

about which some thinking has to be done properly. We will be thinking about it. But principally, I do not have any objection.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That this House approves the Proclamation issued by the President on the 18th October, 1995 under article 356 of the Constitution in relation to the State of Uttar Pradesh."

*The motion was adopted.*

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : I am on a point of order. Yesterday the Minister of Coal made a statement on the coal mines disaster at Geslitand in the other House. That statement has not been made in this House.

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA) : We have to proceed in this House according to the business listed in the Order Paper.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : I am raising a point of order. Why are you intervening. My point or order is for listening. The Minister of Coal had made a statement on the Coal Mines disaster in the other House yesterday. But he did not make the statement here in this House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : As per the schedule the statement is going to be made tomorrow.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Why tomorrow? Why should we wait till tomorrow?

17.32½ hrs.

RESOLUTION RE : APPROVAL OF DRAFT  
MINISTERS' (ALLOWANCES, MEDICAL  
TREATMENT AND OTHER PRIVILEGES)  
AMENDMENT RULES

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN) : I beg to move :

"That this House approves the Draft Ministers' (Allowances, Medical Treatment and other Privileges) Amendment Rules, 1995 framed under sub-section (i) of Section II of the Salaries and Allowances of Ministers Act, 1952 (58 of 1952) and laid on the Table of House on 23.3.1995."

17.33 hrs.

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the chair*]

This is a small Resolution which in fact, contemplates that the differences between the allowances which the Ministers of State and the Cabinet Ministers get be removed. They are getting what even less than the Deputy Ministers and the Secretaries of the Ministry. Now the Amendment which is being sought is to bring at par what are the allowances which are paid to the Secretary should also be paid to all the three. There are no Deputy Ministers left now. They are only Ministers of State and the Cabinet Ministers. They should be entitled to the same kind of allowances which, in fact, the Secretary of the Department is entitled to. This kind of discrepancy is proposed to be removed by this Resolution, I expect the House to pass this Resolution.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved :

"That this House approves the draft Ministers' (Allowance, Medical Treatment and other Privileges) Amendment Rules, 1995 framed under sub-section (i) of Section II of the Salaries and Allowances of Ministers Act, 1952 (58 of 1952) and laid on the Table of the House on 23.3.1995."

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh) : I appreciate the Hon. Minister's intent behind this otherwise largely innocuous piece of legislative work. If the hon. Minister would refer to the Clauses (c) and (d) of the Rules 3 and 4, this is precisely the area where my objection lies. I do not know if the hon. Members of the Cabinet have for whose benefit this Resolution is before us have had the time to read it.

In point number (3), it was earlier Rs. 30 and now you say, it will be the same as that of the Secretary. My objection is not to the amount, my objection is to equating the Minister of the Cabinet or the Government of India with a civil servant. I object to it, You can pass it, but please listen to me. You might say that there are academic or audit or other requirements. But what do we equate a Minister to? I am sure the drafting skill of the Government could have found a happier phraseology. I find it highly objectionable that the Government should come forward and say that they will give to their Ministers that which they give to their Secretaries. If they are happy with it, it still leaves me unhappy.

The point number (4) says that earlier it was Rs. 15 — it is something like Rs. fifteen, if you look at the fourth point — we shall give our Ministers half of what our Secretaries are entitled to. By all means, go through with this formality but please reflect upon it seriously. I appeal to it at least those who

adorn the Ministerial Benches. Are you happy with what is being done to you?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): I am not unhappy.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I have done, Sir. I have said what I had to say.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North) : Sir, I think Hon. Jaswant Singhji has raised a very vital point and in the interest of Parliamentary etiquette and decorum, I would only request the hon. Home Minister just not to press it for voting at this stage. Keep it pending, keep it in abeyance, have a better wording tomorrow or day after tomorrow and then it can be passed. Otherwise it would look very ridiculous that the Ministers are being compared with the Secretaries. I think you can withhold it for a day and amend it and come tomorrow. That is my suggestion.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN : Sir, I quite appreciate the point which the hon. Member, Shri Jaswant Singhji has raised that the working should have been better. But now, for matters of getting the kind of allowances, if instead of using the word 'Secretaries' some other word could have been used, it would have been better. But I do not think that there is any room for postponing this. I shall request that this may be passed.

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI (Contai) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister has already said that the draft Resolution seeks to enhance the medical privileges to the hon. Ministers and he has also said that the draft Resolution seeks to bring the privileges at par with those of the topmost Government servants. I do not know why such a step is being taken. The Ministers are definitely not Government servants in the sense that they have not adopted the jobs in expectation of allurements. They have come in this field to serve the interests of the people. By people I mean those people who need Government assistance and cooperation for their survival and livelihood.

I know those people are deprived of the basic necessities. So if the Ministers do not get their amenities increased, it would be good for the country. Those deprived people at least expect that their elected representatives would undertake those sufferings as they are undergoing.

But as far as I know, many of the present Ministers are accused of lacking in morality which we value so much in the public life. So we shall not be able, I think, to succeed in persuading them to refrain from taking those increased amenities. However, neither I support the Bill nor do I oppose the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That this House approves the draft Ministers' (Allowances, Medical Treatment and other Privileges) Amendment Rules, 1995 framed under sub-section (1) of Section II of the Salaries and Allowances of Ministers Act, 1952 (58 of 1952) and laid on the Table of the House on 23.3.1995."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. CHAIRMAN : We shall now go to the next item. Shri Ram Naik.

SHRI RAM NAIK : I am on a point of order. I am raising an objection on a point of order on this Ordinance and this Bill which is supposed to be taken up now. This particular Bill, the Depositories Bill, 1995 was introduced in the Lok Sabha only yesterday, that is, on the 28th November. And for giving amendments to any Bill, a minimum period of two day's notice is required. I request your reference to page 40, para 79 of the rules. Rule 79 (1) says :

"If notice of an amendment to a clause or schedule of the Bill has not been given one day before that day on which the Bill is to be considered any member may object to the moving of the amendment, and such objection shall prevail, unless the Speaker allows the amendment to be moved."

Briefly the point is that a minimum of two day's notice is required to be given for moving an amendment. Since the Bill was introduced yesterday, we could not move the amendment. And from that point of view, this Bill cannot be taken into consideration today. It can be taken into consideration tomorrow and the sense of the House should be taken into consideration.

Secondly, this is a sort of an appeal to you that this matter should also be considered. We have done sufficient work today. Therefore, I would request to you that the minimum period for moving an amendment should be given to us and the Bill should be taken up for consideration tomorrow.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : It is not a matter of rules. But my objection is a very serious one. I got the copy of this Bill today through my envelope. One has to go through it otherwise how does one participate. Therefore, our earnest request to you is that we are now approaching 6.00 p.m. Since this came in the form of an Ordinance, the Bill has to replace it. There are Bills to other Ordinances which have been circulated. What should have been done is to take those Bills first and then to take this Bill. I think, the Minister