

12.53 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:--

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on the 12th December, 1978, agreed without any amendment to the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 1978, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 29th November, 1978."

12.54 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTION

TWENTY-SIXTH REPORT

SHRI PABITRA MOHAN PRAHDAN (Deogarh): I beg to present the Twenty-sixth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

COMMITTEE ON SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION

FOURTEENTH REPORT

KM. MANIBEN VALLABHBHAI PATEL (Mehsana): I beg to present the Fourteenth Report of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation.

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES

THIRD REPORT

SHRI YAGYA DATT SHARMA (Gurdaspur): I beg to present the Third Report of the Committee on Government Assurances.

PETITION re. CONVERSION OF NARROW-GAUGE LATUR-MIRAG RAILWAY LINE IN MAHARASHTRA INTO A BROAD-GAUGE LINE

SHRI R. K. MHALGI (Thana): I beg to present a petition signed by Shri P. K. Ghalaai and others regarding conversion of narrow-gauge Latur-Mirag railway line in Maharashtra into a broad-gauge line.

12.56 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business in this House during the week commencing 18th December, 1978, will consist of:—

(1) Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.

(2) Further consideration of the Motion moved by the Prime Minister on the Third Report of the Committee on Privileges on Monday, the 18th December, 1978.

(3) Discussion and voting on:

(a) Demands for Excess Grants (Railways) for 1976-77.

(b) Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for 1978-79.

(c) Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 1978-79.

(4) Consideration and passing of:

(a) The Coconut Development Board Bill, 1978.

(b) The Copra Cess Bill, 1978.

(c) The Anti Apartheid (United Nations Convention) Bill, 1978.

[Shri Ravindra Varma]

(5) Discussion on the present international situation and the policy of the Government of India in relation thereto on a motion to be moved by Shri Y. B. Chavan.

(6) Discussion on modernisation of defence equipment and organisation on a motion to be moved by Shri Rudolph Rodrigues and Shri Yadvendra Dutt.

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR (Gandhinagar): I want to invite the attention of the House to two matters which have been agitating me and I am sure many Members and particularly the public of this country. I realise that Government are far behind with their legislative programme, and I suppose next week is the only week left of the current session. I do not know whether Government have any plans to extend the session beyond the 22nd, I hope not, because we have various engagements, and there are conferences of various types to be held in the country. Therefore, with only one week left, Government already have a programme of Government business as well as various other motions and resolutions. I do not want them to add more Bills for discussion next week, but least, with your permission, I want the Minister to come to this House next week with an assurance with regard to two matters which have been pending before this hon. House for more than one year, especially since the Janata Party Government came to power. I refer to two legislative measures. One is the Anti-Defections Bill brought before the House last session, which met with its deserved death, that was good, but that does not mean that the idea of anti-defection...

MR. SPEAKER: It is a question of raising an objection, not a speech.

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: My point is that the Government should have at least given some indication of their intention to bring forward the Anti-Defections Bill in this session. I

demand a clarification from the Government all the more because of the continued fluid political situation, when I find defections taking place again and again. Because I do not want them to take place, I want the Government to come to a decision and give an assurance that the Anti-Defections Bill will come before the House as early as possible.

Secondly, there was one Bill which became an Act during Emergency Parliament—it was not an Emergency Parliament but a captive Parliament—which gave pension to former Members of Parliament...

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Chirayinkil): There is nothing wrong in it; it is a good Act. The hon. Member is making a fetish of it; he is a very rich person; he has not become a noble man coming from heaven. (Interruptions) /

MR. SPEAKER: I am not interested either way; I do not get a pension.

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: I am demanding for that Bill to do away with the pension to former Members of Parliament. When that Bill comes before the House, Mr. Vayalar Ravi and others can oppose it and, if the majority oppose it, it can be rejected. That is a different thing. But I have a right to say...

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: He is maligning the Members of Parliament.

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: Lakhs and lakhs of people in the country go without even a pittance of pension after rendering a long service in their respective jobs. The pension to former Members of Parliament is wrong in principle, wrong in merit and wrong in ethics. That is why I want the Government to come forward with that Bill.

