

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: If you take the matter seriously I expect a response from you.

MR. SPEAKER: The only alternative, if you are not satisfied, is to bring in a no-trust motion, which we have discussed already; or you can ask the Speaker and then I can write to them. But do not put me in a difficult situation everyday.

I may again make it clear that unless I call a member he will not be allowed.

श्री भान सिंह भौरा: माननीय ज्योतिर्मय बसु के पीइट का मिनिस्टर ने जबाब दिया था।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : वह मैं ने भलाउ नहीं किया था।

I made it very clear. I am not allowing that. It was never allowed.

12.21 hrs.

ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEES

(i) NATIONAL SHIPPING BOARD

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI KAMLA-PATI TRIPATHI): I move

"That in pursuance of sub-section (2) (a) of section 4 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, the members of this House do proceed to elect in such manner as the Speaker may direct, four members from among themselves, to be members of the National Shipping Board".

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of sub-section (2) (a) of section 4 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, the members of this House do proceed to elect in such manner as the Speaker may direct, four members from among themselves, to be members of the National Shipping Board".

The motion was adopted.

(ii) CENTRAL SILK BOARD

MR. SPEAKER: As for item 8, I have allowed Shri C. Subramaniam to move the motion.

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): I move:

"That in pursuance of clause (c) of sub-section (3) of section 4 of the Central Silk Board Act, 1948, the members of this House do proceed to elect in such manner as the Speaker may direct one member from among themselves to be a member of the Central Silk Board vice Shri Inder J. Malhotra appointed Chairman of the Board".

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of clause (c) of sub-section (3) of section 4 of the Central Silk Board Act, 1948, the members of this House do proceed to elect in such manner as the Speaker may direct one member from among themselves to be a member of the Central Silk Board vice Shri Inder J. Malhotra appointed Chairman of the Board".

The motion was adopted.

12.28 hrs.

CENTRAL EXCISES AND SALT (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944".

Shri S. M. Banerjee. Wanted to say something on this.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA (Bagusarai): My 277 has been permitted.

MR. SPEAKER: After this item

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): I rise to oppose the Motion. I know that the Ordinance and the Motion seeking to disallow it will come up for discussion tomorrow when I will again oppose the Bill.

Kindly see the statement of objects and reasons:

"It was, therefore, decided as an immediate measure to steeply increase the prices of two of the principal petroleum products, namely, motor spirit and kerosene, the major part of this increase being affected by substantially raising the central excise duties leviable thereon".

There is therefore no question that because the price of crude has risen and we have to import it, the price has been raised to this extent, because in the rise in price announced of Rs. 1.07, the element of rise in price of crude is 7P and Re. 1 is the excise duty.

I would therefore, submit, and my objection to the introduction of the Bill is, that this Government brought an ordinance when the Parliament was about to meet. That is my first objection. Second, they had no business not to consult Parliament when it was a question of levying an excise duty—

MR. SPEAKER: That was already discussed.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: I do not think this should be done this way, because it is a fact that even the common man—

MR. SPEAKER: You have discussed during the first three days.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Yes, Sir. We have discussed it, but I do not want to see that these rates are just 2462 LS—8

reduced. I want that it should be rejected lock stock and barrel.

श्री मधु लिखये (बांका): अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं तीन मुद्दे आप के सामने रखना चाहता हूँ— एक संवैधानिक है, दूसरा नैतिक और तीसरा आर्थिक आवश्यकता का। संवैधानिक मुद्दा यह है कि अगर आप अनुच्छेद 123 को देखें उस में लिखा है :

"If at any time, except when both Houses of Parliament are in session, the President is satisfied that circumstances exist which render it necessary for him to take immediate action, he may promulgate such Ordinances as the circumstances appear to him to require."

अब अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह तो आप ने कई बार यहाँ पर कहा है कि आप कोई सुप्रीम कोर्ट की जगह नहीं ले सकते हैं। लेकिन प्राइमा-फेक्ती इतना तो देख सकते हैं कि मंत्री महोदय आप को सेटिसफाई करें कि तत्काल कदम उठाना क्या जरूरी था? आप मंत्री महोदय से सफाई मांगें कि अगर इमीडियेट ऐक्शन नहीं लिया जाता तो कौन सी आपसि आने वाली थी, कौन सा आसमान टूटने वाला था?

