

261 Sick Text. Under- AGRAHAYANA 28, 1894 (SAKA) Sick Text. Under- 262
taking (Takeover of Manag.) Bill taking (Takeover of Manag.) Bill

14.36 hrs.

SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhra):

rose—

**MYSORE STATE (ALTERATION OF
NAME) BILL***

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Your name is not there.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. C. PANT): I move for leave to introduce a Bill to alter the name of the State of Mysore.

SHRI PILOO MODY: Kindly here me.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am on my legs. Both of us cannot be standing together. He will resume his seat. Now what does he want?

"The leave be granted to introduce a Bill to alter the name of the State of Mysore".

SHRI PILOO MODY: We had written to you that because Shri H. M. Patel was unfortunately taken ill, my name was substituted. This was notified well ahead of time.

The motion was adopted.

SHRI K. C. PANT: I introduce the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I do not think it can be done under the rules.

14.7 hrs.

**SICK TEXTILE UNDERTAKINGS
(TAKING OVER OF MANAGE-
MENT) BILL—Contd.**

SHRI PILOO MODY: This was done at least 24 hours of 36 hours before.

SHRI B. R. SHUKLA (Bahraich): I beg to move:

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We now take up further clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill to provide for the taking over, in the public interest of the management of the sick textile undertakings, pending nationalisation of such undertakings, for the expeditious rehabilitation of such undertakings so that such rehabilitation may subserve the interest of the general public by the augmentation of the production and distribution, at fair prices, of cheaper varieties of cloth and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto together with further consideration of amendment No. 1 to the First Schedule moved on 18 December, 1972.

Page 10,—

omit lines 45 and 46. (16).

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR (Ahmedabad): I beg to move:

Page 10—

omit lines 42 to 44. (20)

SHRI NATWARLAL PATEL (Mehsana): I had moved my amendment and I want to speak.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I had already said that one member had moved his amendment. His amendment has been moved.

Yesterday we disposed of all the clauses and we were discussing the First Schedule to which only one member moved his amendment. I would like to ascertain from the others. Shri H. M. Patel.

If only members will listen to what I say, much of the confusion will disappear. His amendment is there. Does he want to speak?

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/Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

SHRI NATWARLAL PATEL: Yes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please do.

SHRI NATWARLAL PATEL: My amendment is a very simple one. Yesterday, in my speech I had requested the hon. Minister to accept this amendment and include that particular mill in the Schedule in the interest of the labourers who are jobless since the last 8 years. This unit is a very nice unit with good machinery. According to my authentic information, 1,200 looms and 25,000 spindles are there. It is a great tragedy in this industry that this mill has been closed for the last 8 years. Nobody has bothered to run it. Nobody has bothered to look into it from the production point of view. Nobody has worried about it from the unemployment point of view. So far as the 1500 labourers are concerned, each labourer represents a family of 4 persons so that really speaking, the closure has affected 6,000 people who are in my constituency.

I would request the hon. Minister to accept the amendment from the human point of view, for giving jobs to those labourers who are suffering for want of jobs. I am speaking from the depth of my inner soul when I plead for these sufferers. Some of them have already passed away due to unemployment and for want of adjustment.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, you very well know that so far as the poor people are concerned, their assets are also poor. Generally, after they are made unemployed, it is very difficult for them to find another employment. Yesterday, as I said in this hon. House, the position is that out of 1,500 labourers, a majority of them are people who belong to the Harijan community. We know what is the position of Harijans in this country. Many times, we are speaking for them and we are passing so many rules and regulations and giving so many Directives to the

concerned States to provide facilities for them, but still, a majority of these people are without land and they have no source to maintain themselves. So far as this Bill is concerned, those who are working in this establishment, the Harijans, are without any land. They have no source to maintain themselves.

So, I would like to request the hon. Minister again to accept this simple amendment which I have moved on the floor of this hon. House from a humanitarian point of view. I have given my reasons and expressed my feelings in my speech yesterday. Nothing more is required to be said now on this amendment. This is a very simple amendment which is concerned with the poor people. That is why I again draw the attention of the hon. Minister to this aspect. and I again request him to accept my amendment.

Shri P. G. MAVALANKAR (Ahmedabad): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am in broad agreement with this Bill, and I understand from the hon. Minister's statement yesterday in reply to the points raised in the general discussion that this Bill does not seek to nationalise the textile industry as such, but that it is a measure meant for taking over all those textile units which are sick, so that production is not hampered and unemployment is not increased and the hardships to the working classes are eliminated. I do concede that these are good and laudable objectives.