I am agitated on this point all the more because I get the support from no less a man than the hon. Prime

Minister, the Leader of the Janata Party, who has gone publicly—I have seen press reports—in support of the repeal of the pension to former Members of Parliament. I can understand allowances being given to Members of Parliament when they retire in old age. Some such provision can be made. But outright pension to the former Members of Parliament is wrong in principle especially when lakhs and lakhs of our people in the country go without even a pittance of a pension after serving the country for 30 to 40 years and the people who are in defence and other services are getting a pension of Rs. 5 or Rs. 10 or Rs. 20 or Rs. 50 or Rs. 100 only. But we Members of Parliament get, on retirement, pension even at a young age! That is wrong in principle. That is why I want the Government to come forward with that Bill at an early date.

13 hrs.

[Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair].

डा० रामजी सिंह (भागलपुर) : माननीय उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, माननीय मावलकर साहब ने मेरा बहुत-सा भार हल्का कर दिया है। जो दो बिल बहुत आवश्यक हैं और जिन के कारण अनंतर भ्रष्टव्य हो रहा है और रोज भ्रष्टव्य हो रहा है यहां माने बहुत आवश्यक हैं। ये दो बिल हैं दल-बदल बिल और लोकपाल बिल। दल बदल बिल तो इसी सत्र में लाया जाना चाहिए था और लोकपाल बिल कहां है उसका पता ही नहीं है। उस के सम्बन्ध में कुछ भी अभी तक नहीं हुआ है। हमारे संसदीय संजी बहुत सी छोटा-छोटी चीजें साते रहे हैं। ये जो दो महत्वपूर्ण विधेयक हैं इन पर कोई विचार नहीं हो रहा है।

शिक्षा के सम्बन्ध में भी विचित्र तरह की चर्चा होती रहती है। हमारी राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति क्या है इस के सम्बन्ध में भी कोई चर्चा यहां नहीं हो रही है। यह भी बहुत महत्वपूर्ण विषय है। लोकपाल और दल-बदल बिलों को यहां भी प्रस्तुत किया जाना चाहिए और शिक्षा के विषय पर, खास कर पब्लिक स्कूलों को समाप्त करने के सम्बन्ध में भी यहां बहस होनी चाहिए।

SHRI A. K. ROY (Dhanbad) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, yesterday we were supposed to debate on the Third Report of the Privileges Committee. After that, when we saw that it was not included in today's agenda, we were not knowing when it will be

taken up. Just now, we are hearing from the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs that it would be taken up on Monday.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, you know and we also know that it has been the practice that whatever the thing may be, it must first be declared or brought up in the House itself. We do not know when it would be taken up, but in today's newspapers we have seen that it would be taken up on Monday. I would like to know how the Business Advisory Committee's report or decisions went to the newspapers before it has been revealed in the House itself.

The second point is that I would like to give my opinion. . .

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is not an occasion for giving your opinion: you can suggest some business for next week.

SHRI A. K. ROY: I propose that, instead of taking up the debate on the Privileges Committee's report on day, it should be taken up on Tuesday because we have to go to our constituencies and consult our people about the decision. In view of the various and changing Motions—you have seen that the Motions of our Prime Minister and various other Members are changing every day—the House is bewildered and the people are also bewildered. So, we must go to the people and take their opinion and come back. That cannot be done by Monday: so I propose that it should be taken up on Tuesday. We fear that all we people who have submitted our substitute Motions would be substituted and, also, that we will not be allowed to speak, because of your authoritarian rule, in the House itself.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You have already made your point.

SHRI A. K. ROY: I would like to ask what has happened about the Industrial Relations Bill. Last time it was said that on the last day of the first week of December the Select Committee would give its Report but,

[Shri A. K. Roy]
after that, there has been a lot of agitation against the Bill itself. We would like to be enlightened on that by the Minister for Parliamentary or un-Parliamentary Affairs. We must know what has happened to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Which Minister, do you want, should enlighten you—Parliamentary Affairs or Un-Parliamentary Affairs? There is no such Minister.

SHRI A. K. ROY: I would like to know whether the Report has been given and whether the entire Bill has been scrapped or we will know about the Reports of the Select Committee. We would like to know the exact position about the Industrial Relations Bill.

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: I must say that I am happy that my Hon. friend Mr. Mavalankar did not allow this Session to end without breaking his duck.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There is still one week to go.