नैतिकता की बात यह है कि इस को जितना बचन देना चाहिये था नहीं दिया। मैंने इस सदन का ध्यान इस बात की ओर खींचा था कि इसीसे डिफाइनेशन में 7 प्रतिशत से भी अधिक कूड़ आयल का लोस होता है, और कोयाली और बरौनी के जो अगकड़े मेरे पास हैं

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह जो फर्स्ट रीप्लि की बात है।

श्री मधु लिखये : 40 करोड़ रुपये बचाने की बात मैं कर रहा हूँ तो आप इन्फोर्मेट हैं।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : 40 करोड़ रूपये को तो नहीं बदल सकते हैं।

श्री मधु लिमये : अब मंत्री महोदय ने मेरे सामने रूस के डिप्टी प्राइम मिनिस्टर के सामने कहा है कि रूसियों का लौस बहुत कम है, और हिन्देशिया जो पिछड़ा हुआ देश है उस में 3 प्रतिशत लौस है हमारे यहां साढ़े सात प्रतिशत लौस है। तो मैं ने हिसाब जोड़ा कि हर साल 40 करोड़ रु० कार्य-क्षमता और ईमानदारी के आधार पर बचा सकते हैं। इसलिये जब तक इनएफोशियेंसी को नहीं रोक सकते हैं तब तक कोई अधिकार नहीं है कि इस तरह का सुझाव सदन के सामने ले कर आये।

आर्थिक आवश्यकता की बात यह है कि अगर 7 पैसे बढ़ाने की आवश्यकता थी तो इतनी डबल ऐक्साइज ड्यूटी बढ़ाने की जरूरत ही क्या थी ?

MR. SPEAKER: All these matters of principle and other details can be raised in the first reading.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA (Serampore): Sir, I wish to say a few words. Mr. Banerjee and Mr. Madhu Limaye have said that the Government should abandon this policy, when Parliament is to sit just seven days after, of coming forward with an ordinance. This has opened the floodgate for other increases not only an increase in petrol prices, but other commodities also. This Government says that it is progressive and that it is adopting socialist measures. Is this socialism? In addition to the increase by seven paise owing to the increase in the price of crude, they are levying an excise duty of Re. 1 for petrol. By this way, they are looting, and taking away from the pockets of the ordinary people as much as Rs. 200 crores. Let them immediately abandon this; they should not proceed with this Bill.

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the objections that were raised seem to be, really speaking, no objections at all at this stage. Mr. Banerjee seems to raise objections on the merits of the Bill; whether it

should be done or should not be done is a different matter, and if it comes to that, we will discuss it at the consideration stage, and this House is free to take a view about this matter. (Interruptions).

As far as Shri Madhu Limaye's objection is concerned, he said he has some constitutional grounds on which he objects to it. I was interested to know what exactly is the constitutional ground he was raising. The Law Minister is here. Possibly, if necessary, he can also intervene. But I do not think there is a need for it.

SHRI MADHU LIMAYE: Where is the need.

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN: The constitutional point raised was whether Government was convinced about the necessity of immediate action. I would like to say that we were convinced about it and the President was also ultimately convinced about it. Mr. Limaye asked whether there was going to be earthquake if it were not done. Are we going to wait for earthquakes to take place to take action? The point is, there was a developing situation about the prices of crude and there were some political elements also in it. The whole world knows about it. It was necessary for this country to show that we are prepared to take some voluntary action to reduce the consumption of petrol. So, a certain immediate reaction was necessary, apart from the economic necessity. The economic necessity was also there for reducing consumption. We had to take certain steps, and not just wait. Therefore, Government thought it was necessary to act immediately on this matter.

Therefore, I do not think the objections are tenable at this stage.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Alipore): Why do you prefer robbery to rationing?

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN: Whatever tax collection is made, you can say it is robbery;

SHRI MADHU LIMAYE: On a point of order Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: You have already been given an opportunity and you have already raised it. You cannot get it again and again. In the introduction stage, you can raise some constitutional issue or something like that. The principles of the Bill, its merits, etc. come up for discussion when the Bill is actually taken into consideration.

