

15-30 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

TWENTY-SECOND REPORT

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: (Tumkur): I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Twenty-second Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 21st February 1973."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Twenty-second Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 21st February 1973."

The motion was adopted

15.30-1/2 hrs.

SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Insertion of new section II)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Dr. Karni Singh.

DR. KARNI SINGH (Bikaner): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament Act, 1954.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament Act, 1954."

SHRI S. A. SHAMIM (Srinagar): I am opposing the motion at the introduction stage.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You ought to have given notice.

SHRI S. A. SHAMIM: I have sent. I have written to the Speaker this morning.

मैं इच्छिता की मुख्यालिकता साहिर लक्ष्यप्राप्ति के उपर मशहूर जेर से करना चाहता हूँ जो उद्दीपने ताजमहल को देख कर कहा था -

एक गहनाह ने दौनत का महारा लेकर हम गरीबों की मुहव्वत का उडाया है
मजाक

दो साविक महाराजा मेंवरान की गुरवत वा मजाक उडाने के लिये यह बिल इस सदन में लाये हैं। मकान कुछ भी रहा हो

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Shamim, sit down for a minute. You are entering into the merits of the Bill. I am not shutting you out, but, please listen to me. All these arguments are against the Bill itself. Now, we are concerned only with its introduction. Have you any objection to its introduction on any ground, constitutional or legal, which would prevent this Bill to come before the House? What you are saying, from what I understand, is that you are opposing the contents of the Bill which you can do when the Bill is taken up.

SHRI S. A. SHAMIM: I must speak in English. Obviously, you do not understand the language, which I am speaking. The Rule Book does not say legal or constitutional, at least the one which I possess. My objection to the Bill is that this is obviously to malign the MPs and the motives are playing to the gallery and cheap gimmickry. All these privileges, when calculated in terms of money, are absolutely nothing. I get a salary of Rs.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This does not change what I have said that you are entering into the merits of the Bill.

You are entitled to these views, but, at the stage when the Bill is taken up for consideration. Now, we are concerned only whether this Bill can be introduced or not.

SHRI S. A. SHAMIM: Whether this Bill should be introduced or not? In any case, this is going to be put to vote. I am opposing this Bill on principle.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please sit down. Kindly understand me also. The question of whether the Bill should be introduced or not is the responsibility of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions. Here, we are concerned only with whether the hon. Member has any legal or constitutional objection to the Bill being introduced. What the hon. Member is saying is that this Bill is not right, is not proper and, therefore, it should not be accepted. That is the burden of his argument..

SHRI S. A. SHAMIM: You have not unfortunately seen what the rule says. The rule-book only says that if any hon. Member wants to oppose the introduction, he may do so, and leaves it at that. The heavens will not fall if you bear with me for a few minutes. I shall try to explain that this Bill has a motive, namely that the Members of this Parliament should be brought into contempt before the people. His case is that the Members are drawing allowances, and if you care to read the Statement of Objects and Reasons, you will find that it says:

"The Members of Parliament enjoy a spectrum of privileges and allowances."

This is not charity. These privileges are there because we are supposed to perform certain functions. Why not introduce a Bill providing that Members should have no salary and they should not have any allowance?

All these days, we have been trying to raise the issue of prices. The two Maharajas who intend to move this Bill ...

DR. KARNI SINGH: There are no Maharajas now.

SHRI S. A. SHAMIM: I am sorry. I am referring to the two ex-Maharajas who want to move this Bill. The rise in prices applies to MPs as well as non-MPs. I want to submit before this House that an MP is as adversely affected as the common man. After all, all of us do not have a private income as these hon. Members have. Actually, they do not need any allowance, and they should come forward and say that they do not want any allowance. Dr. Karni Singh was telling me that he was not drawing any allowance. The nation is grateful to him (*Interruptions.*) It should be credited to the National Defence Fund. Only to win cheap popularity that these ex-Maharajas have turned socialist; they want to decrease the allowances and put income-tax barriers. My humble submission is that this is not just and this is putting hon. Members who have been talking about socialism etc. to a very difficult test.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER think the hon. Member has made his views quite clear....

