

session the time for the presentation of the Report of the Committee of Privileges on the question of privilege regarding handcuffing of Shri Ishwar Chaudhry, M.P., at Patna on the 5th August 1974."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do further extend upto the last day of the next session the time for the presentation of the Report of the Committee of Privileges on the question of privilege regarding handcuffing of Shri Ishwar Chaudhry, M.P., at Patna on the 5th August, 1974."

The motion was adopted.

11.26 hrs.

NATIONAL LIBRARY BILL

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION,
SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE
(PROF. S NURUL HASAN): I beg
to move*:

"That the Bill to provide for the administration of the National Library and certain other connected matters, as reported by the Joint Committee, be taken into consideration."

Sir, the hon. House would recall that in 1972 the National Library Bill was moved in this House. At that time, I had taken the liberty of explaining the main purposes which had led the Government to come out with this motion, and I will not take the time of the House in repeating the arguments which I had then put forward. The House was pleased to appoint a Joint Committee along with the other House which held a very large number of meetings, heard a number of interested persons and organisations, took extensive evidence and has come out with many valuable changes. I would like to take this opportunity

of expressing my gratitude to all the hon. Members who had served on the Joint Committee and who had made their valuable contributions to the Bill as it has now emerged. The most important change which the Committee has introduced is to provide for a very broad-based Board for the administration of the Library. The membership of the Board would be drawn from the members of the two Houses, the University Grants Commission, universities, library profession, scholars in different disciplines covering humanities, science, social sciences, medicine, engineering, technology and law, representatives of the employees and officers of the government. The induction of these members in the Board, I have no doubt, would go a long way in improving qualitatively the intellectual atmosphere of the library, which, it is hoped, would become an active centre of research. Because it was felt that there should be a fairly large board with all the different interests represented therein, it was necessary that for the actual administration, there should be an executive council. Therefore, the Joint Committee has proposed that there should be an executive council, which will perform the duties which the Board might delegate or which might be prescribed under the rules. The Director of the Library, who will be the Chairman of the executive council, will be appointed by the President of India, who will be the visitor of the library. This innovation has been deliberately added by the Joint Committee in order to lend further prestige to the national library, because notwithstanding the fears that have been expressed in certain quarters, the national library is the most prestigious library we have in the country. Its position is guaranteed by the Constitution and the Government would like to do everything in its power within the constraint of financial resources to ensure that the national library is able to perform the duties which a national

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

[Prof. S. Nurul Hasan]
library of a great country like India is expected to perform. For the purpose of accounts and audit, provision has been made that the audit will be done, as it has been done hitherto, by the Auditor General of India whose control has been maintained.

This Bill, as reported by the Joint Committee, has also tried to give the fullest protection possible to the existing employees of the library and we have done everything possible to see that their interests are fully protected. There is one misconception which I would like to take the opportunity of removing at this very stage because it might facilitate the business of the House and that is, what is called a view which has been expressed by many people that a comprehensive Bill to provide for a library system be brought. Under the Constitution, libraries are in the State List and this Parliament does not have the legislative power to provide for the management or administration or even control of libraries in the State sector, except where a particular library has been declared to be an institution of national importance.

The House may recall that there is a specific entry in List I of the Seventh Schedule which gives the Parliament the power to legislate for the National Library. The fear that by creating a statutory authority to manage the Library, the Government is giving up its authority or responsibility is not well founded. After all, so many prestigious institutions of the country are governed by acts passed by this House along with the other House. For example, the Institutes of Technology, central universities, the Indian Museum and other prestigious organisations. Any institution for which this Parliament passes an act does not mean that this Parliament abdicates its authority. This primary responsibility remains and, therefore, Government remains answerable to the House for the

maintenance and well being of this particular institution.

I would not like to take more time of the House at this stage. I commend the Bill as reported by the Joint Committee subject of course, to the consequential amendments which are of a routine nature, to the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to provide for the administration of the National Library and certain other connected matters, as reported by the Joint Committee, be taken into consideration."

श्री मूल बन्धु शाहा (पाली) : प्राजकल हम हर लैजिस्लेशन हरीडली पास कर रहे हैं। यह स्थिति के अनुरूप है इस बिल में इस बारे में मैं थोड़ा मा आपकी सेवा में निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ। हमारे देश के लिए यह बहुत अच्छी बात होगी अगर हर बड़े शहर व कस्बे में पुस्तकालय खल जाएँ। आपने कहा है कि यह राज्यों का विषय है। हम सविधान को बदलने जा रहे हैं और बदल भी दिया है। हम कह रहे हैं कि शिक्षा को कनवेंट मवजेक्ट बना दिया जाए। आप राज्यों को गाइड लाइज तो दे ही सकते हैं। बेशक यह राज्यों का विषय है लेकिन आप राज्यों को गाइड लाइज दें। हर राज्य में लाइब्रेरीज जगह जगह हानी चाहिए। जिस देश में लोगों को पुस्तकों में प्रेम होता है, जो लोग पुस्तकों को पढ़ने में रुचि लेते हैं वह देश बहुत बड़ा समझा जाता है। इससे लोगों का मानसिक विकास होता है। किसी शहर में पुस्तकालय में जा कर आप पता कर सकते हैं कि उस शहर के लोग मानसिक रूप से किस हद तक विकसित हैं। हमारे देश में म्युनिसिपैलिटीज भी लाइब्रेरी को लगाता है। सरन भी

जगहें ऐसी हैं जहां लाइब्रेरीज तक की व्यवस्था नहीं है। ये गन्दी जगहों पर बनी हुई हैं। उन में किनाबों पुरानी पड़ी होती हैं। नई खरीदी नहीं जाती हैं। ऐसी ऐसी पुस्तकें उनमें रखी रहती हैं जिनको पढ़ना कोई पसन्द नहीं करता है। इस तरह की चीजों को और ध्यान देने तो देश का बहुत कल्याण होगा। स्वामी रामतीर्थ ने कहा था कि कपड़े पुराने से पुराने पहनें लेकिन किताबों नई से नई खरीदो। हम लोगों को उसी तरह से किताबों से रम होना चाहिए जिस तरह से अलमेशन जी को है या आजाद साहब को है। रोज नई नई किताबें पढ़ने हैं। हम को भी पढ़नी चाहिए। इसमें दिमाग में ताजगी आती है। दिमाग में नई चीज कोई पैदा करनी है तो किताबों नई से नई पढ़ने को मिलनी चाहिए। अध्यक्ष महोदय, आपकी अध्यक्षता में यहां पर जो लाइब्रेरी है उस पर हम लोगों को गर्व है। हम राज्यों में यहा आए हैं। उनके मुकाबले में यहां का पुस्तकालय बहुत ही अच्छा है। लेकिन डिस्ट्रिक्ट हैडक्वार्टर्स, बड़े बड़े कस्बों और गावों में कोई लाइब्रेरी नहीं है।

सरकार ने एक पद्धति बना रखी है कि जब वह अपनी जिम्मेदारी को टालना चाहती है, तो वह एक बोर्ड बना देती है। हालांकि शिक्षा मंत्री ने बड़ी कुशलता के साथ कहा है कि हम अपनी जिम्मेदारी से बचना नहीं चाहते हैं, लेकिन जब कभी हम इस बारे में कोई प्रश्न करेंगे, तो वह जवाब देंगे कि एक आटोनोमस बोर्ड काम कर रहा है, उसके मामलों में हस्तक्षेप कर ने का हमारा कोई अधिकार नहीं है।

ये सारे बोर्ड एक ही तरह के बनाए जाते हैं उनमें सेक्रेटरी आदि कुछ सरकारी

अधिकारियों और कुछ प्रोफेसरों को रख लिया जाता है। लेकिन हम देखते हैं कि जो लोग सेवा करना चाहते हैं, और जिन को फुर्सत होती है, उन को तो बोर्ड में नहीं लिया जाता है, मगर जिन लोगों को पहले से ही बहुत काम होते हैं, उनको बोर्ड का सदस्य बना दिया जाता है। इस लिए आवश्यकता इस बात की है कि जो लोग सेवा में नदी है, जो रिटायर हो चुके हैं जो साहित्यकार या फिलासफर हैं, जो इस क्षेत्र में काम करना चाहते हैं, उन को बोर्ड का मेम्बर बनाया जाए।

जिन सरकारी अधिकारियों को बोर्ड का मेम्बर बनाया गया है, उन को मीटिंग में भाग लेने के लिए कलकत्ता जाना होगा। जब वे थके मादे कलकत्ता पहुंचेंगे, तो वे बोर्ड के डिमक्शन में ठीक तरह से भाग नहीं ले पाएंगे। इस बिना में यह व्यवस्था भी की गई है कि अगर कोई बोर्ड का सदस्य स्वयं उसको मीटिंग में न जा सकें, तो वह किसी अन्य व्यक्ति को उस मीटिंग में जाने के लिए एगाराइज कर सकता है। इसका नतीजा यह होगा कि कई दफा सेक्रेटरीज खुद नहीं जाएंगे और अपने अक्रिप सुपरिन्टेंडेंट को मीटिंग में जाने के लिए कह देंगे।

जैसा कि मैंने कहा है, जिन लोगों को अन्य कामों से फुर्सत नहीं होती है, उनको ऐसे बोर्डों का मेम्बर बना दिया जाता है। इसमें व्यवस्था की गई है कि इस बोर्ड में छः सदस्य सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट के द्वारा नामिनेट किए जाएंगे। मैं फिर निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि जो लोग रिटायर हो चुके हैं, जो एजुकेशनिस्ट, साहित्यकार और विद्वान हैं, जिनको आज कोई और काम नहीं है, उन को बोर्ड का मेम्बर बनाया जाए। एजुकेशन सेक्रेटरी और फिनांस सेक्रेटरी आदि

[श्री मूल चन्द डागा]

सरकारी अधिकारियों को इस विषय में कोई इन्स्ट्रुमेंट नहीं होता है। उन को तो सिर्फ टी० ए० और डी० ए० कमाने सेकी ई इन्स्ट्रुमेंट होता है। इसलिए जिन लोगों को इसमें दिलचस्पी है और जो मिशनरी भावना से काम करते हैं उनको इस बोर्ड में काम करने का मौका देना चाहिए।

इस बिल में कहा गया है कि इस बोर्ड में देश की प्रतिनिधियों में से किसी एक का प्रतिनिधि भी होगा। क्या यह जरूरी है? जो बड़े लेखक हों, जो आज सचिब में न हों उन को वार्ड का मेम्बर बनाना चाहिए। अधिकतर एम० पी० नो एमि वीर्ड में काम करने की स्थिति में नहीं होते हैं। उदाहरण के लिए जब श्री इन्ड्रजीन गुन रिटायर हो जाए बहुत बड़े हो जाए तो बीस साल के बाद उनका एम वीर्ड में मेम्बर बना दिया जाए। इस वक्त ता ऐसे लोग न पार्लियामेंट का छोड़ेंगे और न वीर्ड की मीटिंग में जाएंगे। क्योंकि राजनैतिक कामों में उन को अधिक रूचि होती है। ला मिनिस्ट्री न ऐसे बोर्ड बनाने का यह तरीका अपनाया हुआ है कि एक सरकारी टीम इकट्ठी कर दी जाये। वे लोग हवाई जहाज में कलकत्ता जायेंगे। वहां मीटिंग होगी फिर लंच होगा और उन व बाद कह दिया जायगा कि अमुक अमुक डिजिजन लिये गये हैं। इस लिए यह जरूरी है कि जिन लोगों को महत्व में रूचि है, उन्हें का इस बोर्ड का मेम्बर बनाया जाये। मेरे जैसे लोगों का उनका मेम्बर बनाने की जरूरत नहीं है।

