

(Dr. V. K. R. Varadaraja Rao)

parties including Ministers would come to their functions and they will be cross-examined by the students. Thus the students are enabled to cultivate political judgment instead of merely being taken in by political propaganda. And incidentally it gave them good training and it was a good training ground for those who went later on to take part in active public services and so on.

Sir, I do not want to take more time because, I understand that there is one more speaker before 5-30. So, I would like to conclude by saying this. I do not say that this is going to solve the students' problem; not at all. I am not saying that. I am not saying that giving vote to the students will solve the problem of unemployment. Well, what happens is this. You have to give the vote to the people of the age of 21 and over. I do not want to reel out before you the statistics of unemployment. But I can assure you that the vast majority of literate registered unemployed in this country are voters. They are over the age of 21. Therefore, having the vote and being unemployed has no connection at all. I think, Sir, if we give the right to vote to students, to young men of 18 and over, it will bring a little greater measure of political responsibility among the younger generation. Rightly or wrongly, the younger generation are taking part in politics. They did take part in the Gujarat agitation; they are taking part in the Bihar agitation. It is no good-sitting in this House and making speeches is not going to stop them. One should go to Bihar if one wants to stop them or argue with them.

So, what I want to say is this. It is not merely a question of taking part in agitations or not. Students are political. They are being politicalised. But they are not being politicalised on right lines. And I suggest that if

they are made voters, then, the political parties will take more serious interest in them, more responsible interest in them, more open interest in them, and we will have better informed political judgment on the part of the students. Therefore, whole-heartedly support the intention behind this Bill that speedier action should be taken to lower the voting age in this country from twenty-one to eighteen. Thank you.

17.29 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER—in the Chair].

MOTION RE CONTEMPT OF THE HOUSE

MR. SPEAKER. Hon. Members, please excuse me for a brief interruption. I have to inform the House that today at about 11.05, a visitor calling himself Bipalab Basu attempted to enter the Visitor's Gallery of Lok Sabha after getting his pass checked at the checking post. The Senior Watch and Ward Assistant of the Lok Sabha Secretariat who was on duty near the Visitors' Gallery gate found a spring dagger hidden on his person tied on his right leg under his trousers. The said Bipalab Basu gave a severe kick to the Senior Watch and Ward Assistant and it was very serious. Our officer rolled and was almost semi-conscious, in a very bad state. He was taken into custody immediately by the Watch and Ward Officer. This is a serious matter. I bring it to the notice of the House for such action as the House may deem fit.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI K RAGHU RAMAIAH): Sir I beg to move:

'This House resolves that the person calling himself Bipalab Basu who at 11.05 hours today attempted to enter the Visitors' Gallery of Lok Sabha with a dagger hidden on his

MR. SPEAKER: So, I will put this Motion—without prejudice to any other action that can be taken.

The question is:

"This House resolves that the person calling himself Bipalab Basu who at 11.05 hours today attempted to enter the Visitors Gallery of Lok Sabha with a dagger hidden on his person and who assaulted a Senior Watch and Ward Assistant of Lok Sabha Secretariat, who was on duty near the Visitors' Gallery gate by giving him a severe kick and whom the Watch and Ward Officer took into custody immediately. has committed a grave offence and is guilty of the contempt of this House.

This House further resolves that without prejudice to any other action to which he may be liable under the law, Bipalab Basu be sentenced to rigorous imprisonment till 6 P.M. on Monday, the 26th August, 1974 for the aforesaid contempt of the House and sent to Central Jail, Tihar, New Delhi."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI NARSINGH NARAIN PANDEY (Gorakhpur): Who issued the pass?

MR. SPEAKER: It is now over.

SHRI NARSINGH NARAIN PANDEY: This is a daily happening affair. After all some restriction should be put to the Members also regarding the passes.

MR. SPEAKER: It is all over.

17.31 hrs.

WELCOME TO MR. RATU JOSALIA TAVAQUIA, THE TUI VUDA AND MEMBER OF THE SENATE OF FIJI

MR. SPEAKER: Before we take up half-an-hour discussion, may I take this opportunity, on your behalf, of welcoming to Lok Sabha a distinguished and highly respected friend of ours in Fiji.

He happens to be visiting our Lok Sabha to-day. We all welcome him and wish him a very happy stay in our country.

17.32 hrs.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION SETTING UP OF SHIPYARD AT HALDIA PORT

PROF. SAMAR GUHA (Contai): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Minister in regard to the necessity of having a shipyard at Haldia port.

As the report goes, the Government have almost decided that in the Fifth Five Year Plan they are going to set up two additional ship building yards and have already been allotted for that of Rs. 50 crores. Out of three existing shipbuilding yards—one at Bombay, one at Cochin and one at Vizag and the additional one at Cochin—we find that three are in the