SHRI S. A. SHAMIM: I have just started. This is going to affect your salary also. Once this is accepted, it is going to affect all of us, and once this affects our allowances, it will affect our functioning, and once it affects our functioning, the whole parliamentary democracy would be in danger, and, therefore, my plea is that this Bill should not be allowed to be introduced.

DR. KARNI SINGH: I would very humbly like to place before the House that it is not my intention at any stage to bring the House into contempt with the people. However, I do feel that since the country stands to oppose all kinds of privileges, it is necessary that we in parliament—and that includes me too, because when it comes to ex-Princes and Members of

Parliament, it does not exclude us—should also practise what we preach. It is because of this that I had expected that the House would have applauded this Bill. I am not opposed to sums of money spent....

SHRI S. A. SHAMIM: This is a Bill with a vengeance.

SHRI HEMENDRA SINGH BANERA (Bhilwara): He has received crores of rupees by way of privy purses all these years without any income-tax (*Interruptions.*)

SHRI S. A. SHAMIM: My telephone bill is Rs. 1,000. I am a poor Member; I have no private income.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER Shri S. A. Shamim has made his point clear already. Now, let us hear Dr. Karni Singh

DR. KARNI SINGH: I do not know why the hon. Member is so apprehensive, because of his slab of taxation is more (*Interruptions.*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER Order. Now, let us hear Dr. Karni Singh. I shall put the question before the hon. Members and it is for them to decide.

SHRI S. A. SHAMIM: The great marksman has missed his mark.

DR. KARNI SINGH: The appeal that I would like to make to the House is this. Merely making anything personal of it and ridiculing it is of no use. That does not take away the seriousness of the matter. It is quite possible that hon. members can say 'former Maharajas' when the whole world knows they are finished. It is ancient history. Last year and the year before I introduced two Bills, one for free compulsory education for children upto the age of 14, another for unemployment relief and another for old age insurance. All these were opposed in this House on the plea that I brought it as the son of a former ruler.

What I want the hon. House to realize is this; if you want to oppose, oppose on principle. In this case, the opposition should be that MPs are entitled to a privilege and they should continue to have it. Okay. That is a point of view. Or you can say that MPs should not have the privilege and they should be subjected to the same taxation as the rest of the people. That is the other point of view—that is my point of view.

The hon. member may have a very small income and he will not be paying tax. I am not a fraud or humbug to say that I do not pay tax. I am paying 97 per cent tax. I am proud of it. Probably in five years, I will have nothing to pay. That is the taxation structure in the country.

I have worked it out. As against approximately Rs. 6,000 I draw as allowance from Parliament, I would have to earn almost Rs 2½ lakhs to clear Rs. 6,000 which should be the normal case if the allowance-income attracted income-tax. That is the taxation.

Therefore, I feel that the man in the street and the Members of Parliament should be subject to the same taxation and we do not want double yardsticks. I am quite sure that Parliament is not at any stage adverse to the fact that they should be subject to the same tax burdens.

Take the privileges. I would like to be clear in my mind that it is not my desire that at any stage the functioning of an MP, to discharge his duties, should be hampered. That is not my intention. But I do feel that taxation is something that applies to all Indians. Therefore, there should be some uniformity.

With this, I conclude my remarks. If the hon. House in its wisdom continue, throw the Bill out.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament Act, 1954".

The motion was negatived.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Leave is refused.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN (Madras South): On a point of order. There has been a convention in this House that no Private Member's Bill has ever been opposed at the introduction stage.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is not a convention; it is the pleasure of the House to give leave or not to give leave.

—
15.44 hrs:

**CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT)
BILL***

(Amendment of Seventh Schedule)

श्री भोगेन्द्र सा (जननगर): उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूँ कि भारत के संविधान का और संशोधन करने वाले विधेयक को पुरस्थापित करने की अनुमति दी जाये

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

श्री भागेन्द्र सा: मैं विधेयक को पुरस्थापित करना हूँ।

**CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT)
BILL***

(Amendment of arts. 100 and 189)

SHRI R. P. ULAGANAMBI (Vellore): I beg to move for leave to introduce

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Extraordinary, Part II, section 2,