

MR. SPEAKER : Every time he goes on with this type of suggestion, which is very bad, and then he tries to involve himself in argument. . . .

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : No arguments, Sir.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR : I only plead with you that this should not be treated as a precedent. I hope that this will not create of precedent ऐसा तो नहीं है कि कलाई पकड़ते पकड़ते यह हमारा पहुंचा पकड़ना चाहते हों।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : हम तो आप के गले में हाथ डालना चाहते हैं।

MR. SPEAKER : I was also worried about it. It has been made clear in this House that it will not be a precedent. I am postponing it, because the calling-attention-notice is being demanded for tomorrow. It will not be treated as a precedent.

SHRI K. NARAYANA RAO (Bombay) : On a point of order. It is conceded that the hon. Minister has the right to make a statement. Now, we are taking in terms of propriety.

MR. SPEAKER : It is not even propriety, but it is just accommodation of the Opposition. It is not even propriety, but it is just a question of accommodating them. I am sorry I had used the word 'propriety'. I shall substitute it by 'accommodating'.

SHRI K. NARAYANA RAO : I am using your own words, Sir. You have given us to understand that the hon. Minister can make a statement in the other House, and therefore, he need not make a statement here. If a similar objection is taken in the other House also, then he will be prevented from making the statement with the result that the main object would be defeated.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : He is undermining the Speaker. We have to come to your rescue. . . .

MR. SPEAKER : I know how much they are coming to my rescue.

SHRI K. NARAYANA RAO : If a similar objection is taken in the Rajya Sabha, he will be prevented from making a statement there also.

MR. SPEAKER : Please rest assured that we will look to it properly. It is not only because some members say it, I also believe that it would be much better if members have an opportunity to ask questions. We have made it clear that this is not a question of propriety nor of precedent; it is just a question of accommodating the views expressed by the Opposition.

12.26 hrs.

MINES (AMENDMENT) BILL

EXTENSION OF TIME FOR PRESENTATION OF REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEE

SHRI A. P. SHARMA (Buxar) : I beg to move :

"That this House do extend upto the last day of the next session, the time for the presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Bill further to amend the Mines Act, 1952. "

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do extend upto the last day of the next session, the time for the presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Bill further to amend the Mines Act, 1952".

The Motion was adopted

12.27 hrs.

UNTOUCHABILITY (OFFENCES) AMENDMENT AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISION BILL

EXTENSION OF TIME FOR PRESENTATION OF REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEE

SHRI R. D. BHANDARE (Bombay Central) : I beg to move :

"That this House do extend upto first day of the last week of the next session, the time for the presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Bill to amend the Untouchability (Offences) Act, 1955, and further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951".

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : (ग्वालियर) यह समय बढ़ाने की मांग क्यों की जा रही है?

इन का कोई कारण नहीं दिया है। इस विधेयक का इतिहास है। इस विधेयक को जब सदन में पेश किया जा रहा था तो यह कहा गया था कि इसे ज्वायंट कमेटी में भेज दिया जाय। इन बीच देश में अल्पशुद्धता फैल रही है और आये दिन उसको लेकर दुबद कांड हो रहे हैं लेकिन उस ज्वायंट कमेटी की रिपोर्ट आने में देरी हो रही है।

श्री मन्मथ (सैदपुर) : समय इसीलिए मांगा जा रहा है ताकि जो ज्यादातिया हो रही है वह भी गिरफ्त में आ सकें और सब पहलुओं पर विचार किया जा सके।

MR. SPEAKER : My experience for some time past has been that there is not a single Committee which does not ask for extension of time. Once or twice it is all right, but not every time. There are many Committees which want my permission to go out of Delhi to get some very important information here and there. If they do not go out, you will ask why they did not go out and collect information on the spot.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA (Serampore). Consultative Committees also go out.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Dimond Harbour) : The Rajya Sabha Housing Committee went out sight-seeing.

MR. SPEAKER : Housing Committees of States come here also.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : I met the member of a State Assurances Committee in Goa.

MR. SPEAKER : There are a number of assurances which have to be attended to.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : We have no objection. Unfortunately, whenever I am a member of a Select or other Committee, they do not go out. But I find that the Committees are going out too frequently, to Srinagar, Bangalore etc.

These are the two places for the Committee meetings. I do not mind it, for, the climate is good. But it will convert the entire Parliament into a mobile Parliament.

MR. SPEAKER : So far as you are concerned, we will see that you go to Srinagar and Goa! (*Interruptions*) I shall put the motion to the House. The question is :

"That this House do extend up to the first day of the last week of the next Session, the time for the presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Bill to amend the Untouchability (Offences) Act, 1955 and further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951."

The motion was adopted.

MATTER UNDER RULE 377

PRESS REPORT RE. NEWSPAPER COMPANIES

BILL, 1972

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Dimond Harbour) : Sir, under rule 377, I wish to raise the following.

In the Part II Bulletin dated 24th July, 1972, para 735, Item No. 50 mentions about the introduction of the Newspaper Companies Bill, 1972, that is, a Bill to provide for diffusion of press ownership. The footnote further states that some of the Bills included for introduction may be taken up for consideration if time permits. I was a little surprised to see in the press yesterday that the proposed Bill for diffusion of ownership of newspapers is not likely to be introduced in the current session of Parliament, although this has been mentioned in the above-mentioned Part II Bulletin. One explanation given for the delay is that Mr. I. K. Gujral has taken charge of the Ministry very recently and needs time to study the report on the diffusion issue.

My reaction to this is that instead of making a statement on the floor of the House, seeking approval of withdrawal of item No. 50 from the Part II Bulletin, para 735, the Government has chosen to go to the press to publicise it even when the House is in session.