

12.37 hrs.

DELHI ADMINISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (CHAUDHURI CHARAN SINGH): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Delhi Administration Act, 1966.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Delhi Administration Act, 1966."

The motion was adopted.

CHAUDHURI CHARAN SINGH: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

STATEMENT RE. DELHI ADMINISTRATION (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (CHAUDHURI CHARAN SINGH): With your permission again I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) giving reasons for immediate legislation by the Delhi Administration (Amendment) Ordinance, 1977.

12.39 hrs.

DISPUTED ELECTIONS (PRIME MINISTER AND SPEAKER) BILL*

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for authorities to deal with disputed elections to Parliament in the case of Prime Minister and Speaker of the House of the People and for matters connected therewith.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for Authorities to deal with disputed elections to Parliament in the case of Prime Minister and Speaker of the House of the People and for matters connected therewith."

I have received notice from three Members and I will allow those three Members to speak.

SHRI SHYAMANANDAN MISRA (Begusarai): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am rising to express certain doubts and misgivings about this measure. And if the hon. Law Minister succeeds in removing those doubts and misgivings, I will not finally oppose this motion. But at the moment the position is that it seems to me quite obvious that this measure is contrary to the spirit of Article 14 of the Constitution which provides for equality before law. At the same time I am not able to understand why the present Government should be as keen as the previous government was that a Member when he or she becomes the Prime Minister he or she should be considered as a different animal to be treated in a different kind of zoo. That is the position which is, frankly speaking, not very clear to me. That the present government should subscribe to that principle, as did the earlier government, is on the face of it strange. I have no doubt, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, that my government is as much committed to the salutary principle of equality before law as any one of the members of the party is. At the same time, I realise that they have certain difficulties to contend with at the present moment which they may not have in the future. But I venture to think that there could be some other alternatives before the government. It is also quite clear—it does not require any reiteration to the hon. Law Minister—that our election manifesto states

*Published in Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, section 2, dated 5.4.77.