

SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhra): If he is going to apologise, he may be allowed to speak.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Rule 357 says:—

“A member may, with the permission of the Speaker, make a personal explanation although there is no question before the House, but in this case no debatable matter may be brought forward, and no debate shall arise.”

A debate in the matter should not be allowed.

SHRI PILOO MODY: Now he is debating the matter.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: I am not debating it.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: You are satisfied with the statement.

MR. SPEAKER: You said something and the Member has a right to make a personal explanation. I am not going to allow anything further.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: She says, “malicious”. I have no intention of maligning her. Why should I malign anyone? I am happy that the Rajmata did not act under the instigation of the Jana Sangh. Very good.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: He is making another allegation:—baseless, mischievous, malicious.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Thank you; thank you; thank you.

12.47 hrs.

#### ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

#### GOVERNING BODY OF INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI UMA SHANKAR DIKSHIT): Sir, I move the following:—

“That in pursuance of Rules 20 (16) and (17) and 24 (2) of the Rules, Regulations and Bye-laws of the Indian Council of Medical Research, the members of this

House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Governing body of the Indian Council of Medical Research.”

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That in pursuance of Rules 20 (16) and (17) and 24 (2) of the Rules, Regulations and Bye-laws of the Indian Council of Medical Research, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Governing body of the Indian Council of Medical Research.”

*The motion was adopted.*

#### RE: DISSOLUTION OF PUNJAB ASSEMBLY—Contd.

MR. SPEAKER: As for item 7A, regarding certain points raised on the dissolution of the Punjab Assembly, when I was referring to rule 377 the Prime Minister got up and said that they had just then received some information.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: You should not preclude us from making our observations. This is a very serious matter.

MR. SPEAKER: We will fix up some time later on.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: We may have the discussion later on but now let us make some observations about what happened in Punjab. The House must be made aware of what happened in Punjab and in what manner. The hon. Member, Shri Darbara Singh, has already given a motion. Let him at least move it.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no motion and there is no question of moving anything. It is under rule 377. Something can be referred to under rule 377 if it is not a point of order. Members wanted to raise this discussion and I said that I would keep it in view and let them know later on. One is by Shri Hari Kishore Singh, Sardar Darbara Singh, Shri Sat Pal Kapur and Shri Vayalar Ravi; another on the same subject is by Dr. Henry Austin and another by Shri Vikram Mahajan. It is not a single one. I think, I will have to consider

whether to allow a brief discussion on it or not later on.

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:** May I submit that it may be under rule 193?

**MR. SPEAKER:** I have noted your submission.

**SHRI PILCOO MODY:** I submit the same thing.

**SHRI K. MANOHARAN (Madras North):** So, the possibility of a discussion today is ruled out.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Let the position be clear. Let something come before us. I know, the anxiety of hon. Members there.

**SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:** we are also anxious to discuss it. Their anxiety is shared by us also.

12.50 hrs.

**RE: WHEREABOUTS OF SHEIKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN**

**SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contai):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government to the statement made by the Prime Minister of Bangla Desh, Mr. Tajuddin, expressing his anxiety about the whereabouts of Bangla Bandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rehman and also his appeal to all the nations of the world for ensuring his personal security as also for his early release.

So many reports have appeared in the press that Bangla Bandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rehman has been arrested and is kept in Multan Jail. It has also appeared in the press that he is on fast for the last two months and that an attempt to force-feed him is being made. It has also come in the press that the Pakistan Government is trying all sorts of atrocious ways to pressurise him to issue a statement for the people of Bangla Desh that he is cooperating with the Pakistani army.

In view of the appeal made by the Prime Minister of Bangla Desh as also the appeal made by the Bangla Desh Parliamentary Delegation which addressed a joint meeting of the Members of both Houses of Parliament in the

Central Hall, I want to know the reaction of the Government. The Prime Minister was here. It should be a reply from one Prime Minister to the other Prime Minister. I want to know the reaction of the Government to the appeal made by the Prime Minister of Bangla Desh and also steps taken by the Government about ensuring the personal security of Bangla Bandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rehman and also for his early release. Will the Government give their reaction to it? Is the Government going to make a statement?

12.53 hrs.

**BENGAL FINANCE (SALES TAX) (DELHI VALIDATION OF APPOINTMENTS AND PROCEEDINGS) BILL—Contd.**

**MR. SPEAKER:** Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu.

**SHRI JYORITMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour):** Mr. Ajit Saha will speak from our party. I will speak on the third reading of the Bill.

**SHRI A. K. SAHA (Vishnupur):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the sales tax is a purchase tax. It is wrongly described as sales tax. It is an outright indirect tax which keeps the tax payer in the dark. With socialism and *garibi hatao* on their tongue, the Congress Government wants to let off the rich as lightly as it can and wants them to grow richer at the cost of the poor. Though sales tax looks like a direct tax, it does not possess the character of a direct tax which the tax payer knows that he is paying.

The different States have different rates of such taxation and exemptions are also different in different States. This encourages evasion of the tax through wholesale purchases by invoices from State to State. This is really black-marketing.

The high yielding sources of revenue have been taken by the Centre and, normally, sales tax, agriculture tax, are left with the States. Besides, administration costs, the States have to meet a lot of social and other development obligations to the people. But State Governments always show an ever-increasing deficit budget. It is because of shooting prices of every commodity, for the erroneous economic policy of the Centre. In the Budget, Shri V. B. Ghavan appealed to the States to maximise