श्री मधु लिमये अध्यक्ष महोदय, व्यवस्था के सम्बन्ध में मेरे दो मुद्दे हैं। एक तो यह कि क्या मंत्री महोदय को मदन के सामने या बिल में यह नहीं रखना चाहिये कि तत्काल करवाई क्यों आवश्यक था। हम लोग उस में संतुष्ट होंगे या नहीं यह अलग बात है, लेकिन उन की कोशिश यह होनी चाहिये कि वह सदन के सामने सारी बात रखे। दूसरी बात यह कि उन्होंने कहा वॉलेंटरी एक्शन की जरूरत थी। तो टेक्स लगाना स्वेच्छीवाली कार्रवाई है या जबरन काम लेने की बात है ?

MR. SPEAKER: It is not a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944".

The Lok Sabha divided.

Diversion No. 6] [12.40 hrs.

Ayes

Achal Singh, Shri
Ambesh, Shri
Ankineedu, Shri Maganti
Arvind Netam, Shri
Aziz Imam, Shri
Babunath Singh, Shri
Banerji, Shrimati Mukul
Barman, Shri R. N.
Basappa, Shri K.

Bhagat, Shri B. R.
Bist, Shri Narendra Singh
Brij Raj Singh-Kotah, Shri
Buta Singh, Shri
Chandra Gowda, Shri D. B.
Chandrakar, Shri Chandulal
Chaturvedi, Shri Rohan Lal
Chavan, Shri Yeshwantrao
Chhotey Lal, Shri
Chikkalmgaiah, Shri K.
Dalip Singh, Shri
Darbara Singh, Shri
Dharamgaj Singh, Shri
Dinesh Singh, Shri
Dumada, Shri L. K.
Engti, Shri Biren
Gavit, Shri T. H.
Ghosh, Shri P. K.
Gogoi, Shri Tarun
Gokhale, Shri H. R.
Gomango, Shri Giridhar
Gopal, Shri K.
Hanumanthaiya, Shri K.
Hari Singh, Shri
Ishaque, Shri A. K. M.
Jeyalakshmi, Shrimati V.
Joshi, Shri Popatlal M.
Joshi, Shrimati Subhadra
Kadannappalli, Shri Ramachandran
Kader, Shri S. A.
Kahandole, Shri Z. M.
Kavde, Shri B. R.
Kureel, Shri B. N.
Mahajan, Shri Vikram
Mahajan, Shri Y. S.
Majhi, Shri Gajadhar
Malhotra, Shri Inder J.
Mallanna, Shri K.
Maurya, Shri B. P.
Mishra, Shri Bibhuti
Mohammad Tahir, Shri
Mohsin, Shri F. H.
Murthy, Shri B. S.

Murmu, Shri Yogesh Chandra
 Naik, Shri B. V.
 Negi, Shri Pratap Singh
 Nimbalkar, Shri
 Panull, Shri Paripoornanand
 Pandey, Shri Damodar
 Pandey, Shri Krishna Chandra
 Pandey, Shri Sudhakar
 Pandit, Shri S. T.
 Pant, Shri K. C.
 Parashar, Prof. Narain Chand
 Pratap Singh, Shri
 Parthasarathy, Shri P.
 Patel, Shri Ramubhai
 Patil, Shri C. A.
 Patil, Shri E. V. Vikhe
 Patil, Shri Krishnarao
 Purty, Shri M. S.
 Raghu Ramaiah, Shri K.
 Rai, Shrimati Sahodrabai
 Ram Prakash, Shri
 Ram Sewak, Ch.
 Ram Surat Prasad, Shri
 Rao, Shri M. S. Sanjeevi
 Rao, Shri P. Ankineedu Prasada
 Raut, Shri Bhola
 Reddy, Shri K. Kodanda Rami
 Reddy, Shri K. Ramakrishna
 Reddy, Shri P. V.
 Rudra Pratap Singh, Shri
 Sadhu Ram, Shri
 Samanta, Shri S. C.
 Sathe, Shri Vasant
 Satpathy, Shri Devendra
 Savitri Shyam, Shrimati
 Sethi, Shri Arjun
 Shankaranand, Shri B.
 Sharma, Shri A. P.
 Sharma, Shri Madhoram
 Shashi Bhushan, Shri
 Shastri, Shri Biswanarayan
 Shastri, Shri Sheopujan
 Shenoy, Shri P. R.

