick bed. And he made a courtesy call and then he made a statement in the Press Conference that the Chief Minister should resign. This is the negation of federalism; this is the negation of parliamentary democracy; and for a person in such high place as the Prime Minister, it is most unseemly for him to have done this kind of thing. It should be remembered...

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : I have objection. It is not correct.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : It is not only the Prime Minister but no Minister should

do that. No Minister should go there and criticise the State. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Order, order. Don't interrupt when an hon. Member is speaking.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : There is an accountability of the Department to Parliament. When we discuss the grants of a particular Department, we see whether they are doing the work properly or not and to a very large outline this discussion is carried out. But so far as the Ministers are concerned, I think, this should be the proper method that there should be a proper accounting of whatever expenditure that is incurred for and behalf of the Ministers directly or indirectly and a Committee of Parliament must go into that.

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR) : When you come at my residence and when I give you tea...

SHRI AMAL DATTA : That comes under sumptuary allowance.

SHRI P. NAMGYAL (Ladakh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the statutory resolution moved by the hon. Minister.

I feel that even in this case, particularly in the case of Deputy Ministers and Ministers of State—sumptuary allowance of Rs. 300 in the case of Deputy Ministers and Rs. 500 in the case of Minister of State—it is too meagre. I feel that in view of the high cost of living and price rise, the expenditure is bound to go up.

Though the amount proposed in the resloution is too little I support it. But one thing, I fail to understand from my hon. friend on the other side is, he had just said about the expenditure incurred by the Ministers, and so on. I would like to know, for instance, when his Chief Minister goes to Soviet Russia or China or other place, can

**Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[Shri P. Namgyal]

you tell me how does he travel? From where he gets the money?

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Don't ask question. You address the chair and restrict yourself to the resolution.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY (Buxar) : All of the money comes for CPI and CPM, tonnes of money, they get. They get tonnes of money from foreign source. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Order, order. Kindly address the chair and restrict yourself to the resolution.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : Including philosophy and ideology, everything is foreign about you.

SHRI P. NAMGYAL : If he is a true Communist or a true Marxist, he should give up travelling in his Ambassador car and use bicycle, It is a criticism without any foundation.

I support the resolution.

With these few words, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

[*Translation*]

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY (Hanamkonda) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to raise two-three points. I do not want to go in details. When Railway accident took place in Kerala, our hon. Railway Minister was witnessing a cricket match at Gwalior. A helicopter was sent to take the hon. Minister to the site of accident but he refused to travel in helicopter. As the permission of the Prime Minister was necessary to send a special aeroplane which caused delay and as a result of it the hon. Minister could reach the site of the accident at about 3.30 or 4 a.m. on the next day. In spite of the heavy expenditure incurred, the Minister could not reach there in time. The accident occurred on the previous day. The hon. Minister should look into all the problems of the railways and whenever there is any serious problem, he should im-

mediately visit the site. It should not happen that the Minister reaches the site the next day. What I mean to say is that we should take the serious problems seriously. The special plane is available to the Minister whereas we have to face so many problems. Sometimes the planes are late from their scheduled time. Whenever such accident occurs, the Minister should immediately reach the site and some preventive measures should be taken.

Sometimes we write to the Ministers but they do not take our letters seriously and send stereotyped replies to our letters. The Government officials either acknowledge the letter or send a ready-made reply. All the replies received by us are stereotyped. It seems that whatever the reply is prepared by the Ministry or the department is simply signed by the Minister and sent to us. We are the Members of the Lok Sabha. Our letters should be carefully looked into. Distinction should be made between the MPs and the bureaucrats. Ministers should give due thought to our letters.

I would like to cite an example. An employee of All India Radio had written a letter three years back for termination of his lien. Even after a lapse of three years, his lien was not terminated. When I went there I was asked to address a letter to the Minister. Then they would dispose of my letter. The concerned person has been writing for the last three years but his lien has not been terminated as yet.

[*English*]

AN HON. MEMBER : I am on a point of order. I am unable to understand the hon. Member's speech and on which subject he is speaking.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no point of order if you do not understand.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : I am speaking on the Ministers Allowances Rules.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : The Allowance of Ministers should be cut, if they do not reply to letters.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : What I mean to say is that the Ministers should

consider our letters carefully. We write to the different Ministers but we get almost similar replies from all the ministries. I wrote a letter to the Defence Ministry regarding setting up of an Ordnance factory in Andhra Pradesh. I received a reply stating that there was no proposal to set up an ordnance factory in Andhra Pradesh during the Seventh Five year Plan. And when I asked a similar question in Lok Sabha, I was told that an arrangement was being made to set up an Ordnance Factory in Andhra Pradesh. What I want is that whenever we write any letter, we should get some satisfactory reply. The Ministers try to shield the mistakes of their subordinates. We approach you when your officers fail to solve our problems. You must be convinced. You have sufficient staff such as Private Secretary, Addl. Secretary but even then, to our dismay, our problems are not looked into. Therefore, I request the Minister to use his powers for the benefit of the people. I had asked a question about electricity charges, water charges and house rent outstanding against the Members and the details about these had appeared in the newspapers. We feel sorry when such things are published in the papers but when a question is asked then the details appear in the newspapers as well. The government is to receive the money and it is to be paid to the Delhi Development Corporation. But it really pains us to see things appearing in the newspapers. Attention should be paid to this matter, That all that I want to say.

16.01 hrs.

DISCUSSION RE : INCREASING AND
RECURRING LOSSES IN COAL
INDIA LIMITED

[English]

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY (Visakhapatnam) : I raise this discussion on the increasing and recurring losses in Coal India Limited. Year after year we find the losses are not only increasing but are bound to increase for ever. The Minister, in his own reply, tried to clarify the position, but, then

never offered any positive solution which would ultimately help to reduce the losses and help the industry to arrive at a break-even position. Hence the discussion has become necessary.

Ever since the nationalisation of the coal mines in the year 1973 we made very huge investments to the tune of about Rs. 5000 crores so far. Not only that, year after year we are also making very huge capital expenditure.

16.02 hrs.

[SHRI SOMNATH RATH *in the Chair.*]

For instance, in the year 1982-83 about Rs. 740 crores were spent on capital expenditure in CIL. In 1983-84 about Rs. 831 crores were spent. In 1984-85, Rs. 834 crores were spent. Only last year about 16 coal projects estimated to cost about Rs. 1000 crores were sanctioned. That is the order in which we are making commitments in this front.

In Coal India a number of mining projects were sanctioned. 175 of them are at various stages of construction. The sanctioned capital for them is Rs. 5540 crores. Of course, 47 of them have been completed. So, this is the magnitude of the expenditure which we are incurring on the coal industry. That being so, we are naturally interested in examining what are the returns we are getting and what is the performance of this industry? What is the net out come? If I take Coal India Ltd., in the year 1982-83 the losses were Rs. 127 crores. In the earlier year it was only Rs. 5.34 crores. In 1983-84 it went upto Rs. 246.68 crores. In the year 1984-85 it was Rs. 78 crores. In the year 1985-86 the estimated or projected loss is of the order of Rs. 364 crores. So this is a continuing phenomenon. This is an ever-recurring phenomenon. The Minister has tried to justify the increase in the administered prices of coal on the ground that the losses have got to be offset. The price increase is warranted to effectively reduce quantum of losses incurred currently by the Coal Industry which was traced to the escalation in cost of production etc. etc. But for this recent increase in prices, what would have been