My amendment is very simple. I want the Fine Knitting Mills in Ahmedabad—item No. 13 in the First Schedule—to be omitted from this list of sick mills. I say this because this particular mill, the Fine Knitting Mills, is not a textile unit at all. This Bill is concerned with the sick textile mills. The point is that this particular company, the Fine Knitting Mills, is not a textile unit, but it is a hosiery unit, and this was started in 1908, and spinning was started in 1924 with a view to

strengthening and feeding up their own establishment for knitting. Later on, it was found that 9,000 spindles with which the spinning Department started remained stationary from 1924 to 1966. Then, after 1966, there were some difficulties, and the machinery became out-of-date, and the spindles were not found useful for fulfilling the original purpose, namely, hosiery.

Then, in 1967, this company applied for a permit for scrapping the spinning department, and as late as in November, 1971, this scrapping permit was granted by the Government, and accordingly, spinning was stopped. The old machinery was disposed of by about March, 1972. The position now is that only 9,000 spindles in 24 ring frames are lying, in a empty shed and the total value of that is roughly Rs. 50,000 as scrap. If these were to be used again and made into a working unit, I believe and I understand that not less than Rs. 30 lakhs to Rs. 40 lakhs extra machinery will be needed. This is not really doing something with a view to helping the sick units to become healthy. It is almost like giving birth to a new child. This Bill is concerned with sick and not with newly established units. I feel that this unit which was originally started as a hosiery unit and today also is only a hosiery unit should not be included in the list of sick textiles mills.

The Supreme Court also in its judgment on three specific issues and in one of them in particular has said with regard to this particular company that "If that is so, industrial activities of this appellant in relation to the hosiery industry must be recognised separately from the textile industry." So, my submission is that the Minister should kindly accept this amendment and remove this mill from the list of sick textile mills.

The workers in this particular unit who were in the spinning department numbered about 125. When

this department was abolished from 19 March, 1971 they were paid bonus and all their other dues and no dues are payable to them. In view of this fact and also the fact that all outstanding payments such as electric bills, wages, P. F., E. S. I., material bills, etc. have already been honoured and cleared, I am making this plea that this particular mill be omitted from the list. This mill paid the 1971 bonus in August 1972 whereas other units in Ahmedabad paid it, I understand, in October 1972. This is no longer a textile unit it has paid all its dues, it is no longer sick. In these circumstances I see no reason why this particular unit should be considered as a sick unit.

The present hosiery unit is working well and has turned the corner. However, since the hon. Minister has included it in the sick list the skilled workers who are fit for a particular job of hosiery are leaving this mill because they are not sure whether it will remain independent as a hosiery or it will go into the sick list. What is more important this hosiery unit has also started exporting and it has got several lakhs rupees worth of export orders from foreign countries. Why should we allow this good working mill to be included in the sick list and put it in the hands of Government for incurring greater liability? I have therefore moved the amendment and I hope the hon. Minister will in view of what I have said kindly accept my amendment.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): I support the amendment moved by my friend Shri Patel, unconditionally. I would like to utilise this opportunity to mention two other textile mills which require to be taken over under the national textile corporation or by the Government.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: If they are not in the list, how can you speak on them?

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: This is an amendment to the list they have submitted. The Minister assured the House yesterday that he would consider....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is not quite relevant.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: He can move an amendment.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He cannot move any amendment now; I have to accept it.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Subject to your acceptance. My fear is that if I move an amendment you may not accept, but if he moves an amendment you may say, I am going to accept it. Shri Indrajit Gupta and I have both mentioned one of the textile mills, Lakshmi Ratan Cotton Mills of Kanpur. An investigation was made and a central team went to Kanpur and it came to the conclusion that it was utterly mismanaged and the report was finalised and direction was issued by the Centre to the State Government that the Lakshmi Ratan Cotton Mill headed by a notorious business man, Shri Ram Rattan Gupta should be taken over by the U.P. Government or by the Centre. I plead for taking over of this mill for three reasons.

SHRI PILOO MODY: That notorious businessman was a Congress Member of Parliament.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: They have not paid bonus for the last three years. They have not paid, for years together, the ESI dues, income-tax arrears to the tune of Rs. 31 lakhs. They have also not paid provident fund to the tune of 4-5 lakhs; they have also not paid sales-tax which also runs into some lakhs. They have not paid the freight for the railway siding. They do not pay anything; still they are able to run. We want this mill to be taken over. The hon. Minister assured yesterday

that he would reply to the debate. This particular mill should be taken over....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He cannot do it by this Bill at least.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: He is capable of doing it. I want an assurance from him; the amendment can be moved later on. The second point is about Hindustan Embroidery Mill, Chaharta, Amritsar. Investigations were made.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Why don't you take the trouble of sending an amendment proposing the inclusion of these mills?

