

The motion was adopted.

First Schedule, as amended, was added to the Bill

Second Schedule, Third Schedule and Fourth Schedule were added to the Bill,

Fifth Schedule

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : There are two amendments Nos. 6 and 30 in the name of Shri D. P. Jadeja.

SHRI D. P. JADEJA : I beg to move :

Page 33,—

omit line 10. (6)

Page 33, line 4,—

omit "1. Bandicoots." (30)

PROF. SHER SINGH : I am accepting Amendment Nos. 6 and 30.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

Page 33,—

omit line 10. (6)

Page 33, line 4,—

omit "1. Bandicoots." (30)

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"Fifth Schedule, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Fifth Schedule, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 1—(Short title, extent and commencement.)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : There is an amendment to clause 1 by Shri Jadeja. Are you moving ?

SHRI D. P. JADEJA : No, Sir, I am not moving.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : So, I put clause 1, the Enacting Formula, the Preamble and the Long Title to the vote of the House.

The question is :

"That Clause 1, the Enacting Formula, the Preamble and the Title stand part of the Bill"

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula the Preamble and the Title were added to the Bill.

PROF. SHER SINGH : 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.

— —

16.10 hrs.

VICTORIA MEMORIAL (AMENDMENT) BILL

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House will now take up the next item, Victoria Memorial (Amendment) Bill. Prof. S. Nurul Hasan :

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

"That the Bill further to amend the Victoria Memorial Act, 1903, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

16-10-1/2 hrs.

(SHRI K. N. TIWARY is the Chair)

This is a very simple measure which is being brought before the House. As the hon. House is aware, this Act was origi-

nally brought about for certain historical reasons, but what has happened in the meanwhile is that it has now developed into a period museum of considerable significance. The estimates Committee of Parliament had suggested measures to bring about cert in improvements and in accordance with the broad wishes expressed by the Estimates Committee, the following schemes have been included in the Fourth Plan for implementation : (1) improvement of library; (2) setting up of a conservation unit; (3) development schemes suggested by the Estimates Committee regarding display of objects and procurement of scientific equipment for preservation, including cellulose acetate papers; (4) preparation of standardised stock register and classified catalogues; and (5) publication of guide books.

Some money has already been provided in the Budget in the current year and more will be allocated during the balance of the Fourth Plan,

It was felt that, in the manner in which this Act was originally conceived, no qualifications were provided for the membership of the Board. In this very short Bill it is said that the two nominees of the Government and the other persons who are to be appointed by the trustees would all be persons having expert knowledge of the exhibits in the Museum, museologists, historians or art historians.

Another provision which this Bill seeks to introduce is that, instead of the president being the President of the Board, the Minister in charge of the Ministry of the Central Government concerned with matters relating to Victoria Memorial shall be the president.

This particular measure has caused certain misgivings which has been expressed in the other House and which, I am sure, would be widely held in this House, also, and that is, regarding the name 'Victoria Memorial'. I would like to clarify that it is a name which makes me feel very unhappy indeed as I had stated in the other House. But, at the moment, Sir, it is a name which occurs in List I, of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, and I am having this matter examined, whether it would be

possible for us to change this and if so, in what manner. In any case, that slant that has to be given to this Museum is a very different one, on the basis of which this institution was originally set up. The Board, as it was constituted, hardly provided any opportunity for the experts to give this new slant and, therefore, I am seeking your indulgence and through you of this House to put forward this measure. I hope that, as a result of this measure, the new slant which all of us want to give to this Museum will be given so that it becomes a centre of modern Indian history, that it portrays quite correctly the hopes and aspirations of the masses of the people, particularly, the struggle for freedom, and that whatever objects of art there are properly looked after, maintained and exhibited.

I, therefore, hope that this measure would be accepted by the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved :

"That the Bill further to amend the Victoria Memorial Act, 1903, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

*SHRI MADHURYA HALDAR (Mathurapur) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I was concerned about this nomenclature 'Victoria memorial' even before the Hon. Minister of Education mentioned about it. This name recalls to our minds those hateful and shameful days of the British rule in India. This name is a symbol of those days which we are reminded of with a sense of humiliation.

After 25 years of Independence and after 22 years of the adoption of the Constitution of India, this abnoxious nomenclature should have been changed through an amendment in the Constitution. We are surprised that this has not been done through all those years. This ought to have been done much earlier. I hope the Government will take up this matter at the earliest. We have amended very intricate and controversial provisions of the Constitution. I do not think that any Member of this House or of Rajya Sabha will oppose the amendment in the Constitution to change this abnoxious name which only reminds us of our days of subjugation and the worst days of British Colo

*The original speech was delivered in Bengali.