सरकार ने यह सोचा कि यह बार्ड बहुत लम्बा चौड़ा होगा उस में चांसेलर मेम्बर होयें, इस लिए उस ने एक एक्सीक्यूटिव कौंसिल बनाने की व्यवस्था भी कर दी है।

सरकार कानून को इतना लचीला बन तो है कि सारी पावर एक्सीक्यूटिव एयारिटी को दे दी जाती हैं। इस बिल में भी हर वान में डेलीगेशन आफ पावर की व्यवस्था की गई है। इसमें कहा गया है

"The Board shall meet at such times and places and shall, subject to the provisions of sub-sections (2), (3) and (4), observe such rules of procedure in regard to the transaction of business at its meetings including the quorum at meetings, as may be provided by regulations made under this Act"

किनना अच्छा कानून बनाया गया है कि एक्सीक्यूटिव एयारिटी अपने रूप बना कर यह फैसला करेगी कि कब मीटिंग करनी है, कहां मीटिंग करनी है उस में क्या डिमंड करना है और किनना खर्चा करना है, आदि। मसूरी या लखनऊ वगैरह कहीं भी मीटिंग बुलाई जा सकती है। हमारे राज्य में नैसनल में चादनी रात में मीटिंग बुलाई जा सकती है। मैं समझता हूँ कि सरकार जब कोई कानून बनाये तो उस में सरकारी अधिकारियों को यह अधिकार न दे दिया जाये कि वे नियम बना कर जिस तरह चाहें, उस तरह काम चलायें। इस तरह खर्चा बहुत बड़ा जायेगा।

इस बिल में कहा गया है

"If any member, being an officer of the Government, is unable to attend any meeting of the Board, he may with the previous approval of the Chairman, authorise any person in writing to do so"

इस तरह तो कोई सरकारी अधिकारी अपने पीयन को भेज देगा।

इसमें यह व्यवस्था भी की गई है

"The Board may associate with itself in such manner and for such purposes as may be provided by regulations made under this Act,

any person whose assistance or advice it may desire in performing any of its functions under this Act."

श्री आप ने और तीसरी पावर क्या दी है कि बोर्ड की जब इच्छा हो कि हम को फिल्म रेकर्ड्स को शामिल करना है तो उन को शामिल कर लें, वह आ जायें। यू कैन एसोशिएट एनी मैम्बर। कोई गाइड लाइन नहीं रखी गई है। इतना अच्छा कानून यह आपने बनाया है। ज्वाइंट कमेटी ने कानून बनाते समय यह सोचा था, आखिर कानून की मंशा यह होती है कि जिम के अंदर एग्जीक्यूटिव आफिसर को कुछ बांधा जाय और इम में उन को खुनी छूट है। और आदर्शगीय प्रोफेसर साहब, यह आप का काम नहीं है, यह काम है लीडिपार्टमेंट का। आप माफ कीजिए, यह तो कानून ऐसा बनाया है कि जैसे नियम वे बनाना चाहें बना लेंगे और मारे आघ्रकार उन के पास होंगे। उम में आपका खर्चा बहुत होगा। बेहतर यह होगा कि आप नया तरीका निकालिए। एमजॉमी के बाद पुरानी चाल को छोड़ दीजिए। मिशनरी स्प्रिन्ट जिम की हो, वालट्री सर्विस आफर करने को जो तैयार हों उन को ले आइए।

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Burdwan): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Bill is an example of how a national institution like National Library is being bureaucratically sought to be dealt with against the preponderance of opinion of all sections of the people who have taken the trouble of appearing before the Joint Committee, giving their views and submitting memoranda. We should look at the National Library as a national centre of learning, as a unique seat of research and reference from the national point of view. The approach should be to look at it as a national repository of the production of intellect, wisdom and creative genius, as one of the Members of the Joint Committee has said.

The Bill was introduced in the House in December, 1972 when, in view of the opposition or the submissions that we had made from this side of the House, the Minister was good enough to adjourn the debate on that day and refer the Bill to a Joint Committee. But we find that there is no structural alteration so far as the initial proposals were concerned. Some of the previous lacunae have been sought to be filled in. Still we are opposed to the very method which is now sought to be adopted and laid down in the Bill as to how in future the affairs of the National Library should be looked after or managed.

The only real change that has been made is that the Joint Committee has appreciated the relationship of this Library as a unique seat of learning with the city of Calcutta and we are happy about that. It has now been provided that the location will be at Calcutta. There is an addition of the words "of India" after National Library and we only hope that addition of these words will not be in name only.

There have been serious complaints about the functioning of the National Library some time past because of purely personal intrigues, machinations, rivalries, complaints and cross-complaints that were made because of the disputes between the Librarian and the then Deputy Librarian and the Assistant Librarian. The Government had appointed a very important Committee and, when I say 'important', it is because of the constitution of that Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. Jha to go into the working of the National Library. This reviewing committee headed by Dr. Jha, the former Vice Chancellor of the Banaras Hindu University made several recommendations which, according to them, would have improved the working of the National Library. I am going to read some of the basic recommendations of this Committee which consisted of Dr. Jha, Prof. Hiren Mukherjee and other

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

eminent scholars and academicians, the Vice-Chancellor of the Bangalore University, the Director, Mr. Keshavan and also the Government nominees.

This Committee primarily recommended that it should be under the Central Government, that its historical background should not be disturbed, that it should continue to remain as a department of the Education Ministry of the Central Government and that, instead of an Advisory Council there should be a Governing Council with certain semi-autonomous powers to deal with the day-to-day administration and functional matters of the Library and to implement its policies. The second major recommendation was that there should be a Director of the Library who will have a status equivalent to that of a Vice-Chancellor of a University. None of these recommendations has been accepted, except that there is going to be a Director of the National Library. We had expressed this grievance on the last occasion when the Bill was debated and, after the form in which it has come out of the Joint Committee, we would like the Hon. Minister to tell us why it has not been possible for the Government to accept the recommendation of the Jha Committee which went into the matter in much greater depth than a Joint Committee would do. They made certain specific recommendations with regard to the future management and functioning of the National Library. Now, why does the Central Government want to absolve itself of the direct responsibility of management and control of this National Library? It owes this explanation to the country because I believe the Government will admit this much that the National Library at Calcutta is the National Library of India. We want that there should be better library facilities and that there should be better and better regional libraries; but it is not a question of any parochial approach. After all, we have said that

in view of the association of the city of Calcutta with this particular Library; now that it has been made the National Library, it should continue to be located at Calcutta, and this has been accepted. We want better libraries in different places and better library facilities in even rural areas, but that is not the point. The point is why the Central Government wishes to absolve itself of direct responsibility for the management of this institution. The apprehension is this—that the Government wants to find out a scape-goat for the future mismanagement of this library; they want to disown their responsibility for the management of this institution. We are not enamoured as such of Central Government control but we have got very great apprehensions about what is sought to be substituted in its place.

Now, the proposal is to form a Board which will consist of 29 Members. The recommendation of the Review Committee was that persons like eminent Professors, responsible and distinguished educationists, administrators of proven worth and of an academic bent of mind and scientists should be taken into the Governing Council. That was their recommendations, but now they are not having a Governing Council. On the other hand, the Board will consist of 29 Members, supposed to be representing different interests. In some cases, the States will make the selection; in some cases, the Central Government will make the selection and in some cases other authorities or agencies will make the selection. The Central Government is trying to make this Board autonomous with 29 people! How difficult will it be for these people to meet and chalk out an integrated policy, having no common basis except membership of this Board!

12 hrs.

Along with this, what is proposed is to have an Executive Council with nine persons and this Executive Council has no assigned job under the

statute; they will only assist the Board in the exercise of its powers and in the performance of its duties under this Act, and exercise such of the powers and perform such of the duties of the Board as may be prescribed or as the Board may delegate to it. Therefore, how do we streamline the administration of the National Library? How do we expect to achieve a proper scholastic approach, if that is the word to be used, proper approach of persons who should be there as recommended by the Review Committee? How is that sought to be achieved? Kindly see this. Different types of interests, all sorts of influences, are sought to be brought in the matter of selection of the members of this Board. And what are the criteria for membership of the Executive Council? No criteria are indicated in this Bill. Instead of the Central Government with the Minister at the head being directly responsible for its day-to-day functioning, we are going to have 29 plus 9 in 29, all sorts of interests are intended to be brought in plus nine to represent unidentified interests—, that is to say, 38 persons. There are bound to be stresses and strains and pulls and pushes in the future administration of this National Library. There is no question of any political consideration here. We do not want to approach it from that point of view at all. We are trying to look at it from the point of view of having a real National Library for this country. Now, by absolving itself, by getting rid of its direct responsibility, the Central Government, I think, is not achieving what every one of us really wants to achieve. I am not imputing anything else. I only request the hon. Minister to see whether, by this, he is really accepting the spirit—not the terms, surely not—of the Jha Committee's recommendations. By this, are they accepting what has been almost unanimously stated—this is what I understand from the report? I was not a member—by all the members, witnesses and all those persons who had appeared

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before the Joint Committee? Why this two-tier system of administration? I would request the hon. Minister to tell us about this. When we are going to have a Governing Body and a Director, why should there be, in between, an Executive Council with nine Members, qualifications of whom are not known? This diarchial system of administration in a body like this will not help. That is our respectful submission, and I request the hon. Minister to give his very serious consideration to this. I know, the matter having already been reported by the Joint Committee, his hands are now tied. But this is not a question of not coming prior to that. It is a matter of approach, it is a matter of policy, it is a matter of outlook, how you want these matters to be dealt with.

You can see some basic flaws in this Bill. There are two main things that a library in a country like ours should have. First, the necessary funds should be there. A library like this should have funds, apart from its management and control. What about funds? That has been one of the difficulties in the proper growth of this Library in keeping with the statute of this country. There are a large number of people who really want to take advantage of this Library. People from different parts of the country are coming to Calcutta to study in this Library. Considering the miserable condition to which the Library was brought because of the unfortunate intrigues and all sorts of considerations being brought to bear on the functioning of this Library, some remedial measure was necessary. About availability of books to this Library, there is a law that copies of all publications should be sent there; even that is not being carried out. That is our information; if I am wrong, the hon. Minister may correct me.

About micro-filming, they have now got a Xerox machine; whether that is sufficient for coping with the

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task there, I do not know. This aspect has to be looked into.

Now what about grants? Kindly see clause 22 of this Bill. It says:

"For the purpose of enabling the Board to perform its functions efficiently under this Act, the Central Government may, after due appropriation made by Parliament by law in this behalf, pay to the Board in each financial year such sums of money as that Government considers necessary by way of grant, loan or otherwise".

