

"This House having considered the present international situation and the policy of the Government of India in relation thereto, urges upon the Government to restructure the foreign policy giving primacy to friendship with neighbours and to equidistance from the two super powers."

*The motion was negatived.*

20:34 hrs.

### DOWRY PROHIBITION (AMENDMENT) BILL\*\*

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): On behalf of Shri Jagannath Kaushal, I would like to submit, the House has been understandably concerned about the evil consequences of dowry menace. During the last Session Parliament amended the Indian Penal Code, Criminal Procedure Code and the Evidence Act for dealing with the cases of Dowry harassment and cruelty to married women.

The present Bill seeks to amend the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, to give effect to a number of recommendations of the Joint Committee of the Houses which had examined the question of the working of the Act. Government also proposes to undertake very shortly other measures to give effect to some of the remaining recommendations of the Committee including the setting up of family courts. It is also proposed to bring forward legislation for making certain other amendments to the Criminal Law including the Evidence Act for dealing with the evil practice of dowry.

With these words, I beg leave of the House to introduce a Bill to amend the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): Sir, it is a most disappointing Bill. It is a mockery.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961".

*The motion was adopted*

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR: Sir I introduce the Bill.

20:37 hrs.

### PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

#### Notifications under Central Excise Rules, 1944

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN  
THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE  
(SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY):

I beg to lay on the table—

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under the Central Excise Rules, 1944:—

(i) Notification No. 107/84-CE published in Gazette of India dated the 9th May, 1984 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding effective rate of basic excise duty on EC

\*\* Published in Gazette of India Extra-ordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 9.5.1984.