[Shri Madhuryya Halдар]

nialism of which we were the victims. Only the minimum possible time will be required to amend the Constitution for this purpose and this measure will not meet with any opposition from any quarters. We have seen that the names of many roads in Calcutta and elsewhere in the country have been changed and the statues of many British rulers have been removed. Therefore, changing the name of this memorial should not pose any problem.

Coming to this Bill, Sir, in the first amendment the word 'President of India' occurring in the earlier Bill has been substituted by the words 'the Ministry of the Central Government concerned with matters relating to the Victoria Memorial'. There is nothing to object to this amendment because the President is guided by the advice given by the Ministers, anyway.

As regards the second amendment, i.e., clause (d) I have to say, Sir, that according to this amendment only those persons who 'in the opinion' of the Central Government have expert knowledge of the exhibits in the Victoria Memorial or are musicologists, historians or art historians will be nominated by the Government. I have apprehension about this term 'in the opinion of the Government. This means that if the Government feels that some person possesses the necessary qualifications they can be nominated by the Government, he may be any Tom, Dick and Harry. This matter of 'opinion' is the vital thing. If in the opinion of the Central Government they are musicologists or historians or art historians, they can be nominated though they may not have any knowledge or qualifications in those lines.

During the celebration of the Silver Jubilee of our Independence, some freedom fighters of West Bengal were selected by the Government for being honoured through presentation of 'Tamra Patras'. It was widely published in leading papers that many prominent and genuine freedom fighters have been left out of the list and as a result they were not presented with these Tamra Patras. It appeared that they were not eligible for this honour. This is an instance how the Government's opinion works.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mention about Tamrapatra is not relevant. This Bill is about Victoria Memorial.

SHRI MADHURYYA HALDAR : I am only citing the example. Here it is said :

"That in the opinion of the Central Government". Opinions differ.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is the use of going into Tamra Patra or any patra ? It is not relevant. Now you come to the Bill.

SHRI MADHURYYA HALDAR : About the third amendment, Sir, it has been stated *inter-alia* therein 'shall be nominated by the Trustees.' We have objection to this word 'nominated' again. The trustees will nominate the representatives to represent the general body of subscribers. This is not proper. There is no guarantee that such persons will represent the subscribers in the real sense. For example a member of Parliament can be said to represent the Parliament. That I can understand. But if an outsider who is not a member of Parliament is said to represent the Parliament will, that be proper ? Therefore, the subscribers should choose their own representatives. The provision of the Bill is not clear here. Why should the trustees nominate them ? I feel that the word 'nominated' should be substituted by the word 'elected by the subscribers.' This will be in keeping with democratic principle also. I hope the hon. Minister will agree to the suggestion based on democratic principles, if he cares for democratic values.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : I fully agree with the sentiments expressed by my colleague who spoke before me. It is a tragedy, it is a sad commentary on our democracy, that still we have to tolerate the name of Victoria Memorial. Although I do not come from Calcutta, I visit Calcutta. There are thousands of foreigners who go there and take photograph of this memorial. Some of them turn round and ask us : How is it that you tolerate this photo of this lady, a relic of foreign imperialism, who bled your

country white? We are unable to give an answer. Such statues in other countries have been removed. Even in Calcutta the statue of King George V was removed and those of the Army Generals who bled our country white were all removed. But the statue of this lady remains shining even today. I do not know what is the good in her. Is it because she was a friend of India? Not at all. During her reign the maximum of mis-rule took place in India. She bled our country white.

I am sure, you, Mr. Chairman, will permit me to say that the worst massacre took place in this country during her rule. It is my submission that this bated relic and symbol of British tyranny should be removed forthwith. Let it be kept in a museum if at all it should be preserved, with a caption on its head: "Here lies the relic of British Imperialism; she was responsible for bloodshed in our country."

In reply to the debate in the other House the hon. Minister said that he would like to give a different slant but then there are constitutional difficulties in the way to remove the name. I think if there is any provision standing in the way, it should be amended and both the Houses will only too gladly and readily agree to change the name, Victoria Memorial.

This can be a great museum where paintings of great leaders, martyrs of Bengal can be hung like C. R. Das, J. M. Sen Gupta, Subhas Chandra Bose, Jatin Das, all those whom Britishers used to call 'terrorists' but who really terrorised the Britishers and challenged the British Imperialism, with the help of their revolvers. What do we find there? What are the paintings there? One of the paintings is the battle of Plassy where Mir Jaffer is shown surrendering to Lord Clive. That photograph is still there. Thousands of people go there.

