

11.05 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (THIRTY-SECOND  
AMENDMENT) BILLAPPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO JOINT  
COMMITTEEDR. HENRY AUSTIN (Ernakulam)  
I beg to move :

"That this House do appoint Shri Shashi Bhushan to the Joint Committee on the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India in the vacancy caused by the resignation of Shri H. K. L. Bhagat."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do appoint Shri Shashi Bhushan to the Joint Committee on the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India in the vacancy caused by the resignation of Shri H. K. L. Bhagat".

*The motion was adopted.*

11 23 hrs.

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE (EXTEN-  
SION OF DURATION) BILL.\*

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS  
Shri H. R. Gokha. Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to 'provide for the extension of the duration of the present House of the People.

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved .

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the extension of the duration of the present House of the People".

Mr Sequeira.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Burdwan) I want to make a submission.....

MR. SPEAKER : No, please! At this stage, only one Member will be allowed. Mr. Sequeira.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ERASMO DE SEQUEIRA Marmá Mr. Speaker, we have before us introduction of a Bill which seeks to extend the elected terms of this House. It is a very short walk from the Hall where freedom was born to this Chamber where, in a few minutes, it may sicker more than ever before. At such a moment, perhaps it is best to dig deep into history for the expression for the words that we need. It appears that our predecessors had far more depth and far more reach into the future than most of us appear to have today. I have searched our history and I think, I have found expression that we need in a letter that was written by the first Indian parliamentarian, a fellow gone by the name of Francisco Luis Gomes to the famous French poet, Lamartine, on the 5th January, 1861 Referring to India, he wrote.

"She lies captive in her own nation. Threshing within the walls of the cage, this bard has lost the wings that before enabled her to soar higher than the Himalayas. Crying for liberty extinguished, in the dimming light, she has forgotten her own hymns which before rent the air"

And he cried in that letter

"I ask for India liberty and light".

Sir, I would like to make in this chamber today the same cry. Through you, Sir, and the hon. Minister, I would commend to the custodian of this nation at this moment, because whether we like it or do not like it, the immediate future is today carried on just one pair of shoulders

\*Published in Gazette of India Part II. Section 2, dated 3-2-76.