Who will be controlling the purse? There is a provision for framing of the budget by the Board, but what is this budget? The framing of the budget will depend upon the munificence or the lack of funds from the Central coffers. What you allot to them, whether it is in keeping with the requirements of the National Library, that is not indicated. It is not that the grant will follow the budget. Central grant will not be accordance with the requirements of the Board. The Board will fix its requirements, they will draw up their policies and programmes and they will quantify the amount they will need. But this assistance will not follow the requisition and requirements of the Board. The Board will have to cut down its programme, policies and requirements on the basis of Central Government assistance. Therefore, in the main sphere, the Central Government will have the control. They will draw the financial ambit or the jurisdiction of the Board, but will make over the power in this indirect form to the Board just for the purpose, as I said, to disown responsibility for it, for a national institute like this and may be for finding scapegoats for the mismanagement that might take place or has been taking place. These are matters which are agitating our minds.

With your permission, Sir, I would like to read from the Report of the Joint Committee a portion relating to the minutes of dissent of Shri Samar Guha and others. They say:

"The present National Library Bill has been opposed by the intellectual community of Bengal and other parts of the country. All the editorial comments of the dailies and periodicals made about the Bill are against it. All of them opposed the proposal for assigning an autonomous status, as envisaged in the present Bill, to the National Library, and perferred functional autonomy delegated to it through a resolution of the Government, instead of having it by an Act of Parliament. A fear has been expressed by all witnesses, intellectuals of Bengal, and newspapers barring that of a microscopic few that this present Bill, if enacted, it will sweepingly change the historical character, fundamental concept and the age-old heritage of the National Library as the custodian and repository of the creative production of the creative minds of our country....."

These are apprehensions and these are not motivated apprensions. I hope, the hon. Minister appreciates that. They do not gain any personal benefit out of that. This is prompted by considerations for the advancement of this institution and for its proper maintenance.

The next point which is of great importance is the question of staff. Previously, there was no provision, but in the present Bill, the provision that has been made is for transfer of services of the existing employees to the Board for which an option has been given. There is some improvement from the Bill as it was originally drafted and introduced in the House. The option that is being given has to be exercised; we would like to know what will happen to those who will not give their option. What are the special features of

brining these staff within the Board itself? What is the special feature of converting them from Government employees to board employees? What are the special circumstances necessitating these changes to be made? Please tell us about these things because this is a matter which has caused a great deal of justified apprehension in the minds of the staff. If you want them to do their best work, if you want them to do dedicated work, etc. don not disturb whatever little of freedom they are enjoying now. Everybody knows that there will be no protection except Art. 311 and even that may go at any time, we don't know. But so long as it is there, why should anybody be deprived of his right as Government servant, it is not that we enjoy any great rights under our Constitution? These are the points which I request the hon. Minister to take into consideration and do the needful.

Sir, the approach here seems to be to equate the national library with any other production units like Hindustan Steel or any other autonomous body. That should not be the approach. In these fields, Government sets up a corporation or a company where some expert approach has to be given, where it is not possible to look after day to day affairs of production or commercial unit or manufacturing unit, etc. But here that sort of approach will not do. Here is a National Library which everybody looks up to with pride and with satisfaction. It should be a real seat of learning, a unique centre of research. We should be able to attract people from outside the country also. But it is handicapped by mismanagement and by lack of finance and so on. Now the Central Government in its wisdom says that it will have no responsibility, but this will be left to these 29 plus 9, that is, 38 masters. We don't want 38 masters of national library of this country. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister to consider these points and see that these matters which

agitate the minds of people are looked into and proper steps taken.

There is the Pearey-Mohan Library of Uttarpara with important and rare manuscripts and documents, which are well-known. It is a unique library. For lack of proper maintenance, proper financial support, there is very great danger of these national assets being wasted. The hon. Minister should take steps to see that those national assets are properly protected and preserved. They should be taken to the National Library which could properly preserve them. The Library of Bangiya Sahitya Parishad is also a very unique institution. I am sure the hon. Speaker knows about that. The hon. Minister knows about it. The same is with regard to Asiatic Society Library. Many families have donated their libraries and family books like the families of Sir Asutosh Mukherjee, Dr. Tej Bahadur Sapru, etc. They have donated them with the object that the Government of India will take direct responsibility.

As one of the Members of the Joint Committee has pointed out why should you substitute the recipients of the gifts? 29 plus 9 is a very doubtful number to bring about any real change in the situation.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI B. V. NAIK (Kanara): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Bill though many of us, since this is situated in Calcutta, for right historical reasons, have not been able to visit this National Library. The reputation of this Library is very far flung.

Sir, I have certain reservations regarding the recurrent problems on our constitutional handicaps that, leaving aside the National Library, we, here, in Parliament and the Centre cannot do much about libraries in this country as a whole and the library movement in particular

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in this country because of the fact that the libraries have been included under Entry 12 in the State List in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. Our learned Minister, in a way, has virtually put a stop to the Library movement in this country which, I think, next only to the other movement for economic betterment, is one of the most important aspects, of which any Government, more so, a democratic representative Government should be most particular.

It is true that the small town libraries, the district libraries and, thereafter, the State level libraries—these are the focal points—attract perhaps the cream of our intelligentsia. I do not understand why these elected intelligent readers have been classified like this here. There are general readers, students—undergraduates and post-graduates—research workers, professional men and reputed scholars. Does the hon. Minister feel that this cream which exists throughout the country spread as a small layer through two or three-tier systems electing their management at the district level and the district level managements electing their managements at the State level and the State level managements electing their managements for their National Library to give it an all-India image, all-India representative character, would have been very difficult for about a million intelligent readers with perspective who know their responsibility much more than many of us who have been sitting here in this august House? Then, why is it that—of course the burden would be shifted to the Joint Committee—List Number I and List Number II of the Seventh Schedule which are sorts of road blocks to our Library movement, cannot be appropriately corrected? And why is it that, in our country, we have treated the elected representative as a poor substitute for a nominated person constituting the Board?

Mr. Daga has very rightly pointed out the evil of that body. I would not consider that the officer would be irresponsible enough to nominate a peon or a cook or an astrologer on the Board. How do you then expect a Secretary or a person of that responsibility who has many other things to do to effectively function on your National Library? The Board meetings most probably will have to be called at Calcutta and they have to find time for that. Is this country so bankrupt that we cannot give, as Shri Somnath Chatterjee said, 21 or 29 people to adorn this National Library? Is it not possible? The figures are not important but the underlying idea is important. Will the hon. Minister, therefore, kindly give us a promise that the constitution of these libraries will be made representative in character and principally filled in by the reading public.

When I see the Library Bill—with due apologies to the labours of the Joint Committee which went into it. It has been hanging for the last 4-5 years since its introduction in 1976 I feel that it seems to have been drafted by some book-worm working in Shastri Bhavan in the Ministry of Education and the book worm is inhabiting not the books of the National Library but the files of the Education Ministry and the bureaucratic atmosphere. A file-worm would be a more appropriate word.

I would request an eminent educationist like Prof. Nurul Hasan to pull out this library from the morass it has been put in because of the long history through which this Bill has gone.

Further, Sir, progressively in this decade or in the last twenty to twenty-five years the library-goers have decreased in number. The serious student reads at home because of the competing media. Perhaps the figures may prove contra but if the hon. Minister compare the literacy percentage in this country

with the number of the people who go to the library, he will definitely find there is no parity. The number is less now. It is understandable. There is the cinema. It is one of the most powerful media of education today—sometimes of anti-education. There is the television in the big cities. Of course, the most welcome are the art galleries. Is it not possible that this national library also caters to these various positive media. I do not mean the rubbish that goes in the name of cinema. Why should a good segment of the Indian cinema also not be kept in the libraries along with the books that are going to be there.

MR SPEAKER Mr Naik, do you want that cinema should be in the library?

SHRI B V NAIK Sir, the most advanced libraries are no more the places where they read. On the other hand, they put on the ear-phone and go on listening to a particular book. I think there is nothing wrong and as a powerful medium there should be no mental or intellectual obstruction.

MR SPEAKER Now, what you say is different from the cinema?

SHRI B V NAIK May be this idea will take its own time.

SHRI N K P SALVE (Betul) May be people at the end of the twenty-first century will realise that it is a correct idea?

MR SPEAKER Mr Naik wants to be a prophet.

SHRI B V NAIK Sir, I do not know whether I will succeed in being a prophet. But, at the present moment I seem to be ridiculed like a prophet.

Sir another point I would like to make is this. I think I could remember the name of the great Librarian, Dr Ranganathan, who has given the decimal system which has been adopted, as far as I know, throughout the

world. The UNESCO has recognised his merits. He was at least in 1970s staying in Bangalore. We have contributed to the world Library Science in an enormous way through this single individual. We do hope that such people will find a place in this National Library. With due deference, with a heritage of culture of Bengal, I do not see the practicality of a student or a reader who is studying in Bangalore or in Trivandrum being able to go to Calcutta.

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You can go to Delhi.

SHRI B V NAIK No. People can not afford the luxury of coming even to Delhi or to Bombay or Calcutta. If you kindly bear with my analysis of the problem you will find that my solution is different. Why don't you kindly in order to take the benefit of the heritage and culture of Calcutta and West-Bengal arrange for certain scholarships from all over the country from the various parts of the country? I am not asking for a branch. Mr Somnath Chatterjee I am not asking for a branch so that these people from far off places can benefit from that. If it is there it is not known to us. To that extent I think it is insignificant. Kindly make it more significant so that a large number of people will have been served with the twin objectives of making access to the excellent library and the collection of 1½ million books available to the people all over the country and at the same time besides studying the art literature culture and heritage of Bengal they would also have the feeling of national integration. I do hope rather than stick to this top obstacle in our Constitution that this Bill will not put an end to the Library movement in India because we may call them intellectuals or any other names but these are the conscientious ones who have got to be cultivated and the cost versus benefit ratio is going to be enormous if we concentrate upon this reading public. They will be our educators of the future and, therefore I hope as soon as possible the hon

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Minister will come up with a scheme or a programme or even Resolution like the Road Development Resolution which we considered for transport so that the Library movement in this country is built up and fostered I support the Bill

SHRI H N MUKERJEE (Calcutta—North East) Mr Speaker, Sir, I confess that having been out of town for several days, I have been taken some what by surprise by this Bill coming up sharply this morning. But I welcome this opportunity in spite of certain handicaps I am suffering from at moment, I welcome this opportunity of taking part in this debate because I have been associated with this subject and the reconstruction, so to speak, of the National Library for quite sometime now. This Bill, as you know, has been hanging fire for long enough a period. The National Library Bill 1972, was the original caption with which we started and the preparation of this Bill had been preceded by the work done by what was known as the Jha Committee, of which I had the privilege of having been a Member. This Jha Committee which had made a review of the work of the National Library as well as of Libraries of comparable character in other parts of the country had formulated certain conclusions the kernel of which the substance, the basic content of which has been I believe taken over by Government in so far as the formulation of this Bill is concerned.

I remember that when we thought of the problem of libraries in our country the National Library in Calcutta occupied a large part of the canvas because it inherited what had been the collection of what was known as the Imperial Library in the British days and on account of the fostering support which was given to it by such eminent people as Maulana Abul Kalam Azad and Jawaharlal Nehru himself the library has continued to be considered to be the focus of our national library movement in this

country and a sort of intellectual centre from which would emanate influences which would make for a larger and more comprehensive intellectual life for the whole of the country.

