VISVA-BHARATI (AMENDMENT) BILL*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (PROF. S. NURUL HASAN) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Visva-Bharati Act, 1951."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Visva-Bharati Act, 1951."

The motion was adopted.

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

STATEMENT *RE.* VISVA-BHARATI (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (PROF. S. NURUL HASAN) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) giving reasons for immediate legislation by the Visva-Bharati (Amendment) Ordinance, 1971, as required under rule 71(1) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

14·34 hrs

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE STAMP AND EXCISE DUTIES (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE ; AND STAMP AND EXCISE DUTIES (AMENDMENT) BILL—*Contd*—

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI) : Sir, yesterday, while speaking on this Bill I was replying to certain questions and the House adjourned for the day. And therefore, I would like to continue my answers to some of the propositions and the allegations that were made by some hon. Members on the other side. One question raised was about the percentage of the newspapers and periodicals that would be affected. I would say that in so far as newspapers alone are concerned it would be correct to say that nearly 75% of the newspapers would fall in the exempted category. The figure of 90 to 95% is the aggregate percentage for both newspapers and periodicals. If periodicals alone are taken, then about 96% of them would come within the exempted category of having circulation of less than 15,000 copies per publishing day. All these percentages are with reference to the numbers of the newspapers and periodicals and not with reference to their circulation. That was one of the points raised yesterday. So, these 75% would be in the exempted category and the balance 25% would fall in the duty-paying category. They will consist of the following categories.

(a) Newspapers whose average circulation exceeds 15,000 but not 50,000 copies per publishing day—16·5%.

(b) Newspapers whose average circulation exceeds 50,000 but not 1,00,000 copies per publishing day—5·2%.

(c) Newspapers whose average circulation exceeds 1,00,000 copies—3·3%.

So far as periodicals are concerned, leaving out the 96% which falls in the exempted category, the balance of 4% of the number of periodicals consist of the following :

(a) periodicals having a circulation exceeding 15,000 but not exceeding 50,000—2·5%.

(b) periodicals having a circulation exceeding 50,000 but not exceeding 1 lakh.....0·5 per cent.

(c) periodicals having a circulation above one lakh copies.....0·3 per cent.

This was some of the break-up demanded by hon. Members.

The second point was about the basis of the estimate of Rs. 7 crores. I think Shri

*Published in Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, section 2, dated 26-11-71.