There is a suggestion by many eminent artists and dramatists that it should be made a national theatre. Articles have been written in the *Jugantar* about this. I hope the hon. Minister will kindly get them translated and read them. There is a movement going on in West Bengal that this should be converted into a national theatre. Some people say that this should be converted into a national museum where the letters

and other literature of the terrorists, or those whom the Britishers called terrorists and the freedom-fighters and martyrs should be kept. Instead of that, where are these things kept today? Perhaps, they may be kept in the Lal Bazar Thana. I do not know whether they have been burnt.

Here is a golden opportunity to remove that lady from there, her repulsive and repugnant face, and immediately she must be replaced by the statues of our martyrs who had shed the last drop of their blood for the sake of the country.

I would request the hon. Minister who is a product of the nationalist struggle, and who knows the subject well to consider this matter. We are fortunate to get an Education Minister who knows something about education. I would request him to associate renowned historians, and they should be possibly nominated on this particular committee. I have no objection if that is done. But I would only request the hon. Minister to consider one thing. I would like to suggest to him that we can follow what is done in the other countries. For instance, if we go to the Soviet Union, we find that students are taken and they are shown those places where the enemies of the revolution were shot. Those pictures and paintings are all there; there are also the pictures of those who had stood against communism. If we go to the Latin American countries also, there also they will show us pictures and paintings of those who wanted to rob their country.

Here, I take my hats off to the peaceful people of Calcutta who have not removed the statue of Queen Victoria. We could remove her statue in Kanpur; one fine morning everybody found that instead of Queen Victoria's statue, the statue of Gandhiji was there. We could remove it very nicely without damaging the statue. A similar thing could have been done long ago at Calcutta also. Perhaps, the people of Calcutta must have been engaged in other things all these days.

I have no objection to this Bill, and let the constitution be amended, and let the name be changed. I am sure the hon. Minister will agree to this. I would request the hon. Minister to give us a definite answer to this question and say that the

[Shri S. M. Banerjee]

constitution will be amended and within one month, this lady's statute is bound to be moved from there.

*SHRI C. T. DHANDHPANI (Dharampuram) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to say a few words on the Victoria Memorial (Amendment) Bill.

I am sure, Sir, that none in this House will express any doubt about the need to protect and to preserve the historically important and valuable ancient literature and monuments. But, the Members of this House are bound to get the impression that only after the Estimates Committee of this House—of which you are presently the Chairman, Sir—had made certain recommendations in regard to maintenance and preservation of such precious things, which have cultural and historical importance, that the Government thought of taking steps in that direction I got this feeling when the hon. Minister of Education stated that in due deference to the recommendations of the Estimates Committee certain schemes had been incorporated in the Fourth Five Year Plan for the maintenance and preservation of Victoria Memorial which according to him has now developed into a period museum of considerable importance and significance. I wish to remind him that there are many such equally important monuments scattered throughout the Indian sub-continent which require immediate attention of the Government and it is also the sacred and bounden duty of the Government to preserve them for posterity.

As my hon. friends who preceded me pointed out, the name 'Victoria Memorial' is a standing reminder of the hated British Imperialism which was driven out of this country two and half decades ago. The hon. Minister himself expressed the same sentiments. But he stated that there was some ticklish constitutional snag, which he promised to remove as early as possible. I wish to submit that this name 'Victoria Memorial' should be changed and this House would only be too glad to give its approval for the constitutional amendment.

I understand that certain scientific equipment for preservation of Victoria Memorial are likely to be imported. I do not know whether we should take recourse to impor-

ting these things. In our country we have many eminent museologists, historians and art historians whose assistance is readily available in this matter. Could not the Government think of utilising their services? The Government should endeavour to procure things indigenously for this purpose.

This is no doubt an important problem, but comparatively a minor problem. The people of Calcutta alone are intimately concerned with this problem. I would request the hon. Minister not to misconstrue what I am going to say as a Central-State issue. I am sure that the hon. Minister will agree with me that the concerned State is much more aware of the kind of problems in regard to the maintenance and preservation of things of historical importance. Hence, the Central Government, fortunately endowed with all kinds of financial resources, should give financial assistance to the State Government in this regard. It is not only the Victoria Memorial which requires such financial assistance from the Centre, but there are any number of such historically important institutions which are in need of immediate attention and financial assistance from the Centre.

For example, Unstarred Question 2883 was raised by my hon. friend, Shri J. M. Gowder, belonging to my party, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, which reads as follows :

"Will the Education Minister state the reasons for deferring the proposal of formally declaring the TMSS Mahal Library, Thanjavur as an institution of national importance ; and

the manner in which Government propose to assist the Library financially ?

