

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Are we going to change our traditional attitude and linkage with sterling? That is what I asked.

SHRI C. SHIBRAMANIAM : This question has been gone into fully and we have been advised that the present system is the best under the circumstances, namely, to have link with sterling. Of course, there could be different views with regard to this. The question is whether we can operate in an independent manner, without having link with any other currency, with Sterling, or Dollar or German Mark, etc. We are continuously assessing the international monetary system and if at any particular juncture a different decision has got to be taken, we will not hesitate to do it. But we have been advised by the exports that under the present circumstances this is the best that we can do and this is going on all right.

12.58 hrs.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON OFFICES OF PROFIT

TWELFTH REPORT

SHRI PATTABHI RAMA RAO (Rajamundry) : I beg to present the Twelfth Report of the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit.

TAXATION LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL

(i) Report of Select Committee

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE (Betul) : I beg to present the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Income-tax Act, 1961, the Wealth-Tax Act, 1957, the Gift-tax Act, 1958 and the Companies (Profits) Surtax Act, 1964.

(ii) EVIDENCE

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE : I beg to lay on the Table the record of the evidence

tendered before the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Income-tax Act, 1961, the Wealth tax Act, 1957, the Gift-tax Act, 1958 and the Companies (Profits) Surtax Act, 1964.

13 hrs.

CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE (AMENDMENT) BILL

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO JOINT COMMITTEE

SHRI LILADHAR KOTOKI (Nowgong) : I beg to move the following:

"That this House do appoint Shri C. M. Stephen to the Joint Committee on the Bill further to amend the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, and the Limitation Act, 1963, in the vacancy caused by the death of Shri Debendra Nath Mahata."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That this House do appoint Shri C. M. Stephen to the Joint Committee on the Bill further to amend the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, and the Limitation Act, 1963, in the vacancy caused by the death of Shri Debendra Nath Mahata."

The motion was adopted.

MATTER UNDER RULE 377

PAYMENT OF EX-GRATIA COMPENSATION FOR PROPERTIES OF INDIANS IN PAKISTAN AND FORMER EAST PAKISTAN.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contai.) : Sir, through you I want to draw the attention of the Minister of Commerce to an urgent problem in regard to the *ex-gratia* compensation about the enemy properties of the Indians citizens in West Pakista nand former East Pakistan. If the issue is not cleared by 31st March rupees three crores will go to the Consolidated Fund. Since 1971—1974 about Rs. 12 crores were allocated in each year's budget for payment of *ex-gratia* compensation to the claimants of their properties

in both West Pakistan and former East Pakistan. The Government of India announced a policy in 1971 that those people who had claims of having left property in West Pakistan and former East Pakistan they will be given 25 per cent *ex-gratia* payment in regard to the total value of their assets. After 1965 war the Indian citizens have claimed to have left properties worth Rs. 109 crores in Pakistan and on the other hand Pakistan has property worth about Rs. 29.6 crores in India. The Government of India got more than Rs. 25 crores in cash and it was said by the Government that these would be paid in the form of *ex-gratia* compensation to the extent of 25 per cent of the value of the property of the claimants.

The Custodian of the Enemy property in India is dillydallying with this amount. Since 1971—74 although Rs. 12 crores were allocated yet they could spend only Rs. 3.11 crores. This year the Government allocated Rs. 3 crores and only Rs. 64 lakhs have been spent. When I earlier raised the matter in the House and also wrote a letter to the Commerce Minister he informed me that he was hurriedly trying to do something for the claimants from former East Pakistan.

I also want to draw your attention with regard to the claimants from West Pakistan. Most of the claims of the Indian citizens from West Pakistan have been cleared in spite of the fact that there was a lot of difficulty in regard to verifying their assets and properties. In the case of claimants from former East Pakistan about 90 per cent of the cases are still pending. Thousands of people are roaming about in Calcutta and Bombay but nothing has been done. I had raised this matter in the House and also wrote to the Minister and put several questions. As a result of that a panel was set-up in Calcutta with two retired judges. That panel and the Chairman of the Office of the Custodian of Enemy Properties in India together decided and they sanctioned the claims. They approved the claims of over a thousand claimants from former East