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: This actually substitutes the Ordinance and I thought that amendments might not be accepted and only an assurance would be given.

I want that the Lakshmi Rattan Mills, Kanpur and Hindustan Embroidery Mills, Chaharta, Amritsar should also be taken over.

SHRI B. R. SHUKLA: I have moved an amendment to the effect that item 14 relating to Gaya Cotton and Jute Mills Ltd. included in the schedule should be deleted from that schedule. Although this concern has been running on unsound lines and at one stage it was deemed fit to be included in the category of sick mills subsequently the proprietors leased it out to some lessees and the lessees have invested a considerable amount of money to make it a going concern. So, they should be given an opportunity to run it properly. In case they also fail to run it properly, then Government under the provisions of this Bill has power to take it over. Therefore, if this mill is excluded from the schedule, justice would be done to the lessees and there would be no harm to the public. The ultimate aim of the Bill is to boost up production and that can be achieved in this way.

श्री साधुकोबर वांडे (फ्लेमपुर) :
उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, यह मिल बहुत दिनों से
बन्द थी। मेरी सूचना है कि गया डिस्ट्रिक्ट
के एसेम्बली और पार्लियामेंट के सब मेम्बर
इस बारे में एकमत हो कर बिहार सरकार से
मिले और एक दूसरी पार्टी में एक एग्जिमेंट
किया गया। उसके बाद उन पार्टी ने इस
मिल पर लाखों रुपये व्यय किये हैं और वह
मिल चलने की हालत में हो गई है। गवर्नमेंट
आफ इंडिया को यह सूचना नहीं है कि वह
मिल चलने को हालत में है। एसी सूत्र में
उस मिल को सिक मिल मान लिया गया,
जो कि फैक्ट नहीं है।

मैं वह भी निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि
इस विधेयक में चेजिज हो सकते हैं। राज्यपालों
और राष्ट्रपति द्वारा इश्य किये गये बहुत से
आर्डिनमेंसों में परिवर्तन हुए हैं। बैंको के
राष्ट्रीयकरण में सम्बन्धित आर्डिनमेंस में भी
परिवर्तन हुआ था। इसी तरह इस में भी
परिवर्तन हो सकता है।

मेरी मनी महोदय में प्रार्थना है कि
वर्तमान स्थिति को देखते हुए इस मिल को
चलाना उचित है। अगर भारी मिलों का
राष्ट्रीयकरण करना है, तो मुझे कोई एतराज
नहीं है। मैं उसका समर्थन करता हूँ। मेरा
निवेदन है कि मनी महोदय इस मिल को
सुचारु रूप से चलने का प्रवर्धन दें।

श्री बहिनूभा प्रसाद (बलिया) उपाध्यक्ष
महोदय, नोटिफिकेशन निकलने से पहले यह
गया काटन एंड जूट मिल चल रही थी।
इस लिए इसको सिक मिल कहना तर्कसंगत
नहीं है। जब वह सिक मिल नहीं थी, तो
उसको लेने की बात कहा जाती है? मेरा
निवेदन है कि इस सिक को छोड़ दिया जाये।
अगर मनी महोदय इस समय ऐसा नहीं कर
सकते हैं, तो वह आश्वासन दें कि वह इस बारे
में विचार करेंगे।

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN
TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA): Sir,
I have looked into the various amend-
ments carefully....

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER: A number
of mills have been made healthy
by your Bill!

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: The list men-
tioned in the scheduled has been
drawn up after careful consideration.
As a matter of fact, we have been
working over this Bill for the last
six months. A number of representa-
tions had been made to us and we
re-examined them also. Here also,
some hon Members have raised the
questions about some mills. About
the Gaya Cotton and Jute Mills, the
question was raised and the hon-
Member, Shri Tarkeshwar Pandey,
has said about it I come from Bihar.
As a matter of fact, when the Bill
was drafted in my Ministry, I was
very keen that this Mill should be
taken over because for the last 10
years the Mill has not been working.
I had been to Gaya only 3½ months
ago along with the Prime Minister
to see the drought situation I want-
ed to know from the people whether
this Bill was working. The people
there told me that this Mill was closed
for the last 10-11 years. Now,
some people have taken it on lease
from the original owner and they
want to run it. They have invested
some money. But I cannot do it at
this stage. It will be difficult for me
to do it. I am also advised by the
Law Ministry that it will not be possible
or advisable to drop any Mill at
this stage.