Like so many other things, what we have wished for does not appear to be achieved and the National Library falls far short of what it should be in a country of our sort. But things being as they are, the National Library in Calcutta has come to be considered to be the repository which should be taken up on a national scale for development as the principal library which corresponds to the position of *Bibliothèque Nationale* in Paris or the British Museum in London or the Library of Congress in Washington. Our National Library can hardly be named in the same breath as the Lenin Library in Moscow and other libraries I have just mentioned. Even so conditioned as we are the National Library in Calcutta is the best we have got and it is a good thing that the Jha Committee discovered and the Joint Committee which went into the clauses of this Bill, going round certain parts of the country also discovered how happily there is not a feeling of jealousy or some undesirable kind of competition in so far as the National Library in Calcutta is concerned on the part of comparable institutions. For example the people in charge of the Royal Asiatic Society Library in Bombay or the Connemara Library in Madras look upon the National Library in Calcutta not as a rival so to speak not as an institution which they would like to push back and surpass in so far as their own importance is concerned but they look upon the National Library in Calcutta as more or less the first among equals. In addition to that, the National Library because of historical reasons has got the largest collection of books manuscripts periodicals etc that we have in this country. Therefore it was more than time that something was done to rejuvenate the National Library, because it had got

into a very bad predicament and for many years now it has been hardly under any direction so to speak, so that it has continued more or less as a run of the mill library which could hardly perform the national functions which is its proper task. That is why it is terribly important to do something about the National Library and at long last I hope something would be done by Government in this regard.

For so many years now we have not had in the National Library a librarian worth speaking of. The idea was to appoint a Director of the National Library of a certain status, of a certain intellectual calibre, of a certain character, which would command the respect of intellectual workers in different parts of the country. But for a long time now, the library has been run by more or less glorified clerks. I mean no disrespect to the people who are in the administration of the National Library there on the spot, but the charge of a library of this description should have been in very much more capable hands. But on account of a variety of circumstances, we have found the National Library somehow carrying on from day to day.

I am sure that now this Bill is going to be put on the Statute Book, something more positive is going to be done. The Joint Committee had decided that it was important to give an autonomous character to this Institution so that the National Library could function as a real intellectual focus and it need no longer be under the thumb of deputy secretaries or even under secretaries from Delhi, operating from a long distance and not knowing the real problems of the library or broadly the intellectual life and needs of the country. The library should be conducted in a manner which would be in conformity with the intellectual atmosphere of this country. And, therefore, the idea was that there should be an autonomous board which would be sufficiently distinguished—intellectually and otherwise—and that it would have the powers which the Government could delegate to it.

There have been some questions asked in regard to how the autonomy should have been organised. There was a dispute as to whether it should be delegated autonomy or statutory autonomy. But then, Government discovered that delegated autonomy was a matter which could not be defined in precise terms of legislation and, therefore, for safety's sake, the autonomy had to be statutory. I know that there was in the minds of many people, not only in Calcutta but elsewhere also, a certain feeling against the idea of statutory autonomy. But since autonomy is important—and I feel for myself that autonomy in an intellectual institution of this sort is absolutely important—it is good that the legislation now delegates to the National Library the autonomy that it should have. There might be some improvements made in regard to the composition of the Board. I am afraid. I have not had the opportunity of sending any amendments in that regard. I do not know whether my colleagues have thought of some substantial amendments in regard to the composition of the Board which would be running the Library in an autonomous manner. I am sure, the Joint Committee had gone into the matter at great length and my friend, the Minister, had played his role in a manner for which I have to pay compliments to him, because he had shown considerable understanding of the problem. He also showed understanding of the controversial issues which were raised and he was ready on many occasions to yield and accept many of the suggestions that were put forth in the Joint Committee proceedings. I am happy particularly for instance when I find that in the Joint Committee it was decided and that has been made part of the Bill now, that the National Library at Calcutta would now be described as the National Library of India. I know that particularly in my part of the country, there is a lingering fear that Delhi might have all kinds of intentions in regard to the National Library at Calcutta. In my part of the country, there has also been, for a long time,

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a suspicion about the intentions of New Delhi in regard to what happens in that region and, therefore, there has been an apprehension that perhaps there is an idea of shifting the National Library from Calcutta to somewhere else. We have heard from time to time that in certain parts of the country, there is a grouse that the National Library is situated in Calcutta which is a little too distant, now not as central as it used to be, besides, for a variety of reasons, Calcutta is a place to which many of our own people have begun to develop a kind of allergy. The idea is sometimes bruited that the National Library should be shifted from Calcutta to somewhere else, and why not in Delhi because everything is centred in Delhi now. The Minister, however, came forward cordially to accept the motion that was made in the Joint Committee that the nomenclature should be National Library of India just as we have the National Archives of India. And the very nomenclature carries a certain distinction, almost a kind of glory which, I think, would re-assure the people in my region that there is no intention on the part of the Government to shift the library from Calcutta to anywhere else. And the Minister also went out of his way to re-assure in the House and elsewhere that the National Library at Calcutta would remain at Calcutta and there is no intention of moving it from there.

Now, Sir, we have found the National Library in such doldrums that it is important that now that this bill has come on the legislative anvil, we think of ways and means of improving its working. I do not know if you have had any recent occasion to go and see the National Library at work. But the facilities there are pitiful. They are wanting in some of the most elementary facilities which are available to anything like a fairly well-run library in the world, not to speak of the more sophisticated institutions in more fortunate parts of the world.

But in our country also, there are libraries which have facilities a great deal more advanced than the facilities available in the National Library. There are some micro filming apparatuses there, but they are very inadequate. The airconditioning apparatus and even the bindery work function in conditions which are pitiful. You will find yourself in a most distressing condition, if you examine the manner in which the very valuable books have had to be kept because of lack of facilities which are comparatively easy to mobilize in Delhi, but probably not so in Calcutta. Calcutta, at one time the capital of this country, has now got into such a predicament that we find that anything does for Calcutta; and even the National Library can do without the most elementary facilities for a library, for its preservation and for its activities in various departments—into which I am afraid I do not have the time to enter.

The Jha Committee had also recommended the appointment as the Director of the National Library, a person who would command a certain intellectual stature in the country and whose being there would mean the National Library becoming a place of intellectual activity which would shed some radiance on our intellectual life. Government has so far been unable as far as I can understand, to get hold of a director of an adequate calibre. I do not think our country is so denuded of talent that we cannot get very good people to run this Library and to be at its head. There is some symbolic satisfaction in having, as the head of this Library, a person who would have the status of a vice-chancellor of a university who, at the same time, would be able to set up in the National Library a kind of an intellectual nucleus. At the moment, one of our National Professors, Dr. Sunil Kumar Chatterjee has got a place in the National Library campus in Calcutta, from where he carries on some of his activities. National professors would come and go, but there are

ways and means of utilizing the situation of the Library, which to-day has got a fairly attractive campus in Belvedere and its grounds, which as you must be aware, offer very commodious facilities for a variety of good work. Already we have got a nucleus, where one of the national professors has got a place to work from, and now if the director of the Library is an intellectual of high eminence, and if around him and around the institution which attracts scholars from different parts of the country and sometimes from abroad, there develops an intellectual life, it would be glory not only to Calcutta but also to the whole country which would be something worthwhile having. It will then truly be a library engaged in the purveying of knowledge which is power and knowledge of the forces of society and of life which enables man to overcome all obstacles in the way of the construction of a new life and if that knowledge is congealed in the texts which are available in the library, the country can go ahead with the dissemination of that knowledge and with the advancement of that knowledge. Therefore all the jobs that the country is now adopting as a matter of national policy in order to transform our existence would get a lot of assistance from the work which can be done at the National Library. It can function as a sort of a national laboratory in a wider sense without any kind of a partisan proclivity but in a comprehensive manner it would be national laboratory for seeing to it that what we glean becomes power to change society in the manner that we desire. That is why in the socialist countries they have placed so much reliance on the development of libraries. That is why the Lenin Library in Moscow has become one of the greatest libraries if not the greatest library in the world to-day. This is why in the Soviet Union there is a wonderful chain of libraries all over the place. And the readership figure in that country and other socialist countries is something to marvel at. And this happens only because the

people have an ache for learning. In all countries his indeed is the case. Our people in the villages and in the countryside are supposed to be benighted. But they want water in the first place and schools in the second place. Their two prior claims are for water supply and for the supply of school facilities. Our people have the ache for learning, the yearning to find out things, because after all our country has a tremendous civilization, a legacy of which we are proud.

And today in the modern context of things where the dynamism of science has come into play, we can have a new kind of qualitative intellectual activity and for which the focus would be places like the National Library. Therefore the importance of the National Library is such that something must be done today about it. But our National Library has been in doldrums and it continues to be so. I have looked—I could not get it in my hurry—at some recent publications which are not very recent because publications are delayed administration reports of the National Library and the sorry tale of many books lost and only some books recovered. All that sort of thing is extremely unsatisfactory. And we have heard of one time allegations about the losses of books from the custody of the Library which were extremely disconcerting. I cannot go into the details about it. Some of them had been discussed earlier in the Joint Select Committee. But that apart I want to say that this kind of thing has gone on for so long and we have found that some of the people in the administration of the Library are for quite some years now hand in glove with certain interests which are trying to degrade the Library to give it a bad name and thereby enable it so to speak to be pushed away from the intellectual map of this country.

We find for instance that there were some reports recently about the removal of the Central Reference

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Library from Calcutta to elsewhere. But I am glad that the Minister gave a reply recently. I noticed the reply in this House that the Central Reference Library would remain where it is now. I say this because there was one of the earlier Deputy Librarians who was perhaps the finest library worker in the National Library Calcutta, Mr. Chitranjan Banerjee, who was put in-charge of the Bibliographical Section and know that the Bibliographical Section was doing wonderful work. He has retired; he has left. I think he has gone elsewhere. I do not quite know where. But the Bibliographical Section was putting out its work which had been in doldrums for quite a long time and it started doing much better work.

The Central Reference Library and the preparation of the bibliography which would be one of the specialised jobs of the National Library, Calcutta, for which there is a demand all over, in different parts, in many foreign countries—there is a lot of demand and appreciation for the bibliographical work which is done in the National Library. This Section should certainly remain there and all the facilities that should be offered, must continue to be given.

I have found unhappily that there is a division in the ranks of the employees and the unions of employees there, and it has not played the role which I would expect in a place of intellectual activity like the National Library. I learn that there are different unions. But I would like to tell the Minister to see to it that there is no attempt to discriminate and that wherever their employees have organised themselves in a manner which is acceptable, they should be recognised. And if there is a multiplicity of unions, there is no harm in recognising more than one union, because, at any rate the important point is to get in touch with all the employees and to see to it that those people who are in favour of working the National Library successfully, and are making a

good job of whatever the mission of the National Library is in our view, are given all the assistance that can be given.

Then, I cannot go into the detail but, there are certain matters about which the Ministry has to apply its mind pending the setting up of the autonomous board and pending the autonomous board actually doing the job effectively.

There is a small children's library in the campus of the National Library. I do not quite know if it is working very successfully, because I have not seen it in recent years. I would like, for instance, in view of certain children's libraries elsewhere having also been set up, in view of certain *bal bhavans* and other institutions becoming an all India reality, in view of the memory of Jawaharlal Nehru being associated with the setting up of *Bal Bhavans* in many parts of the country, maybe, the children's Library section in the National Library campus might become a part of the change with which we could link the children's library movement. The dolls museum in Delhi or the children's little theatre idea in Calcutta and elsewhere that we have got, the *Bal Bhavan* movement and the children's library movement all this could be linked together. The National Library in Calcutta whose Children's Library section is quite a different thing to see could be linked together with all these things.

