

12.36 hrs.

RESIGNATION BY MEMBERS

MR. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that on the 24th December, 1977 I received a letter from Shri Karpoori Thakur, an elected Member from 'Samastipur' constituency of Bihar, resigning his seat in Lok Sabha. I accepted his resignation with effect, from the 24th December, 1977.

I have also to inform the House that a letter was received in Lok Sabha Secretariat on 6th January, 1978 from Shri Y. Shaiza, an elected Member from 'Outer Manipur' constituency of Manipur, resigning his seat in Lok Sabha. I accept his resignation with effect from the 6th January, 1978.

LOKPAL BILL

EXTENSION OF TIME FOR PRESENTATION OF REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEE

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA (Delhi-Sadar): I beg to move:

"That this House do further extend upon the last day of the first week of the Monsoon Session (1978), the time for presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Bill to provide for the appointment of a Lokpal to inquire into allegations of misconduct against public men and for matters connected therewith."

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA (Serampore): How many times, will it be extended?

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: (Cannanore): When this Bill was introduced in this House the hon. Home Minister was so keen and it appeared that he wanted to get it pas-

sed right then at that time. After a lot of persuasion he accepted that it should be sent to a Joint Select Committee. But he made it very clear that he was very keen to fight corruption and corruption in high places.

I think this is the third time that Shri Kanwar Lal Gupta is coming for extension. Now the point is: are they keen to pass this Bill?

MR. SPEAKER: What is your suggestion?

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: My suggestion is that they should not have come forward for extension.

You are a custodian of the House. We can extend it provided this is the last extension which they are asking for. By extending it, we cannot give extension to corruption un-limitedly.

I am requesting you that you make it sure that this is the last extension that they might be asking for.

SHRI P. K. DEO (Kalahandi): I beg to move:

That in the motion—

for "first week of the 'Monsoon Session (1978)".

substitute—

"present Budget Session".

In this regard I would like to point out that as early as 1966 the urgency of the establishment of an institution like the Ombudsman or the Lokpal has been highlighted by the Administrative Reforms Commission headed by not less a person than the Prime Minister Shri Morarji Desai. Since that time this House has been seized of this Bill in various stages, either as a Private Member's Bill or as a Government Bill. Every time the Government has been dilly-dallying with it. Sir, I don't doubt the bonafides or the seriousness of the Joint Committee which has been looking into it. But I would like to point