About the Kadi Durga Cotton Mills
Ltd., the hon. Member, Shri Natwar-
lal Patel wants that this Mill should
be included. Today I cannot include
it. But there is a provision in clause
4 of the Bill that if we find that some
Mill has fallen sick, we can take over
that Mill after going through the drill.
I can assure him that after the Bill is
passed, if we really feel that that Mill
is sick, that it cannot be run properly,

[Shri L. N. Mishra]

we will try to take over that. I have nothing more to say.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, I put all these amendments....

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: He has said that this Mill cannot be taken over. Therefore, I never move an amendment. I knew that it was not going to be accepted. About the Laxmi Rattan Cotton Mills, Kanpur and the Hindustan Embroidery Mills, Chahatra.... (Interruptions)

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: The Minister has not replied to my amendment.... (Intereuptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Order, please. He has replied to all that. I put all the amendments together to the vote of the House.

Amendments Nos. 1, 16 and 20 were put and negatived

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There is no other amendment. I will put the Schedules and the rest of the Bill to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That the First Schedule, the Second Schedule, Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The First Schedule, the Second Schedule, Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: I move:

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

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Motion moved:

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

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): This Government never forgets politics. They do politics in food; they do politics in everything. Similarly, in the matter of take-over of textile mills, where the union is controlled by a party which is opposed to the Congress party, the ruling party, they are having a different standard. It is a double-standard policy.

I give one example in support of what I have said. About the Arati Cotton Mills in Howrah, because the union is controlled by a party which is Congress-opposed, you are not taking over the Mill. As a result, the Mill which is in good shape is getting ruined and 106 workers are on the street. I made representations to the hon. Minister. He did not even bother to give a full-fledged reply. I got only a stereotyped acknowledgement. Then, when I went to Howrah and visited the Arati Cotton Mills, a particular person told me that Mr. L. N. Mishra cannot take over this Mill because he has been advised by the West Bengal Government that this union is controlled by Congress-opposed forces and, therefore, let the workers suffer. The attitude is, either come into INTUC and join the Congress Union or else let them starve in the streets. I only want to point out the class character of this Government: on the one side they go and lick the feet of the monopolists and on the other, they make the workers starve.

16.00 hrs.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. S. M. Banerjee. May I draw your attention to the rule that you cannot repeat the same argument? If you are going to say the same thing, better you do not speak. I would not allow repetition.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: I shall abide by what you say. But, if I am not satisfied with the reply or if my point has not been replied to, I can repeat it....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I will make your job easier. Will the Minister reply to his points?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: Yes; I will.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He will reply to your points.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: I am not going to say anything unless you permit me. But may I say that all these years, if a particular point has not been replied to satisfactorily or has not been replied to at all right from the first reading to the last reading, it can be repeated. I would only mention the names of two mills. He has not taken note of them..

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Have you got the names of the mills?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: I think, I have..

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: I want to know whether he is going to take over Lakshmi Rattan Cotton Mills in Kanpur and the Hindustan Embroidery Mills, Chaharta. I know he will favour the idea.

SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhra): The Government is welcome to take over sick mills because, after all, the treatment that they may give to those mills will make them sicker and they are welcome to it. But I strongly object to Government taking over healthy mills because the inevitable is bound to happen and the healthy mills are going to become sick. Therefore, I cannot say that I agree with the manner in which the Schedules are drawn up. There have been cases that have come to my notice where without investigation, without anybody having gone to see whether the mill is sick or healthy or working or not working, and in some cases whether the mill is there or not, they have put them on the Schedule in their own fashion and, therefore, I can come to the conclusion that this is Mr. Lalit Narayan Mishra's private little inquisition in which he goes

around witch-hunting and trying to get certain mills which he threatens with take-over. I have here the example, which was tabled by way of an amendment which unfortunately Mr. H. M. Patel was not in a position to place before the House, of Bijli Cotton Mills, Hathras. This mill is not a sick mill. The techno-economic survey which was carried out has certified that it is an economic unit and not a sick one. The reason why it had to be shut down was non-supply of power by the U.P. State Electricity Board. The Board finally agreed to supply the power in September after a prolonged correspondence, and notice to re-start the mill was put up on the 21st October before the Ordinance came.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Your information is very poor.

SHRI PILOO MODY: The management is ready to discharge all the obligations as far as I have heard. I do not know, but they are prepared to discharge all the obligations and they are prepared to maintain the specific level of production. Assuming what I have stated is correct, in spite of what Mr. Banerjee may say—he may correct it if it is wrong—but, assuming that what I have said, is correct, is the Government justified to take over a unit like that? Does it come within the purview of this Bill? Is this why this Bill has been brought forward? And, if it does, I think he will have to make out a better case than what he has done hitherto?

SHRI K. S. CHAVDA: Regarding Mr. Mavlankar's amendment..