I would, therefore, plead that in so far as the work of the National Library is concerned, it should be looked after carefully, pending the autonomous board coming into the picture and facilities which are at least essential for any major library, let alone a national library, should be made sure.

So far as air-conditioning, micro-filming, preservation of books and all that sort of thing is concerned, every facility must be guaranteed and the running of the Library should also be looked into carefully.

I would also like that some attention is given to the idea of the character of a national library. The National Library in Calcutta suffers, from my own personal point of view, from being a place where even the average reader, who perhaps needs some relaxation reading, who wants to read some fiction, something of that sort, also goes to the National Library. Then, there are under-graduate students who also go to the National Library because of the paucity of library resources in other parts of the city. I have a feeling that a national library to be worth its salt, to be worth its dignity, its character and as a national focus cannot, at the same time, invite hords of other people who require books of various sorts, for various reasons, for relaxation reading, for under-graduate study, whatever else it may be. Relaxation reading is important; under-graduate study is important. But a national library is meant for something else. Relaxation books should also be there. But only for the record. Whatever is published should be there. Under-graduate books should also be there. But only for the record. There should not be conglomeration of people crowding the place and crowding out the real reader, the serious student, the researcher, the book lover, the bibliophile and also the people from abroad who should see and sometimes work in our National Library. Therefore, some ways and means should be found so that a readership section could be separated where more popular books, more widely required books, can be put while the particular national collection of books remains there for scholars to come and examine whenever they have a need to do so.

This aspect of the matter has been hanging fire for a long time. There is, I know, in Calcutta, a great deal of feeling that in the absence of something like the Delhi Public Library, in the presence of only locality libraries which are not good enough, in view of the fact that the university and the college libraries, even though they are fairly large, are not adequate to meet

the needs of Calcutta, many of the overflowing population of Calcutta go to the National Library and crowd the campus for no reason that I can understand, for no reason that is relevant to the existence of a national library. Therefore, the role of a national library would have to be thought over very carefully in this regard.

Then in regard to the movement, how a national library system can develop all over the country and can also emanate from the National Library, the leadership it can give. At the moment, we have in the National Library, Calcutta, the collection of books in all different regional languages. But it may be that we can have regional libraries on a much bigger scale in different parts of the country organised in a very systematic manner and there might be a Central library of regional languages. After all, that would be without many of the more valuable books which have been acquired and collected by the National Library because of its long history. But now we can go ahead perhaps, in so far as our regional literatures are concerned because they are growing in large numbers; we can have these libraries in different parts of the country. May be, in three or four cities in India we could have Central Regional Language Libraries, but that is a different matter; the National Library would have everything. At the same time, in order to have regional libraries which would have a special character of their own, we could have libraries in other parts of the country as well. From this National Library could come a sort of leadership, just as the University Grants Commission has tried to distribute its largesse to different Universities and has tried to formulate some policies in regard to intellectual specialisation in one University or the other.

So, the Director of the National Library may very well take charge of the duty of looking after the development of libraries in different parts of the country—libraries of various sorts,

[Shri H. N. Mukerjee]

libraries with different motivations, libraries whose content would be different from area to area. The whole matter would require thinking over and I hope my friend the Minister would apply his mind to it.

Then, I would ask the Minister to make sure that, in so far as the worries of the employees are concerned, those worries are put an end to definitively. The employees tell us repeatedly—and I can understand their anxiety—that in future, after having a Board, their terms of employment would differ, that they will no longer be Government servants with the old status, they will not get the old protection as Government servants, and that sort of thing. We have been assured by the Minister that all the advantages of being a Government servant would be retained absolutely and fully even if the change-over comes to take place and that, being employed by an autonomous Board would not mean any detraction of the rights and privileges of Government servants in so far as that goes. If there is any clause here which could be amended slightly in order to make sure that the worries of the employees are promptly removed, I would welcome that kind of a change being made in it. But if such a change is unnecessary and the Minister gives a fresh reassurance that everybody would be safe and secure and that their stability and their prospects and all the advantages they have as Government servants would continue, then everything would be all right.

I would like the Minister to also see to it that the employees' ideas are taken into consideration, that the Unions are consulted and that, in so far as the work of the library is concerned, they are actually made to participate in the work of the library. So much of the non-cooperative spirit among the employees has been due to the fact that the Management of the library, so to speak, has been entirely insympathetic to the ideas of

the employees. But now, in the new context of things, I would like the employees' ideas to be taken very much into prominence.

Meanwhile, I am happy that the long story of the National Library Bill having to be formulated has now come to an end. Even though the Jha Committee's ideas have not entirely been incorporated in the legislation, that we have before us, I personally very much like the idea of an autonomous Board. I only want to make sure that the genuine grievances of the employees are looked after properly and, most of all, since this relates to a matter like the National Library, I want that the intellectual work of my country should be important—not only intellectual work for intellectual work's sake but—because without intellectual work, we cannot go ahead. As I said earlier and as the proverb says from so many hundreds of years ago, knowledge is power. Where knowledge accumulates and knowledge grows, there is a spring of power for the people and if knowledge is partaken of by the entire people to the extent they can, then alone can power in this country be used in the manner which would be in conformity with the spirit of our times.

Therefore, I welcome this idea of the National Library and even though some of us might have a grouse here or a grouse there, I would like all to support this Bill. I would like my people in the region where I come from to take some heart from the fact that now the National Library of Calcutta is called the National Library of India and there is no idea, as far as the Government can foresee into the future, of moving the National Library from Calcutta to elsewhere. This is something which Calcutta has perhaps to ask of India and India, in the form of an assurance given by the Education Minister, is now telling Calcutta that the National Library would be situated in Calcutta, and Calcutta's National Library would be called the National Library of India.

13. hrs.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI (Calcutta-South): Views have been expressed both for and against this Bill just placed before the House, by Members from our side and Members from the opposite side. And, Mr. Speaker, Sir, you might have heard several Members trying to draw the attention of the House to certain very constructive suggestions, not merely in regard to the Bill but for the purpose of the National Library...

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now adjourn for Lunch. You may continue after Lunch.

13.01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch till fourteen of the Clock.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at three minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

NATIONAL LIBRARY BILL—contd.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI: As I was explaining earlier, the programme and the progress of the National Library, as has been expressed by several hon. members, have to be discussed and analysed not only within the ambit of this Bill but also outside the scope of this Bill where lies the main issue of this National Library—the aim and the purpose.

In the 19th Century, immediately after the renaissance, in our country, the habit of the library-goers was only to concentrate on the study of history, literature and sociology. But now with the development of modern science, the tendency has grown among the intellectuals in science and technology and also the other academicians to study more of modern science, technology, architectural science, environmental science, medicine and all those things. So, I do not consider that the

purpose or the function of the National Library is to confine itself to the study of the basic documents of history and literature, as Mr. Daga was saying. He was asking as to why we should not include some of the philosophers, writers and historians on the Committee. I think, that is not the purpose. The National Library should serve the purpose of all the intellectuals and research scholars in our country depending on the character of the country's progress and advancement.

The National Library is situated in my constituency in Calcutta, I am proud of this institution and I congratulate all the Members who took kind initiative and participated in the deliberations in the Joint Committee, as well as the Minister for introducing this Bill today.

It has now become a habit and library is just considered something for the readers and it has become a customary thing for almost all the readers to go and search for some books. If they get some books, it is all right, and if they do not, they neither try to make a report with the library to know, why a particular book is not available, nor the library take any interest to know what is the taste of the readers and what their requirements are. I would, therefore request the Minister, apart from the Bill, to kindly have a policy planning division of the National Library to know the requirements of the modern scholars and the research students and to know their minds. This is because, a library does not only keep the record and the history, but it also maintains the present day and current affairs of the society to meet the future requirements of the scholars and students.

As you know, in our pre-independence days, the documents in the National Library were preserved mainly pertaining to the period before the East India Company's invasion in eastern side of the country and the documents pertaining to the Alivardi's rule and other essential documents of

[Shri Priya Ranjan Das Munsi]

our history. For a student of history, those are worth reading, but a student of modern science, a student of modern political philosophy, a student of revolution and a student who thinks his country to be built up in a much more modern way technologically and otherwise, wants something else also. The policy planning division of the National Library and other libraries in the country should further be modernised to understand the desire and tendency of the students and the modern research scholars. As I said, my first suggestion is that there should be a policy planning division in the National Library to know the requirements of the modern scholars and students; secondly, there must be a very strong research wing, a research wing not for the research scholars, but a research wing on the library science, I think, the National Library has everything except a research wing on library science, how to handle the modern libraries, how to maintain the books of the modern libraries, how to maintain and retain the manuscripts of the modern libraries etc. These are all matters to be discussed and known to almost all the participants in the library and those who sit in the management.

I would just refer to two or three issues. In our eastern side, there are very strong and potential socio-cultural documents on our folk tribal development, and our history. Specially, I would refer to Bharu Chandidas Sri Krishan Kirtan. The original manuscript of Bharu Chandidas Sri Krishan Kirtan is not available now, I am told, that for lack of sufficient facilities for maintenance in the library, it was lost. Half of the pages are absolutely no more in the library. Maimansingh Geetika is another important folk document of undivided Bengal in which the actual social life was revealed during the pre-British days. That document is also not available for not having been maintained properly due to lack of facilities. Not only this, the basic documents on the

renaissance movement enunciated by Raja Ram Mohan Roy in Bengal and other documents of those days are also not in proper shape and the students and the scholars are not able to utilise them properly mainly as they have not been maintained properly for lack of proper facilities. Simply laying down some suggestions to do this and to do that are not enough. I think, the national Library should be a national science department to understand the maintenance and preservation of the documents.

As Prof. H. N. Mukerjee has rightly pointed out, the Library should not be a centre of crowds. I would like to tell you the situation in the National Library, because I am very much accustomed to go there. Fortunately or unfortunately, it is situated near Victoria Memorial Maidan Area. Those young boys and girls, who often go in the afternoon leaving their colleges and universities for their happy trip, if they do not find any other place, they prefer and just go in a queue to the National Library in the name of reading some fiction and occupy the seats of students and scholars. As Professor Mukerjee pointed out, it should not be a place of mass crowd. There should be some dignity. Only the students and research scholars should go there. There should be some rule or regulation, some standard, as to who should be entitled to utilise the books of the library, the space and the accommodation there. About other libraries, I think, the National Library can start the initiative for a new thing; they can start the National Library movement in this country. The Prime Minister has said on many occasions that the poor people in the villages, the literate people in the villages and in the urban areas etc. should exchange their views and their ideas with the modern achievements, not always depending upon the Government documents alone, but by utilising and using all available resources available nearby their own areas. I will just cite an example. The history of the freedom movement is a subject in which our

Professor Nurul Hasan Sahib is interested and he knows very well that there is no concise document in this country. Nobody can write the actual history of freedom movement in one volume. It will run into ten or twelve mahabharats. So, why cannot we think of taking action, as the Prime Minister suggested a few days ago? If somebody is interested to take the records of the freedom-fighters alive today, those who have got tamarapatra, and those who have not got, to know their life histories, to know what they actually did, to know whom they came into contact with, etc., he can take such records which will be very useful for the next generation. The next generation may get another round of documents of our freedom history and information on freedom struggle. The Department of National Library can start functioning and collect materials in this regard. Binay Badal and Dinesh organised their mutiny against the British in Calcutta Writers' Building, but all this information and correspondence, etc. have become available from some common people. Therefore, what I say is, if the National Library takes initiative and if it collects almost all available manuscripts, letters and other information of freedom-movement, I think the National Library's purpose would have been much more fruitful, for the students and future generations of this country.