The answer of the Education Minister is as follows :

The State Government of Tamil Nadu has not agreed to the proposal of the Central Government that the constitution of the Board of Management of the TMSS Mahal Library, Thanjavur when declared and financially assisted as an Institute of importance, should

*The original speech was delivered in Tamil.

be on the same lines as those of the Khuda Baksh Oriental Public Library Board, Pama.

(b) the matter is under consideration.

I refer to this because the Saraswathi Mahal Library is a treasure-house of ancient Sanskrit literature about Indian culture, about science, about atom and about ancient India's achievements in these fields. It has also got innumerable palm-leaf inscriptions in Tamil which are of great value and importance. When the State Government ask for financial assistance from the Centre for the purpose of preserving and maintaining these invaluable and precious things, it is really regrettable that the Centre should put forth certain conditions about the constitution of the management board etc.

MR. CHAIRMAN. The subject under discussion is the Victoria Memorial.

SHRI C T. DHANDAPANI: The subject is only the question of assistance. I am not going out of relevance to the Bill. When the Government have come forward to taking steps for the preservation and maintenance of Victoria Memorial, name of which smacks of our serfdom under the British, I want to request the Government that they should come forward to assist financially many such institutions of cultural and historical importance spread throughout the Indian sub-continent.

With these words, I conclude.

श्री महावीरक सिंह शाक्य (कासगंज) : बिकटोरिया स्मारक विधेयक जो मंत्री महोदय ने प्रस्तुत किया है, इसको मैंने देखा है। कुछ वर्ष पूर्व जब यहां पर अंग्रेजी शासन था उस समय एक उर्दू के शायर द्वारा लिखा गया शेर मुझे याद आ गया। उसने लिखा था :

बिल से ही जाती रही आजादी की याद
इतने खूनगर हो गए हम दाम के।

अंग्रेजी कुशासन को भारत के निकले हुए सत्रहवां पच्चीस वर्ष हो चुके हैं। आज हमने

अपनी आजादी की रजत जयन्ती भी मनाई है। लेकिन ऐसा मालूम होता है कि गुलामी के दिनों में अंग्रेज जिस संकामक रोग को देश में लाए यद्यपि आज उनको यहां से गए हुए पच्चीस साल हो गए हैं लेकिन लगता ऐसे है कि वे. . .

SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY (Kondrapara) : There is no quorum in the House. This is not the lunch recess. We had a greed to waive the rule for quorum during the lunch-hour only, but at other times, there should be quorum; some sanctity should be attached to this debate.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Maha Deepak Singh Shakya may resume his seat for a while.

Let the quorum bell be rung—

Now, there is quorum. The hon. Member may now resume his speech.

I would request hon. Members to please maintain quorum, so that the work may not stop and hon. Members who are speaking may not be disturbed.

श्री महावीरक सिंह शाक्य. सभापति महोदय, मेरे कहने का तात्पर्य यह है कि यद्यपि अंग्रेज भारत से पच्चीस वर्ष पूर्व विदा हो गए, लेकिन इस बिल को देखने से ऐसा प्रतीत होता है कि उनकी दी हुई गुलामी की भावना आज भी हमारे दिलों में है, वह संकामक रोग अभी भी खत्म नहीं हुआ है। इसलिए मैं इस विधेयक का विरोध करता हूँ। अगर ऐसा कोई विधेयक पेश करना ही था, तो हमारे देश में बहुत से महापुरुष और वीरांगनायें हुई हैं, जैसे लक्ष्मीबाई इत्यादि; उनके नाम पर स्मारक स्थापित करने के लिए विधेयक पेश किया जा सकता था।

ऐसा दिखाई देता है कि इस विधेयक को पेश करने के पीछे कोई विशेष बात है, कोई रहस्य है। इस में कहा गया है :

[श्री महादीपक सिंह शाक्य]

“खण्ड (ज) के स्थापन पर निम्नलिखित खण्ड प्रतिस्थापित किया जाएगा, अर्थात् :—

(ज) अभिदाताओं की साधारण सभा का प्रतिनिधित्व करने के लिए केन्द्रीय सरकार के अनुमोदन से न्यासियों द्वारा ऐसे इतने व्यक्ति नामनिर्देशित किये जाएंगे, जो न्यासियों की राय में उन व्यक्तियों में से है जिन्हें विक्टोरिया स्मारक के प्रदर्शों का विशेष ज्ञान है या जो संग्रहालयकार, इतिहासकार या कला इतिहासकार हैं।”