Sher Singh, Prof.
 Shinde, Shri Annasaheb P.
 Shivnath Singh, Shri
 Shukla, Shri B. R.
 Stephen, Shri C. M.
 Subramaniam, Shri C.
 Sunder Lal, Shri
 Swaminathan, Shri R. V.
 Thakur, Shri Krishnarao
 Tombi Singh Shri N.
 Vekaria, Shri
 Verma, Shri Balgovind
 Verma, Shri Sukhdeo Prasad
 Yadav, Shri R. P.
 Yadav, Shri D. P.
 Zulfiqar Ali Khan, Shri
 NOES
 Anthony, Shri Frank
 Banerjee, Shri S. M.
 Bhargavi Thankappan, Shrimati
 Bhattacharyya, Shri Dinen
 Bhaura, Shri B. S.
 Chandrappan, Shri C. K.
 Chinnaraji, Shri C. K.
 Dandavate, Prof Madhu
 Deb, Shri Dasaratha
 Dutta, Shri Biren
 Goswami, Shrimati Bibha Ghosh
 Guha, Shri Samar
 Gupta, Shri Indrajit
 Halder, Shri Krishna Chandra
 Joarder, Shri Dinesh
 Kachwal, Shri Hukam Chand
 Kathamuthu, Shri M.
 Koya, Shri C. H. Mohamed
 Lajji Bhai, Shri
 Limaye, Shri Madhu
 Madhukar, Shri K. M.
 Malik, Shri Mukhtar Singh
 Mavalankar, Shri P. G.
 Mishra, Shri Shyamnandan
 Nair, Shri Sreekantan
 Panda, Shri D. K.
 *Pandey, Shri Tarkeshwar

*Wrongly voted for NOES

Scindia, Shri Madhavrao
Sezhiyan, Shri
Shakya, Shri Maha Deepak Singh
Shastri, Shri Shiv Kumar
Singh, Shri D. N.
Subravelu, Shri
Vijay Pal Singh, Shri

MR. SPEAKER: The result* of the division is: Ayes 111; Noes 34.

The motion was adopted.

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN:
I introduce† the Bill.

12.40 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. CENTRAL EXCISES
AND SALT (AMENDMENT) ORDI-
NANCE

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE
(SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN):
I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English) giving reasons for immediate legislation by the Central Excises and Salt (Amendment) Ordinance, 1973, as required under rule 71(1) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

12.40 1/2 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) PRESS REPORTS ABOUT SALARY, ALLOWANCES ETC. OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Shyamnandan Mishra to raise a matter under Rule 377.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA (Begusarai): Sir, it is with great reluctance but with a sense of duty that I have to refer to a news-item circulated by a news agency regarding the salary, allowances and amenities en-

joyed by the Members of Parliament. To say the least, this news-item has been exaggerated very much and we find that this is a gross misrepresentation of the factual position as it obtains today.

The newspaper report says that the salary, allowances and amenities of a Member of Parliament amount to no less than Rs. 5000 per month. The position seems to be completely incorrect. It could be claimed that the Members of Parliament in India receive probably the lowest so far as the salary, allowance and amenities are concerned and, particularly if you consider the price rise which has taken place to the extent of 22 to 23 per cent, their economic plight seems to be extremely miserable. There is no doubt about it.

As salary, a Member of Parliament gets only Rs. 500 a month. It has been claimed in the news-item that we are almost on par with a Member of British Parliament who gets 3,250 pounds a year. The comparison is totally wrong. Even if you take into account the total daily allowance that a Member of Parliament gets during the course of a year, the amount that he gets per month would not exceed Rs. 1000 to Rs. 1200 per month. This is an amount which is earned even by a Section Officer in the Government of India....

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: (Bhagalpur): The Parliament sits for not more than six months in a year. Therefore, this daily allowance of Rs. 1500 per month becomes Rs. 750 per month. So, Rs. 750 plus the salary of Rs. 500 come to Rs. 1250 per month. Not more than that.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: If the account is taken of the expenses that a Member of Parliament has to incur, that is, on his transport to fulfil his official engagements and even social calls which are so necessary, the secre-

*Shri Tarkeshwar Pandey also recorded his vote for AYES.

†Introduced with the recommendation of the President.