Regarding guests I wish to say this. Foreigners come to the Library in Calcutta. I found that the National Library has not got sufficient and good air-conditioned accommodation or guest room or waiting room. They have felt that they are not being attended to well. I feel that in the national library compound which is vacant, a small guest house can be built, which can serve not only foreign people, but our own people like those who come from Banagalore or from Trivandrum etc. Those who do not get any room in the hotels can stay in these guest houses. The person may stay in this guest house attached to the National Library and carry on with his job. There is also this good atmosphere in

Shantiniketan where the students can stay in the Library's guest house. So, the National Library can construct a guest house which will be very useful.

About the other libraries which can supply more information, unfortunately, we have developed a habit in our country that only the bigger libraries are to be taken into consideration but I would like to repeat one thing. During my student days, while I was student of literature, we had to collect information about the folk culture of our country. We travelled from one village after another and saw those small libraries, recognised, non-recognised etc. There we found very substantial documents, living documents, which are not available in the National Library. What I feel is this. If the National Library can integrate itself with the subsidiary units of these libraries, recognised or non-recognised, under Social Welfare Department or Education Ministry, which gives grants to these bodies, they can very well collect information which will be very useful for our future generations. Those documents may not be handled well by these village librarians and small town librarians and these can very well be preserved in our National Library. So, this will serve a very good purpose.

About Raja Peary Mohan Library about which Mr. Somnath Chatterjee stated, I wish to say, this is one of the important libraries in our country which carries some serious and some very basic historic type of documents on literature and history of our country, a library where Madhusudan Dutt dedicated himself, where Sarat Chandra Chatterjee used to sit day in and day out to know more things about Bengal's social life.

The condition of that library is very poor. If the National Library can integrate itself with such types of Library as subsidiary units, it would help.

About the Board itself, as Shri Mukherjee and Shri Daga said I

[Shri Priya Ranjan Das Munsi]

entirely agree with them that, as a matter of fact, Government and Parliament cannot ensure any financial guarantee to any institution where there are checks and balances by the Government authority. In that regard, I think the Board is necessary. I feel that involvement of the scholars is much more important in the matter of library. It does not matter whether the Board is with us or not. As a matter of fact, in the railways, there are some non-official committees. So, in the National Library also, some non-official council can be formed with academicians where even the Education Minister or the State Minister can be represented who can apply their freedom there. They can give valuable suggestions and advice from time to time which the Government will consider or the management will consider and may reject.

As in our Consultative Committees of Parliament, I feel you can also introduce this sort of non-official advisory council in the National Library. This way, I think, the National Library would be benefited.

Lastly, I submit that some institutions like the Centre of Study for Social Sciences which has recently been set up in Calcutta and some other institutions of this nature might be represented where human values are to be judged and where academic discussions will be very much helpful and, if these institutions are also taken over and brought within the fold of the National Library as their subsidiary units, I think the scope of the National Library would be widened and the purpose of the National Library could be better served.

Sir, I conclude by saying that if is a pride of the whole country—not only Calcutta—as it is a historical tradition of our great country to have this National Library and I hope that the Minister would give us an assurance that the jurisdiction of the National Library would not be touched and the

provincial barrier will not come in the way; in any case, I hope that the headquarters of this National Library will not be shifted from Calcutta.

SHRI Y. S. MAHAJAN (Buldana):
Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Bill. It deals with a very important institution in the educational and cultural life of our nation, namely, the National Library at Calcutta. It has a long history and has been an important agency for the acquisition, preservation and servicing of the nation's literary treasure in particular and of the world's literature in general.

It has provided unrivalled facilities to research scholars from India as well as from abroad. But as the affairs of this great institution were in doldrums, the Government appointed a Committee known as Jha Committee to inquire into its affairs and to make recommendations for improving its organisational working. That Committee's main recommendation was that the National Library should continue to remain a Department of the Education Ministry. This recommendation was naturally not acceptable to Government on the ground that maintenance of its present status would not remove the malaise or improve its functioning.

The Committee further said that the Advisory Committee of the National Library should be converted into a Governing Body and autonomy should be granted to this Governing Body by delegation. The Government accepted the principle of autonomy. That autonomy has been granted now by this Bill. It has been granted in a statutory manner. The legal opinion has been that autonomy cannot be granted by delegation, but that it should be done in a statutory manner so as to make it really effective.

I believe that cultural institutions like the National Library can flourish and develop and render their services in an efficient manner only in an atmosphere of relative freedom guaranteed by autonomy under a statute. By

this method you can secure expert management and cut out the delays and redtape inevitable under departmental control. It was surprising to find people arguing passionately for direct departmental control. This means they refuse to learn from experience or have some other extraneous considerations in mind.

Under the new nomenclature, the Library will be called 'National Library' of India. Section 18 lays down that:

'It shall continue to be located in Calcutta.' This provision had the good effect of removing misapprehensions in the minds of many representatives from West Bengal about the possible location of the National Library. I welcome one special feature of this Bill, namely, the principle of rotation followed in nominating representatives on the Board of the Library. This cuts out the bargaining and consequential delay involved in elections.

Sir, another controversy raised by the Bill has been about the terms and conditions of employees of the National Library. As a result of the grant of autonomous status to the library, fears were entertained that the terms and conditions of service of the employees would be adversely affected. These fears were groundless and I hope the fears have been sufficiently allayed by Section 17 which contains effective safeguards. First it gives an officer or an employee the option to continue his present status as a Government employee and to refuse to become an employee of the Board of the National Library, if he so chooses. Secondly, the Section contains provisions to protect the employee's right of leave, pension and provident fund. These rights are all laid down categorically in the Bill and should in my view be a sufficient guarantee of the interests of the present employees. To say that those guarantees might remain only on paper amounts to nothing but the expression of one's lack of trust in the Government.

Besides, Sir, may I say that in a changing and dynamic society like ours if we make a shibboleth of the interests of any organised group under the guise of protecting them, it might land us into an attitude which is really inimical to the economic and social progress of the country?

Sir, I welcome this Bill for one more reason, namely, that I regard it as the beginning of legislation for the development of a national library system in this country. We need State libraries, District libraries and Block and Taluka libraries connected with one another and helping one another in the dissemination of knowledge and spread enlightenment to every nook and corner of the country. Whereas the development of libraries is the responsibility of the State Government even then the hon. Minister can play a useful role in encouraging the State Governments to develop the national library system. No State Government has taken an initiative and the State Governments and local authorities must be made to discharge their duties in this respect. They must be made to pay their contributions and sufficient amount should be earmarked for the development of this important service to the community in the Plan. I earnestly request the Minister to take up this task as soon as possible.

(श्री एन० रामगोपाल रेड्डी (निजामाबाद) : उपाध्यक्ष जी, मैं माननीय शिक्षा मंत्री, श्री नूरुल हसन साहब और उन के दो नौजवान साथियों को हार्दिक मुबारकबाद देना चाहता हूँ। मैं समझता हूँ कि एक ऐसा बिल जो हर तरह से कामिप्राप्त सिद्ध है, इस सदन के सामने लाया गया है, इस बिल में किसी तरह की कमी नहीं रह गई है। हमारे मंत्रिवर इस के लिए हर तरह से बंधायी के पात्र हैं। यह कहना कि झा कमेटी की रिपोर्ट को ज्यों का त्यों अमल में लाना चाहिए या मैं समझता हूँ कि ठीक नहीं है। अगर झा कमेटी की रिपोर्ट को ही ज्यों का त्यों अमल में लाना था तो फिर

[श्री एम० राम गोपाल रेड्डी]

ज्वाइंट सेलेक्ट कमेटी किस लिए बनाई गई और यहाँ पार्लियामेंट में इतना डिस्कशन होने की क्या जरूरत थी। जब पार्लियामेंट और ज्वाइंट सेलेक्ट कमेटी के सामने यह बिल आया तो फिर सा कमेटी की रिपोर्ट को चर्चा में लाना कोई जरूरी नहीं है। जो भी पार्लियामेंट का म्यू है वह सुप्रीम है न कि सा कमेटी की रिपोर्ट। यहाँ पर यह भी कहा जा रहा है कि 29 मेम्बर्स बोर्ड के हैं और एग्जीक्यूटिव कौंसिल 9 आर्दायर्स की होंगी, गवर्नमेन्ट अपनी तरफ से मैनेजमेन्ट क्या नहीं करती। हमारे सी० पी० (एम) के लोग ही कुछ ज्यादा बोलते हैं। लेकिन मैं उन से एक बात कह देना चाहता हूँ—जब गवर्नमेन्ट अपनी तरफ से कोई चीज मैनेज करती है तो कहते हैं कि प्रोटोकोल्स बाडी को क्यों नहीं देते हैं, जब प्रोटोकोल्स बाडी का काम दिया जाता है तो कहते हैं कि खुद क्यों नहीं करते ...

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE:
What is your view?

श्री एम० राम गोपाल रेड्डी : मैं तो यही चाहता हूँ कि प्रोटोकोल्स बाडी को ही यह काम दिया जाय। लेकिन मैं इतना जरूर चाहता हूँ कि कोई फाइनेन्सल-स्ट्रुक्चर, फाइनेन्स की कमी उन के सामने नहीं आनी चाहिये। मन्त्री महोदय खुले दिल से नेशनल लाइब्रेरी के लिए फण्ड प्रोवाइड करे, क्योंकि यह एक ऐसी इंस्टी-ट्यूशन है जिस में अगर कोई डिफिकल्ट आ जाय तो फिर उसका रिपेयर करना मुश्किल हो जाता है।

जहाँ तक कुछ लोगों का यह कहना है कि इस को कलकत्ते में ही रखा जाय—इस बात से किस को इन्कार है। इस को कलकत्ते में क्यों रखा गया है ? इसलिए रखा गया है कि कलकत्ता हमारा

कलकत्ता सिटी है, सब से बेहतरीन सिटी है, बहुत अच्छे लोग यहाँ रहते हैं, बड़े बड़े नेता यहाँ से हो चुके हैं। हमारे सोमनाथ चटर्जी के पिता जी भी यहीं के थे, आप भी यहीं रहते हैं ...

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE:
In spite of you...