Pakistan. But, strangely, the Central Government, not only have refused to pay it, but, they are not giving the sanction even. Sir, suddenly, the Internal Finance Department, although they have nothing to do with it, say 'No'. They say that in regard to those people whose properties are worth more than Rs. 4 lakhs, they will be given 60 per cent of their total assets and in regard to those people whose properties are worth less than Rs. 4 lakhs, they will be given 80 per cent of their total assets. This is totally against the announcement that was made by the Government. So far, only Rs. 3.11 crores have been paid. This is totally against announcement made by the Government. This Internal Finance Department is going to deprive the legitimate due of these people, who have left all their lands and construction in former East Pakistan. Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister concerned that he should immediately make a statement on the floor of the House as to what is the position of the *ex-gratia* compensation in regard to the claimants from former East Pakistan citizens and also, what about the recommendation that has been made unanimously by the panel that was set up by the Government in Calcutta? Why are they not agreeing to the recommendation which has been made by that panel? I would also like to know whether the Rs. 3 crores which have been allotted in this Budget for the payment of *ex-gratia* compensation will be paid to the claimants from former East Pakistan? Sir, this is a matter which is very urgent. Unless this is paid before 31st March, this year also, this Rs. 3 crores will go back to the Consolidated Fund of India. This is very urgent matter and a statement should be made by the Government immediately.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER (Ausgram): Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to make a small submission. Cotton and Tobacco growers from many villages of Guntur and Prakassam districts of Andhra Pradesh are conducting satyagraha before the State Government offices in various taluks of these districts demanding of the

Government to fix up fair rates for their produce and also purchase the cotton stocks through the Cotton Corporation of India. Similarly, the virginia tobacco growers. . . .

MR. SPEAKER: How it is relevant here?"

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: Sir, the interests of the cotton and tobacco growers should be safeguarded.

Sir, the virginia tobacco growers are also sustaining loss. The monopoly companies in tobacco trade actually are paying Rs. 300 to Rs. 400 per quintal instead of Rs. 850 per quintal which they agreed in the presence of Government representatives.

While the costs of cultivation of these products are going up on the one hand, the prices of these products are falling down abnormally. The cultivators are forced to make distress sales and they are not in a position even to pay taxes to the Government. The Government is resorting to forceful collection of taxes by auctioning the properties of cultivators. Therefore, Sir, I raise this matter under Rule 377 and I would request you to ask the Minister concerned to make a statement in this regard.

SHRI BIREN DUTTA (Tripura West): Sir, I would like to make a submission.

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot force yourself on me like this. I am not going to allow it.

SHRI BIREN DUTTA: Sir, five MLAs have been arrested under MISA.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA (Serampore): What is the rule that you are following?

MR. SPEAKER: I am not permitting it. I have not called any one of you. Mr. Malder wanted to make a submission for one minute. I did not know what it was going to be. He brought in a State matter.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: Sir, he will simply mention.

MR. SPEAKER: This is basically very wrong.

SHRI SEZHIYAN (Kumbakonam): Sir, let him meet you in the Chamber and explain.

SHRI BIREN DUTTA: Five MLAs of the CPM in Tripura had been arrested; all the other opposition MLAs had been suspended.

MR. SPEAKER: This is basically wrong.

SHRI SEZHIYAN: Let him meet you in the Chamber.

MR. SPEAKER: It is already there; I examined it and I do not allow it. He suddenly gets up and says that some MLAs had been arrested? You have framed these rules and if you do not observe them, what is to be done?

GUJARAT BUDGET, 1975-76—GENERAL DISCUSSION, DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT (GUJARAT), 1975-76 AND SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GUJARAT), 1974-75

MR. SPEAKER: We shall take up items 10, 11 and 12 together. Mr. Chavda wanted to raise some objection. Now, when he speaks he can mention all this. He will be called and he can mention all those matters. Then the Minister will reply. I think it cannot come in a point of order. I will call him in due course.

SHRI K. S. CHAVDA (Patna): This is violation of article 199.

MR. SPEAKER: Whatever it is, you can raise the matter. He will reply to it. If it is violation, anybody can go to court and get it rescinded; as Mr. Sezhiyan did.

SHRI SEZHIYAN (Kumbakonam): We should be able to resolve these things; and