

श्री विभूति बिष (बोलीहार) : मेरे सभोवन कऱ रिप्ट कऱ मान लीजिए । मै हसे बापस लेता हू ।

MR CHAIRMAN He is withdrawing the amendment

Amendment No 4, was, by leave withdrawn

MR CHAIRMAN Now, I take the Resolution of Mr Vajpayee

Mr Vajpayee are you withdrawing the Resolution after the spirit in which it has been considered?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE After the unsatisfactory reply of the hon Minister there is no question of withdrawing the Resolution

MR CHAIRMAN The question is

"This House expresses concern over the growing influence of money-power and abuse of official machinery in elections and in order to ensure free and fair elections directs the Government that—

- (i) recognised political parties be given election grants as recommended by the Wanchoo Committee;
- (ii) recommendations of the Joint Committee on Amendments to Election Law regarding equal radio-time for recognised political parties, making of Election Commission a multi-member body reducing voting age to 18 years, and examination by high-power Committee of feasibility of adopting List System, be implemented;
- (iii) Ministers be prohibited from using official machinery such as aircrafts, helicopters, vehicles and other facilities except on terms of parity with other recognised political parties; and

(iv) counting of votes be conducted booth-wise"

The motion was negatived

18.15 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE POLICY IN RESPECT OF PRICES AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

MR CHAIRMAN We now take up the next Resolution

Shri Madhu Limaye

श्री मधु लिमये (बक) : मै प्रस्ताव पेश करता हूँ

This House is of opinion that the Government should recast its policy with regard to prices and agricultural production in such a way that—

- (a) essential articles of consumption sell at $1\frac{1}{2}$ times the cost of production, including transport charges, taxes and profits,
- (b) there shall prevail parity between the prices of industrial goods and agricultural produce;
- (c) fluctuations in foodgrain prices of more than 15 per cent shall not be permitted;
- (d) the Government shall take the responsibility of purchasing cotton, sugar-cane, raw jute, foodgrains and other produce at support prices which may take into account the cost of production plus a reasonable margin for the farmers;
- (e) electricity rate per unit for agricultural purposes shall not be more than ten paise, and
- (f) fertilisers shall be made available to the Kisans with land holdings of less than ten acres at subsidised rates and the irrigation rates shall be reduced by 25 per cent"

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member may continue next time.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION IN ORDER
TO LOWER THE VOTING AGE

MR. CHAIRMAN: We now take up the Half-an-hour Discussion.

Shri C. K. Chandrappan.

The spirit of what you are going to say was discussed earlier. So, you be brief.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur). Our contention is that they might accept it.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Gwalior). An ally of the ruling party!

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN (Teltcheri). Before going into the details of the matter, I would make a request to the hon. Minister not to give another evasive reply to this question because in August 1972 I myself had raised this question in the House by way of Half-An-Hour Discussion. As it is known to you, half-an-hour discussions are raised when Ministers give evasive answers. To a question whether there was any proposal before the Government to reduce the voting age, the Minister had answered that such proposals were under consideration, and when an half-an-hour discussion was raised, again the hon. Minister gave the same reply, a very brief but the same reply. But I would like to tell him that, in 1971, when his party faced the electorate in this country, they had made a promise that they would reduce the voting age to 18. You may remember, in 1967 when his party had been reduced to a minority in nine States in the country, analysing the election results the Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, said that one of the several reasons

for the defeat of the Congress was the disenchantment of young people and they would try to do something to rectify this. In 1971 they got, as they always put it, the massive support of the young people. And those young people who supported them naturally expected that they would be given a right to have a say in the future of the country. But that has been denied.

To reject one of the arguments put forward by Mr. Vajpayee, the hon. Minister had quoted the recommendation of a Joint Committee on amendments to Election Commission. He had quoted the recommendation to reject Mr. Vajpayee's proposal. But the same Committee has recommended

‘Having considered both the above viewpoints, the Committee decided that the voting age should be reduced from 21 to 18 years’

The Committee, therefore, recommended that article 326 of the Constitution might be amended accordingly. I would just ask him whether he is ready to accept that proposal of the Committee, because that Committee's recommendation was cited as something holy to reject Mr. Vajpayee's proposal.

Then the petitions Committee of the Fourth Lok Sabha also had recommended that voting right should be given at the age of 18.

I had been hearing the discussion which was taking place in the House on Mr. Vajpayee's Resolution when this point was also raised. Several members said that something very dangerous would happen if people were allowed to vote at the age of 18. It has been said that they are students at that age, they will not be able to study and all that. My hon. friend, Mr. Daga, has pointed out that at the age of 18, they are students and their studies would be affected.