श्री एम० रामगोपाल रेड्डी : बहुत अच्छी जगह है, हालांकि कम्युनिस्ट पार्टी (मार्क्सिस्ट) की वजह से बोली बंदबंद यहाँ हुई थी। हमारे हीरेन मुखर्जी साहब ने भी स्पीच की है, वह उनके दिल से निकली है। सोमनाथ चटर्जी साहब भी स्पीच इंटेलक्चुअल स्पीच है, पोलिटिकल स्पीच है।

चूँकि यह लाइब्रेरी हमारा देश के एक कोने में है—इस लिए मेरा सुझाव है कि हमारे जो स्कालर्स यहाँ जाकर पढ़ना चाहते हैं, उनको फ्री रेलवे पासिज दिए जायें। इसी तरह से हमारे जो बच्चे यूनीवर्सिटीज में पढ़ते हैं, जब छुट्टियाँ होती हैं और वे वहाँ जाकर पढ़ना चाहें तो उन को भी रेलवे पासिज फ्री दिए जाने चाहिए। ताकि वे लोग लाइब्रेरी से फायदा उठा सकें।

इसमें कास्ट बेंनिफिट-रेसों का हिसाब नहीं रखना चाहिए। आज आप एजुकेशन के लिए करोड़ों रुपया खर्च कर रहे हैं, इस लिए इसमें एकाउन्ट बुक लेकर हिसाब नहीं लगाना चाहिए—कास्ट बेंनिफिट रेसो इसमें नहीं होना चाहिए। इस बास्ते दिल खोल कर इसकी मदद कीजिए।

हमारी इस लाइब्रेरी में लाइब्ररी की तादाद में कितने हैं—उनकी आज कौड़ी हालत है, वे खराब नहीं, उनको अच्छी

हमारे देश में प्रीजर्व रखा जाना चाहिए - इस तरह सरकार को वास्तविक ध्यान देना चाहिए।

यह कहना कि इस लाइब्रेरी के लिए कोई डायरेक्टर नहीं मिल रहा है-- कुछ ठीक नहीं मालूम पड़ता। जिस देश में एटम की खोजने वाला प्राथमी मिलता है, वास्तव में सैटलाइट छोड़नेवाला प्राथमी मिलता है, वहां लाइब्रेरी के लिए डायरेक्टर नहीं मिलता— यह सही बात नहीं है। हमारे यहां अच्छे से अच्छे लोग मिल सकते हैं। सोम नाथ चटर्जी साहब को भी अगर किनी वक्त डायरेक्टर बनायें तो इस में कोई हर्ज नहीं है।

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE.
Not under you.

श्री एम० राम गोपाल रेड्डी : देखने वाली प्रांथ में हर चीज फोरन नजर आती है। हमारे नुकलहसन जी अच्छे लोगों को चुनें। मैं एक मिसरा कह कर खत्म करता कथंगा—

छुप नहीं सकता फूल पौधे में पिन्हा होकर।

इसी तरह आप की नजर से कोई अच्छी चीज छुप नहीं सकती।

श्री नरसिंह नारायण शंभेय उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, एक बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण विधेयक माननीय मंत्री जी ने सदन के सामने पेश किया है। मैं ऐसा मानता हूँ कि श्री० हीरेन मुञ्जरी ने जो अपने विचार प्रकट किए हैं- वे वास्तव में बहुत महत्वपूर्ण हैं। लाइब्रेरियों की भाव जो कन्डी-

शन हमारे देश में है, जिस तरह से पुस्तकों का रखरखाव होता है— और

उसने जो ऊंचा धारणा प्राप्त किया है पुराने समय में उसको देखते हुए हमें उस लाइब्रेरी की नेशनल स्टेटस देना चाहिए। बहुत से देश जिनके ग्रन्थ अपनी सभ्यता बड़ी है, संस्कृति का फैलाव हुआ है उन्होंने अपनी सभ्यता और संस्कृति के अनुसंधान अपने देश में अपनी लाइब्रेरी को नेशनल लेवल पर, स्टेट्स लेवल पर और जिला स्तर के लेवल पर कायम किया है। मैं सोशलिस्ट कन्ट्रीज में गया हूँ, वस में गया हूँ और वहां देखा है कि वहां के बच्चों के लिए गांव की स्थिति को वहां के रहने वालों की स्थिति को, उनका पुराना कल्चरल क्या है, कैसे उसका विकास हुआ है, ऐसी तमाम चीजों को अपनी लाइब्रेरी में म्यूजियम की तरह से रखा है और उसमें बराबर निरंतर शोध कार्य होता चला जाता है। माननीय मंत्री जी ने इस बिल को साकार जो प्रयास किया है, मैं ऐसा मानता हूँ कि उस तरह एक इशारा है उनका काम करने का। मैं इस बात को स्वीकार करता हूँ कि ऐसी राष्ट्रीय पैमाने की लाइब्रेरी के ग्रन्थ राष्ट्रीय स्तर के विद्वानों को जो शोध कार्य में लगे हुए हैं उन की प्राथमिकता मिलनी चाहिए, उनको वहां पर हर प्रकार की सुविधा मिलनी चाहिए। जिस से वह शोध कार्य विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में कर सकें। ऐसा नहीं होना चाहिए कि नेशनल लाइब्रेरी के ग्रन्थ ऐसे सांग जायें जो शोध कार्य में मदद न कर सकें बल्कि इस के विपरीत नेशनल लाइब्रेरी में वही सांग जायें जो शोध कार्य में लगे हुए हैं। ऐसी लाइब्रेरी में सस्ती किताबें पढ़ने वालों के जाने पर टोक लगनी चाहिए। जब तक आप उस के स्तर को नहीं बनाएंगे तब तक सही तरीके से देश और विदेशी के स्वागत

(श्री नरसिंह नारायण पांडेय)

हमारी लाइब्रेरी में उन चीजों का ज्ञान वर्धन नहीं कर सकते हैं और खोज नहीं कर सकते हैं। इन बातों की तरफ मन्त्री जी का ध्यान जाना चाहिए।

आज भी हमारे देश में अगर पुराना इतिहास लिया जाए तो उस इतिहास के उपर बड़े-बड़े विद्वानों ने पांडुलिपि के रूप में बड़े-बड़े संकलन किए हैं। आज उन पांडुलिपियों का रख रखाव ठीक से नहीं हो पा रहा है कहीं उनकी दोमक चाट रही है ऐसी अमूल्य पांडुलिपियों के रख रखाव की तरफ हमें अच्छी तरह से ध्यान देना चाहिए। और अगर कहीं वह गायब हुई हों तो उसके शोध कार्य में लगना चाहिए। जैन धर्म और बौद्ध धर्म से संबंधित साहित्य तथा वेद, उपनिषदों का नेशनल लाइब्रेरी में खोजना होना चाहिए जिससे हमें पुराना दर्शन प्राप्त हो सके।

जो मा कमेटी की रिपोर्ट है, और उस की संस्तुतियां हैं सब तो इस छोटे के विधेयक में नहीं आ सकतीं, लेकिन अगर इसको सही तरीके से पालन करने की कोशिश की जाए तो हम अपने राष्ट्रीय स्तर के मुदाबिक अपनी लाइब्रेरी को बना सकते हैं, उसका विस्तार कर सकते हैं और अपने देश के अनुरूप उसको बना सकते हैं।

मन्त्री जी ने एक पुनीत कर्त्तव्य की भावना से इस बिल को सदन में रखा है। इस में बहुत सी कमियां हो सकती हैं, कमजोरियां हो सकती हैं बहुत से माननीय सदस्यों ने उन कमजोरियों की तरफ ध्यान दिलाया है। अगर आप समझते हैं कि उस में कुछ तबदिलियों की जरूरत है, प्रारूप को बदलने की जरूरत है तो अगर आपका ध्यान अवश्य जाना चाहिये। यह सही है कि विधेयक

पास होने के बाद बहुत सी कमियां भिन्न होती हैं और उन को दूर करने की कोशिश की जाती है। लेकिन जो राष्ट्रीय जीवन में लाइब्रेरी का स्थान है उस के अनुरूप आपका मन्तव्य है, यह बड़ी पुनीत बात है। मैं मानता हूँ कि अगर नेशनल लाइब्रेरी की शाखाएँ प्रदेश और जिला स्तर पर आ सकें तो उस को ले जाना चाहिये और इस को एक व्यापक स्थान देना चाहिए ताकि आने वाली पीढ़ी का विकास हो सके। और ऐसे लोग जो शोध कार्य में लगे हुए हैं उन की हम सेवा कर सकें और उन्हें अपनी लाइब्रेरी के अगिठे से किताबें और दूसरे लिटरेचर दे सकें।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं इस विधेयक का समर्थन करता हूँ।

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (PROF. S. NURUL HASAN): Sir, I am extremely grateful to the hon. Members who have spoken and who have made very valuable suggestions. I entirely accept the spirit in which criticisms have been offered by my hon. friends from the Opposite side. I am in full agreement that this is not a Bill which should be looked at from a partisan spirit but a spirit of serving the nation and scholars. The speeches that we have heard today have, once again, been a reminder of the fact that this great nation through its accredited representatives is keen to maintain and preserve its ancient heritage to acquire new knowledge, to contribute to that new knowledge and to allow, as Mahatma Gandhi had said and we can never be tired of quoting him, fresh breeze to come in from whichever corner it comes without blowing us off our feet. That sentiment is the underlying principle of all the speeches that have been delivered today. And in this the National Library of India—I hope we will soon call it the National Library of India—situated at Calcutta will play its rightful role.

Eventhough, the Constitution is clear that libraries form part of List 2 of the Seventh Schedule, Entry No. 12, the National Library of India can be an informal coordinating institution in providing guidelines. This suggestion which has been given by many hon. Members is a very valuable suggestion and I can give the assurance on behalf of the Government that we will examine this suggestion very carefully and see what is the manner in which the National Library can without infringing the authority of the State Legislatures, provide the guiding role for the growth of a national library movement. I would be very sorry if I have given the impression that the Government of India is not keen in building up a national library movement. In all the speeches delivered by the Prime Minister, as has been pointed out by some hon. Members of this House, she has emphasised the fact that learning is a continuous process; that learning is not to be confined to those who go to schools and colleges or universities or institutions only that it is a life long process and if education is to be a life long process, then libraries have to play their full part in taking education to people and enabling them to acquire it. Therefore, at the highest level, this Government is committed to the building up of a library movement. The limited point I was venturing to mention here is that the authority of the Central Government is House and the authority of this august House and the authority of this august House has been somewhat delimited by the Constitution. And therefore, it would not have been proper on my part to encroach upon the authority of the others. But the fact that, as this House would remember, this government took the initiative in establishing, in cooperation and coordination with the State Governments, the Rajaram Mohan Roy Memorial Library Foundation to establish a chain of libraries, is an indication of the fact that notwithstanding the limitation of resources, we are doing whatever lies in our power to see that the library movement grows in the country and is being strengthened.

Sir, when I use the word 'resource', who knows more than this House what the resources at the disposal of the Department of Culture and of the Ministry of Education and Social Welfare are? I have only that much which this House is pleased to give to me. And I hope that the earnestness which has been expressed by my hon. friends and which sustains the innumerable workers in the field of education and culture—among whom I count myself—is the greatest sustaining force and the interest which this House takes will lead to a situation in which our resource position begins to improve.

Sir, it was pointed out that the Board can frame the budget; but it is still the Central Government which will decide on the amount. Now, no authority other than the Lok Sabha can decide what are going to be the appropriations and how is the money going to be spent. That is the prerogative only of this House and it cannot be delegated to anybody else. Therefore, the budget will be in the form of proposals. Then, depending upon what this House votes, they will again have the power—the Board will have the power—within this limit and direction, to decide as to how that money is to be spent.

