

15.51 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Twentieth Report

SHRI KHADILKAR (Khed): I beg to move:

"That this House agrees with the Twentieth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 21st February 1968"

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House agrees with the Twentieth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 21st February 1968".

*The motion was adopted.*

15.52 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE: DEFENCE NEEDS OF INDIA—Contd.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We shall resume discussion of the following Resolution moved by Shri Ranjeet Singh on the 22nd December 1967:

"This House resolves that a Standing Parliamentary Committee on Defence be appointed to study the problems of India's defence needs and periodically to keep scrutinising her defence preparedness and suggest ways and means to the Government to ensure the security of the country's frontiers".

Out of two hours allotted, the hon. Mover has taken so far 40 minutes. 1 hour and 40 minutes remain. He may continue his speech and conclude in ten minutes.

SHRI RANJIT SINGH (Khalilabad): Twelve.

Hon. Members may be reminded that this Resolution continues from the

last session. I will now conclude my observations in a few minutes. To refresh your memory, I had recounted how certain inherent weaknesses of democracy, primarily the conscious desire for peace leading to the sub-conscious make-believe of peace lulls democracies into a sense of complacency. Therefore, in the past no democracy has been prepared for a war that its people could see under their very nose. The example of Britain was cited and indeed, we cannot forget the example of the USA which, with Pearl Harbour only a month away, had almost rejected the famous Selective Services Bill necessary for increase in the strength of the US armed forces, passing it by a ridiculously thin majority of 23.

Therefore, I plead that in considering this Resolution, we concern ourselves here with nothing but the truth, nothing but the objective analysis of our defence needs, nothing but the stark facts that glaringly point to the imperative necessity for the acceptance of this Resolution. I hope that for once our international Minister of Defence will gather the courage, that for once our Government will display the foresight to accept this Resolution. I still have faith in both bodies.

In case there are any reservations advanced, let me destroy beforehand those pueril answers that have been prepared for our international Minister by his ill-advisers. The first argument is going to be on the ground of defence secrecy. What according to our Defence Minister, is defence secrecy? I had pointed out last time that a pamphlet circulated on the organisation of the Chinese Army is marked 'top secret'. Let me now disclose to you that hundreds of pamphlets on the detailed organisation of our defence forces are not even marked 'confidential'. Whose secrets is the Defence Minister guarding? China's but our Defence Minister does not know of such perverted sense of secrecy that prevails in the Defence head-