

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): All of us who are on this side wish to congratulate the Prime Minister on this bold step that she has taken.

11.07 hrs.

HIGH COURT JUDGES (CONDITIONS OF SERVICE) AMENDMENT BILL, 1975

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE): I beg to move for leave to withdraw a Bill further to amend the High Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Act, 1954.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to withdraw a Bill further to amend the High Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Act, 1954."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI H. R. GOKHALE: Sir, I withdraw the Bill.

SUPREME COURT JUDGES (CONDITIONS OF SERVICE) AMENDMENT BILL, 1975.

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE): I beg to move for leave to withdraw a Bill further to amend the Supreme Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Act, 1958.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to withdraw a Bill further to amend the Supreme Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Act, 1958."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI H. R. GOKHALE: Sir, I withdraw the Bill.

11.09 hrs.

HIGH COURT JUDGES (CONDITIONS OF SERVICE) AMENDMENT BILL* 1976

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the High Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Act, 1954.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the High Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Act, 1954."

Mr. S. M. Banerjee.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): My opposition to this Bill is not with a view to undermining the position of the High Court or Supreme Court judges. I have got the greatest regards for them and I want that their service conditions should be improved because that should attract the talented persons in the Bar and we may have good judges in our country. My main objection is this. At a time when every one in this country, including the Central Government employees and workers, has been asked not to demand any more benefits, higher wages or higher bonus, these judges are being given conveyance allowance at the rate of Rs. 300/- per month and a sumptuary allowance at the rate of Rs. 300 to Rs. 500 per month; in addition to these, pension is also going to be raised and after retirement, they will be given medical facilities like Class I government officers. I am not against these things. I am only against discrimination. When, in this House, I raised the question of poor pensioners who are languishing in pain and who wanted four instalments of dearness allowances to be given to them because they were getting a pension of Rs. 30 or 40 or 50 per month and they were unable to live on that, and when I also demanded that the Central Government employees should be paid the sixth instalment of dearness

allowance, my hon. friend and respected sister, Shrimati Sushila Rohtagi told me that they would have to take a decision taking into account the overall economic picture of the country. When it is a question of poor pensioners or Central Government employees, the overall economic picture of the country is shown to us, but immediately after a few days, the High Court judges and Supreme Court judges are given these allowances and facilities.

MR. SPEAKER: Do not go into the merits at this stage.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: I am not going into the merits. My objection is mainly against discrimination. In our Constitution it is said that there should be no discrimination between one employee and another employee, between one person and another person, between one citizen and another citizen, whether it is Supreme Court judge or a poor pensioner. I wanted to utilise this opportunity to highlight the problem and appeal to the Minister that, while these facilities should be granted to the High Court and Supreme Court judges, the cause of the poor pensioners and of the Central Government employees should also be considered sympathetically.

SHRI H. R. GOKHALE: The hon. Member has not really opposed this Bill. Ever since the Constitution came, there has been no increase, whatsoever, in the emoluments of the Supreme Court and High Court judges. This is the first time that some marginal benefits are being proposed.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: You may convey my feelings to the Finance Ministry.

SHRI H. R. GOKHALE: Since the hon. Member has spoken in the House, it will be conveyed.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the High Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Act, 1954."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI H. R. GOKHALE: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

11.14 hrs.

SUPREME COURT JUDGES (CONDITIONS OF SERVICE) AMENDMENT BILL,* 1976

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Supreme Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Act, 1958.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Supreme Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Act, 1958."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI H. R. GOKHALE: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

HIGH COURT AT NATNA (ESTABLISHMENT OF A PERMANENT BENCH AT RANCHI) BILL*

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a permanent bench of the High Court at Patna at Ranchi.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a permanent bench of the High Court at Patna at Ranchi."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI H. GOKHALE: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

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†Introduced with the recommendation of the President.