While I would be the last person to say that I am entirely satisfied with what this House has been pleased to give me, I would nevertheless not like to give the impression that this House been lacking in generosity. In regard to the National Library, Sir, the total expenditure—plan and non-Plan—during the 4th five-year plan period was Rs. 187.05 lakhs. The proposed expenditure—Plan and non-Plan—during the 5th five year plan period is to be Rs. 470 lakhs. i.e. more than double in fact very much more than double the expenditure. During the current year, this House has just approved, that a sum of Rs. 64 lakhs—plan and non-plan—be spent on the National Library. Now this is not as much as I would have

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liked, but it is nevertheless an appreciable advance on the expenditure earlier; and it shows Government's deep concern for the welfare of the National Library.

Sir, the main point which I was supposed to have answered has very kindly been answered by my very distinguished friend opposite, who knows much more about the Library when I will ever get to know. I am referring to the hon. Member Prof. H. N. Mukherjee. He was a member of the Jha Committee and a member of the Joint Committee. He presided over some of the most difficult sessions of the Joint Committee and he has had a very important hand in the report and in the formulation of the bill as it is being considered to-day.

The point which he has emphasised is that we are not trying to create a type of trading corporation. It is an institution of higher learning and it has to be saved from the atmosphere of bureaucratic control. I am not trying to denigrate the bureaucracy. All that I am submitting is that intellectual effort and bureaucratic control do not always match, as you know very well.

If the National Library is to generate an intellectual effort of the highest order, then it has to be managed by persons having the requisite intellectual stature, and it should not be bound by day-to-day rules which are necessary, perhaps inevitable, in a Government Department. Till now, whatsoever one may say, the National Library has been a department or an office of the Department of Culture, where in accordance with the normal rules, practically everything had to be referred to it and there was nothing that we could do in the case of the National Library itself.

Now, if the National Library, as has been rightly pointed out, has to serve as a seat of intellectual learning, it has to be treated as a seat of intellec-

tual learning. How do we treat it as a seat of intellectual learning in our country? While the ultimate responsibility of Parliament remains—and I would repeat the ultimate responsibility and the authority of the Parliament remains—to that extent, Government is answerable to this House for the well being of the National Library. Nevertheless, in its academic management at least, and also in its day-to-day affairs, it should have autonomy and it should be managed by a competent body of individuals. This autonomy can only be given by Parliament; it cannot be, under the rules, as was rightly pointed out by my friend, given merely by an executive order of the Government. It was in accordance with this spirit that this Bill was brought before the House, and as I said in my initial speech.—I am grateful to the Joint Committee for having improved this Bill considerably and for having given it almost a new shape and new form—it was the Joint Committee which decided that the Board should be representative of different disciplines, different areas of the country and different systems involved in research. Now, for that purpose, if you would be so kind as to have a look at the composition of the Board, you will observe that it starts, apart from the Chairman, by representation of Parliament. I am sure that nobody would disagree that Parliament should have some representation on a body of such vital importance for the welfare of the country as the National Library of India. There is to be some nomination from the State Governments because their involvement in a national institution is always a useful thing. Then there would be four persons from Universities. These will not be bureaucrats; these would be scholars. Universities are among the main consumers, if I may use that word. Then a person nominated by the University Grants Commission is a person of academic eminence. Then there is a Library an of one of the public libraries designated under the Delivery of Books and Newspapers (Public Libraries) Act. Another Librarian is from a library which has

been declared by the Central Government to be of sufficient importance. Then there is a nominee of the professional association of the Librarians, the Indian Library Association. Then there is the Director of the National Archives of India who has to work in the closest collaboration with the National Library of India.

Then, there is a provision of eight scholars of repute in different disciplines. As my hon. friend, Shri Das Munsi, said, we do not have to look only to humanities, but to humanities, science, social sciences, medicine, engineering, technology and law. Further, two persons are to be elected by the Library staff because they are also professional librarians who are responsible for running it. Their representation will be very useful. Then comes the Director of the Library and only two officers, one connected with the administrative Ministry and the other with Finance because they have to be represented and, if they are not represented, they will have to look into the proposals. It is much better to involve them in the formulation of the proposals.

In this respect, I would like to refer to a point which was raised by my hon. friend, Shri Daga, about a peon being represented. First of all, I would like to say that I do not consider appointing a peon to be derogatory in the least. I hold a peon in the highest esteem. Therefore, I would not like to use that term in a pejorative sense. However, the wording here is, "an officer of the Ministry or the Department not below the rank of Deputy Secretary to the Government of India". He is the person who can be nominated. Perhaps, this particular phrase had escaped the attention of my hon. friend, Shri Daga.

The hon. Member, Shri Somnath Chatterjee, thought that the Government was attempting to disown its responsibility. I would repeat, we are not disowning responsibility. I am in my official capacity as a Minister responsible to this House for the welfare of whichever academic or cultural in-

stitution is under the control of Parliament. I cannot turn round and say, I am disowning my responsibility. If there is anything that goes wrong, I can always come to the House. Supposing the House has not given me enough powers, I can come to the House and say, "Please give me more powers. Here is the situation". Therefore, I cannot disown my responsibility. The Government does not disown its responsibility. It has no intention of disowning its responsibility. It remains fully responsible for the National Library of India.

As regards the Director, you will notice that we have provided that the Director will be appointed by the Visitor. This is the same procedure which has been provided for the appointment of Vice-Chancellors of Central universities. His salary has been substantially raised. There will be a Director and, in addition to that, under him, there will be a professional librarian. So, the Director will be a scholar of repute.

Several hon. Members have spoken about the staff. The point has been very well made by my hon. friend, Shri Mahajan. We have taken every step to see that all the legitimate interests of the members of the staff of the National Library are fully protected. Therefore, even if you compare the wording of the relevant provisions of this Bill with article 311, you will find that chunks have been taken out of the Constitution and incorporated in this Bill so that the maximum possible protection could be given. I would like to take this opportunity, as my hon. friend, my senior colleague, Prof. Hiren Mukerjee, asked me that I should give this assurance on behalf of the Government, to say that I have no hesitation in giving this assurance on behalf of the Government that the employees will not lose their rights or their privileges or their condition will worsen if the House passes this Bill.

A point has been raised very correctly that it should be possible for scholars from all over the country to

[Prof. S. Nurul Hasan]

come and study here. At the moment, there is a hostel or a guest-house attached. We have deliberately kept the rates very, very low. It is Rs. 2 per day if a person takes a single room and Rs. 3.50 per day if a person takes a double room. These have been deliberately kept low so that young scholars from different Universities and research institutions can go and stay for as long as it is necessary for them to do so and so that they will be enabled to afford it. Hon. Members from Calcutta know what the residential rates in Calcutta are. I don't know when it would be possible for the Government to expand the guest house, but we do have a proposal to take early steps to expand the guest house.

Another point that has been made is about every person being permitted to go and read in the National Library. In the case of most of the libraries of a comparative nature in other countries, they are open to research scholars only. Even though I had the authority to issue necessary orders in this regard, I would have issued them, but I did not do so because, unfortunately, for the students of the Calcutta University adequate reading room facilities are not yet available. Now, the University Grants Commission has recently offered a sizable grant to the Calcutta University to establish various types of academic facilities in different parts of Calcutta. I hope the Calcutta University will formulate the necessary proposals at an early date so that adequate reading room and library facilities will become available to the students of the University and then it would be possible for the Library to stop the average undergraduate from coming there and only *bona fide* research scholars can go there.

Another point that has been raised is that we should work towards the formulation of a policy for the development of the Library. This point

is very well taken. What particular form it should acquire is a matter that deserves consideration. I entirely agree with my young friend Mr. Das Munsi that it is necessary to have a very careful look at what is the perspective behind the National Library's development plans and to formulate its policies very carefully.

He has also suggested the setting up of a research wing in library science, especially for the conservation of manuscripts. I am not in a position to give an assurance off the cuff but I will say that I will give his suggestion very careful thought and find out what facilities are available in Calcutta and in the eastern region and, on that basis, we will be able to take a decision fairly soon.

A fear has been expressed that manuscripts are not being properly maintained. I would like to assure this House that there has been remarkable improvement recently in the looking after and preservation and conservation of manuscripts. Of course it has to be remembered that there is a very large manuscript collection in the National Library, but I hope more steps will be taken very soon to improve the looking after of manuscripts as well as the collection of private papers, whenever they come.

With these words, I thank again the Hon. Members for the interest they have taken and the suggestions they have given and commend the Bill once again to them.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the administration of the National Library and certain other connected matters, as reported by the Joint Committee, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, we take up clause-by-clause consideration.

The question is:

"That Clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

15 hrs.

Clause 4—(Composition of the Board)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There are three amendments. Is the Minister moving his amendments?

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN: Yes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Is Mr. Subodh Hansda moving his amendment?

SHRI SUBODH HANSDA (Midnapore): Yes, Sir.

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN: I am supporting it.

Amendments Made—

Page 2,—

for lines 33 and 34 substitute—

"(iv) four persons to represent the Universities in India, to be nominated in the prescribed manner.

*Explanation—*For the purpose of this clause "University" has the meaning assigned to it in the University Grants Commission Act, 1956 and includes an educational institution declared by Parliament by law to be an institution of national importance;" (3)

3 of 1956

Page 2, line 48,—

omit "by rotation in the alphabetical order". (4)

(Prof. S. Nurul Hasan)

Page 3, after line 22,—

insert "(xii a) one person to be nominated by the Government of West Bengal to represent that Government." (5)

(Shri Subodh Hansda)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clause 4, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 4, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 5 to 10 were added to the Bill.

Clause 11 (Executive Council)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There is an amendment given notice of by Shri Subodh Hansda. Is he moving that?

SHRI SUBODH HANSDA: Yes, Sir.

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN: I support it.

Amendment Made:

Page 5, line 26,—

after "Library" insert—

"and a representative of the Government of West Bengal". (6)

(Shri Subodh Hansda)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clause 11, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 11, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 12 to 31 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1—(Short title and Commencement)

Amendment Made:

Page 1, line 5,—

for "1974" substitute "1976" (2)

(Prof. S. Nurul Hasan)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.

ENACTING FORMULA

Amendment Made:

Page 1, line 1,—

for "Twenty-fifth"

substitute "Twenty-seventh"
(1)

(PROF. S. NURUL HASAN)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Enacting Formula, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Enacting Formula, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Title was added to the Bill.

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

15.05 hrs.

TEA (AMENDMENT) BILL

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We will now take up the Tea (Amendment) Bill.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I beg to move*:

"That the Bill further to amend the Tea Act, 1953, be taken into consideration".

Sir, the Tea Act, 1953 (29 of 1953), which came into force on the 1st April, 1954, seeks to provide for the control by the Union Government of the tea industry and for that purpose to establish a Tea Board. The Act also seeks to levy a duty of excise on tea produced in India, which at present is 6 paise per kg. The Tea Board has been discharging its functions under Section 10 of the Act for the development of the Tea Industry in the country.

In recent years, the tea industry has been facing some difficulties in the matter of finance, managerial skill etc. A number of tea gardens have been closed and a few others are reported to be sick or uneconomic and it is feared that unless corrective or remedial measures are taken in time, they would be closed down eventually. According to an assessment made during 1975, there are about 43 sick/closed tea gardens in the regions like Darjeeling, Terai, Dooars, Cachar and Assam covering an area of 8986 hectares and affecting about 18,000 workers. This situation not only creates problems of unemployment and economic hardship, but might also affect productivity and the nation's exports ultimately.

To meet such difficulties and to take corrective action, it is proposed that the Government should acquire powers to investigate into the working of the sick tea gardens and also

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.