इसमें “केन्द्रीय सरकार के अनुमोदन से” की जो बात कही गई है, उससे पता चलता है कि वह एकाधिकारकरण की दिशा में जा रही है। इसलिए हम चाहते हैं कि यह अधिकार सभा को दिया जाये और सभा के द्वारा जो व्यक्ति अनुमोदित किए जायें, उन्हें स्वीकार किया जाये।

एक तरफ तो विधेयकों में संशोधन किए जाते हैं और दूसरी तरफ हम देखते हैं कि जो यात्री और दर्शक संग्रहालयों में जाते हैं, उनके लिए कोई भी व्यवस्था ठीक से नहीं होती है। उनको समझाने के लिए न कोई गाइड होता है और न कोई गाइड बुक। एक तरफ तो संग्रहालयों की स्थिति को सुधारने के लिए संशोधन लाये जाते हैं और दूसरी तरफ आये-दिन मूर्तियों की चोरी की घटनाएँ होती हैं। इसका क्या कारण है? गवर्नमेंट ने इस तरफ ध्यान नहीं दिया है। हम चाहते हैं कि गवर्नमेंट इस तरफ ध्यान दे और इन चोरियों को रोकने के लिए कदम उठाये।

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN : I have very little to reply to really. The main objection has been about the name. I have already submitted that I want to change the whole slant of the Museum and I share the sentiments of the House.

Objection was raised by my hon. friend, Shri M. Halder, about the Chairman. Since all of us want a considerable change to be made, it is only proper that a person who is responsible to this House becomes the Chairman.

SHRI MADHURYA HALDAR : Whether it is the Chairman or the Minister in charge.

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN : If he thinks there is no objection, I have nothing further to say.

So far as the question of experts is concerned, till now the Central Government nominated two persons and it could nominate anyone it liked. Now at least the Central Government is bound to nominate only those who are considered to be expert. Similarly the word ‘nomination’ in the context obviously means election, because if a general body of trustees nominates someone, it means it is really an election.

Sir, so far as the point made by my hon. friend Shri Banerjee is concerned, I find myself in the fullest agreement. I will see to it, as I have said, that if we have, for historical reasons, to keep any relics, then there should be suitable caption, so that the young people who go there understand the significance of it.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Can't you get them stolen ? (Interruption)

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour) : That is advice by your the political allies.

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN : I leave it to my friend Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu to think it over.

Then, I am sorry I cannot agree with the view that has been expressed that it should be converted into a theatre. I think it should remain a museum, but it should be given a new content, and it should be developed accordingly.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA (Serampore) : What harm is there if you erect a stage there ?

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : You can have a theatre where only plays in respect of the freedom fighters and political plays are staged.

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN : As regards the protection of historical objects, I am in full agreement with my hon. friend Shri Dhandapani. As the House would recall, only this morning, I have introduced a Bill with the leave of the House which seeks precisely to bring about this protection.

He referred to the imports of objects. The rules of the Government are very firm. Anything which is available in the country cannot be imported from outside. Only those things which are not available in the country and which are nevertheless considered to be essential for the country are permitted to be imported, and my hon. friend can rest assured that nothing which is available in the country can be imported. I would like to go into the question of cellulose acetate myself. As has been pointed out, it was not being manufactured in India until sometime ago when I was connected a little more directly with education. But if it is now available, quite obviously we will use it, which has been produced locally, because the Estimates Committee's wishes have to be fulfilled.

Regarding the reference to the Saraswati Mahal Library, I am in entire agreement with my hon. friend that it is a national treasure and even though there may be a difference of opinion between the State Government and the Union Government as to what is the best way of organising the governing body, the Central Government should give financial assistance immediately so that the preservation of the manuscripts is not delayed. The other discussions can continue.

The point that I have mentioned about historical objects in general also applies to articles like sculptures and other objects d'art.

With these few words, I move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill further to amend the Victoria Memorial Act, 1903, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are no amendments. The question is :

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill,"

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN : I move :

"That the Bill be passed.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

16.40 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE.
DISAPPROVAL OF INDIAN IRON
AND STEEL COMPANY
(TAKING OVER OF MANAGE-
MENT) ORDINANCE

&

INDIAN IRON AND STEEL
COMPANY (TAKING OVER
OF MANAGEMENT) BILL

डा० लक्ष्मीनारायण यादव (मंसौर) :
सभापति जी, मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूँ "कि यह
सभा राष्ट्रपति द्वारा 14 जुलाई, 1972 को
प्रख्यापित इंडियन आयरन एंड स्टील कंपनी
(प्रबन्ध ग्रहण) अध्यादेश 1972, (1972 का
अध्यादेश संख्या 6) कानिस्नुमोदन करती है।"