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There is no question of amendment now.

SHRI K. S. CHAVDA (Patan): My point was that he has not replied to that amendment at all. I would like to know his views regarding the amendment moved by Mr. Mavlankar. He has not said anything. He was rising repeatedly but as you were standing, he sat down.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: I might say a word about Mr. Jyotirmoy Bosu. He said politics has dominated in considering and taking over of these mills. No politics has dominated in the selection of these mills.

Bengal Mill—it is not that we have not taken it earlier. Last year, when, just after the elections, Mr. Sidhartha Shankar Ray, the Chief Minister asked me to take over some of the sick mills or help him to re-open those mills because labourers were not getting jobs and they were unemployed, at the instance of Mr. Sidhartha Shankar Ray, we took over six mills last year and thousands of workers got jobs and these mills are not only working but they are making profits also. There are six other mills in this Schedule also.... (Interruptions) Therefore, in Bengal....

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I made a specific case seeking clarification from the hon. Minister. He is taking me for a ride. I do not want to go for a ride.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: Who can take the hon. Member for a ride? Nobody can take him.

Then, there is no politics at all. They were asking me to mention....

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Are you going to take it over?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: I would say—I cannot promise—I will also look into this mill as I have given an assurance in the case of my hon. friend there.

Shri S. M. Banerjee also raised the question of two mills. One is the Laxmi Ratan Mills.... (Interruptions) I am not giving an assurance. I said, I will get it examined. I did not say that I will take it over.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: The Union is controlled by your Party.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: There is no question of Union there. The question is: whether it is a sick mill, whether is a closed mill or whether it is an uneconomic mill or not. I will come to these later.

Shri S. M. Banerjee raised that point. He knows about the Laxmi Ratan Mills. We have discussed it earlier also. We had investigations made and it was in an advanced stage of take-over. But, somehow or the other, it could not be taken over because 49 per cent of the financial responsibility had not come from the State Government. I will look into it again. Same is about the other mill.

Shri Piloo Mody raised the matter of Bujli Cotton Mills saying that I am going on witch-hunting. I will be the last person to go on witch-hunting....

SHRI PILOO MODY: I have not said that. On this issue, I merely said that this is not a sick mill. On your total bill, I have said that you go witch-hunting.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: On the total Bill also. Mr. Piloo Mody said that the sick mills will get sicker. I will only ask him to go through the report of the National Textile Corporation. We have taken over 57 mills in the course of two years. Most of these mills have started making profits and one lakh of workers got new jobs and production of Rs. 200 crores worth of textiles was made by the National Textile Corporation.

SHRI PILOO MODY: You should not hide behind the back of the textile industry. The textile industry has been going through a boom last year and any mill could have made profits this year.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: None. Out of these 46 mills—may be one or two—all are sick.

I will say that there is no question of witch-hunting in making the selection. Do not think like that. I am very much against this idea of witch-hunting. Pildo, I may tell you as a friend also....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You please tell me also.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: Sir, I am putting it in inverted commas and you will understand what I mean by it.

Regarding that closed mill, I will only say, if this was so, it was because of the fact that it was closed for more than 3 months or so. Maybe, there was power failure. I will look into it.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: I come from U.P. and I know this is utterly mismanaged.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: I can only say that I will look into all these things.

I beg to move:

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

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: What about Mr. Mavalankar's point?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: No, Sir, I am not going to accept it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, the question is:

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

The motion was adopted.

16.12 hrs

INDIAN TARIFF (AMENDMENT)
BILL

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We will now take up the Indian Tariff (Amendment) Bill. Shri L. N. Mishra.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): On behalf of Shri L. N. Mishra....

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): Sir, when the Minister is present in the House, how can anybody else move the Bill, on his behalf? How can anybody else be delegated like this, when he is actually present in the House? (Interruption)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Order please. I would expect that you treat this Chair and House with a little respect. If you or somebody else handles the baby, I have no objection, but you should have informed me.....

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA): I am so sorry, Sir. I sent a letter I should have gone away because Iraq Minister is coming; I have other engagements; that is why I asked him...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If the Minister is not serious about it, we will skip it over and go on to the next item. I am not saying anything else. I have just now been informed from the Table that the letter is not there.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: I beg to move.....

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: The hon. Minister has said this. He has confessed that he had other engagements including meeting the Minister of Iraq and therefore, he would not be able to attend the House. What he is saying is thoroughly unconvincing, because he is still sitting in the House. How very genuine was he in his expression! Sir, this should be considered very seriously.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let us not argue about this. A Minister can delegate his authority to his junior. Even if he is in the House, another Minister can move it. But the only