

[Shri D.P. Yadava]

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10.03 hrs

SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES
OF MEMBER OF PARLIA-
MENT (AMENDMENT)
BILL*

THE MINISTER OF PARIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING AND
TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR :
I beg to move for leave to introduce
a Bill further to amend the Salaries
and Allowance of Members of Parliament
Act, 1954.

MR SPEAKER : The question is :-

"That leave be granted to introduce a
Bill further to amend the Salaries and
Allowances of Members of Parliament
Act, 1954."

*The motion was adopted*SHRI RAJ BAHADUR : I introduce**
the Bill.

10.04 hrs

NEWSPAPERS (PRICE CONTROL)
BILL*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND
BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI NANDINI
SATPATAY) : I beg to move for leave
to introduce a Bill to provide for the
control, in the interests of the general
public, of the prices of newspapers with a
view to ensuring that newspapers continue
to function, in the prevailing conditions, as

effective mass communication media and
for securing their availability at fair
prices.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a
Bill to provide for the control, in
the interests of the general public,
of the prices of newspapers with a view
to ensuring that newspapers continue to
function, in the prevailing conditions,
as effective mass communication media
and for securing their availability at fair
prices."

*The motion was adopted*SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY :
I introduce the Bill.

10.05 hrs

PREVENTION OF INSULTS TO
NATIONAL HONOUR BILL

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI
K. C. PANT) : On behalf of Shri F. H.
Mohsin, I beg to move :

"That the following amendment made by
Rajya Sabha in the Bill to prevent insults
to national honour, be taken into consi-
derations" :-

Clause 2

That at page 2, lines 5-6, the words
'without exciting or attempting to excite
hatred, contempt or disaffection towards
the Government' be deleted."

This is a simple amendment. I do not
think I need say much on it.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the following amendment made
by Rajya Sabha in the Bill to prevent
insults to national honour, be taken

*Published in Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, section 2, dated 20-12-71.

**Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

into consideration :—

'Clause 2

"That at page 2, lines 5-6, the words 'without exciting or attempting to excite hatred, contempt or disaffection towards the Government' be deleted."

The motion was adopted

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

'Clause 2

"That at page 2, lines 5-6 the words 'without exciting or attempting to excite hatred, contempt or disaffection towards the Government' be deleted."

The motion was adopted

SHRI K.C. PANT : I move :-

"That the amendment made by Rajya Sabha in the Bill be agreed to"

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :-

"That the amendment made by Rajya Sabha in the Bill be agreed to".

The motion was adopted

10.08 hrs

CONTEMPT OF COURTS BILL

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE) : I beg to move :-

"That the Bill to define and limit the powers of certain courts in punishing contempts of courts and to regulate their procedure in relation thereto, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

As the hon. Members are aware, it was felt generally that the present law relating to contempt was uncertain undefined and unsatisfactory. It really touched on two very vital rights of the citizens, namely the right to personal liberty and the right to freedom of expression. That is why in

1961, an expert committee was appointed, presided over by the then Additional Solicitor General, Mr. Sanyal. The Committee had made a comprehensive examination of all the aspects of the matter. They obtained information prevailing in our country and in other countries. When the recommendations were made, they took due note of the right of freedom of speech and personal liberty and various provisions of the Constitution relating to contempt of court. The recommendations of that Committee were generally accepted by the Government. Before accepting the recommendations, the Government took into account the considered views of various State Governments, union territory administrations, Supreme Court and other courts. On that basis, a Bill called the Contempt of Courts Bill 1960 was moved before the House.

It was referred to a Joint Committee of two Houses and, after the report of the Joint Committee, the present Bill as moved in the Rajya Sabha is on the basis of the recommendations of the Joint Committee. It is true that in the Rajya Sabha certain amendments were proposed by the Government mainly because the Government felt that in some respects if the recommendation of the Joint Committee were accepted, they were likely to infringe on the constitutional position as obtained in articles 129 and 215 of the Constitution.

But excepting for one amendment which was accepted by the Rajya Sabha ultimately, two other amendments were not acceptable to the House and following the consensus of the opinion in the Rajya Sabha, those amendments were not pressed in the Rajya Sabha by Government.

The Bill which is now before the House is as accepted by Rajya Sabha. It takes care of all possible situations which arise in the law relating to contempt. I commend the Bill for consideration by the House.

MR. SPEAKER : Motion Moved ?

"That the Bill to define and limit the powers of certain courts in punishing contempts of courts and to regulate their procedure in relation thereto, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into Consideration"