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: But on Friday next he cannot make this statement. Throughout the weeks that have passed, he has been silent and, therefore, I was wondering whether he will let the Session end without breaking his duck. I am happy that he has broken his duck to-day and I hope it augurs well for the Indian team in Bangalore.

He has raised two very important points which are always fresh in his mind, one about the Bill to ban defections, and the other about pension for ex-Members of Parliament. On the Anti-Defections Bill the Hon. Member said that it died a deserved death. The Hon. Member is a person with very liberal views: so I am not sure what his views on the question of capital punishment are. I do not know whether, in this case...

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: I am against it.

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: In that case, I do not know whether inanimate objects deserve capital punishment in his view, and his mercy is

reserved only for animate objects. In any case I would say that I had used an opportunity, earlier in this Session, to say that the Government is keen and in no way has its resolve to introduce a Bill to ban defections been diluted by the experience it had in the House last time. But it has not been possible...

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA (Seranpore): When will you act? Will you wait till the process of defection is complete?

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: I hope my distinguished friend is not waiting for anything to complete the process of defection. I am sure he is not one of those who is offering inducements to others to defect to his ranks; therefore he has a philosophical unconcern, which he is hiding behind his words. But the process could not be completed during the Session. The Bill, in a revised form, will certainly be introduced.

On the question of pensions, the difference in views among Members were evident even here. It has not been possible for us to bring forward any Bill in this regard because, as we have stated earlier, we are in the process of consulting the leaders of the Opposition parties as well, before coming to a conclusion.

My hon. friend, Dr. Ramji Singh, referred partly to what my hon. friend, Prof. Mavalankar, referred, and he also talked about the educational policy and the Lokpal Bill. As far as the Lokpal Bill is concerned, I am sure, hon. Member knows that the Select Committee has presented its report. It was hoped that we would find time to discuss the Bill; till the last week we were hoping so, but at the last meeting of the Business Advisory Committee we found that it was not possible to find time for it in this Session.

My hon. and good friend, Mr. A. K. Roy, who is obsessed not only with Parliamentary affairs but unparliamentary affairs as well, gave the House the benefit of his views...

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA: I think, he meant somebody. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: I was saying, he was obsessed not only with Parliamentary affairs but unparliamentary affairs as well. I do not know whether the hon. Member is opting for his company.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not know who the Minister for unparliamentary affairs is because I am not aware of any such Minister.

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: It only shows the obsession of the hon. Member with unparliamentary affairs.

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN (Coimbatore): You pick up any one who is sitting on that side.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will have to define what these unparliamentary affairs are.

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: The unparliamentary aspect of this matter is that the hon. Member unfortunately is not on this side. That is unparliamentary.

He referred to the BAC Report...

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: Unfortunate for whom?

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: I do not know. Fortune always smiles on the fair.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH (Hoshangabad): Fortune favours the brave.

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: I shall not ignore you, Right Hon. Gentleman from Hoshangabad. I know that both the caps fit you—fair as well as brave.

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: But the red turban fits only one.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not provoke him.

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: The hon. Member is obsessed with the unique.

There was no question of the BAC report not being laid before the House first before its finding its way to the press.

My hon. friend suggested that Tuesday would be a better date to consider the motion which the Prime Minister has moved on the Third Report of the Privileges Committee, and that he would get more time to consult his voters as well as his conscience in that case. But this has been, as you know, decided in consultation with the Speaker.

Now I come to the last point that he referred to, namely, the Industrial Relations Bill. The hon. Member as well as this House knows that this House has passed a motion referring the Bill to a Joint Select Committee. The Joint Select Committee has not yet been fully constituted because the other House has not considered the motion of concurrence.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH: I hope, the Session will not be extended.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He cannot, evidently, give that assurance now.

13.10 hrs

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) REPORTED FIRING IN DEOGARH TOWN OF SAMBALPUR DISTRICT, ORISSA AND ITS NEWS BROADCAST IN ORIYA BULLETIN OF AKASHVANI

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now we take up matters under Rule 377. Mr. Pabitra Mohan Pradhan.

SHRI PABITRA MOHAN PRADHAN (Deogarh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the 7th instant there has been a firing at Deogarh town, Sambalpur District, Orissa, which falls in my constituency. The news of death