

[Shri Hem Barua]

his position, that inquiry would be vitiated.

MR. SPEAKER: Whatever it is, the hon. Member's name has been mentioned; allegations have been made. He is also an hon. Member of this House. Should he not at least be given an opportunity to explain his position? Let the Government inquire. What he says may or may not be right and what the others have said also may or may not be right. I am just giving an opportunity to the hon. Member...

SHRI VASUDEVAN NAIR (Pre-made): No allegations were made against Mr. Kunte in his capacity as an hon. Member of this House. Allegations were made against him in his capacity as somebody outside. Why should that be made a subject of controversy here?

MR. SPEAKER: Allegations were made on the floor of the House. I have allowed him.

SHRI DATTATRAYA KUNTE: With your permission, I would make a brief statement as a personal explanation regarding things said about me during the Question Hour in the House on the 12th instant. I must mention that at that time I was referred as a member of this House.

It was said by the hon. Member, Shri Hem Barua, that I was a non-political when I was appointed Chairman of the Bennett Coleman Co. It is not a statement of fact. In my humble way I have been in politics since I joined satyagraha in May 1930. The Chairman who preceded me has been an important member of a political party and was appointed Chairman with the mutual consent of both the Government and the shareholders.

The Hon. Member, Shri Umanath, inquired of my taking two lakhs of rupees from the Company for my election. His statement is farthest from the truth. My contradiction of a similar statement made in this House is still unrefuted. I did not take any money.

The Company is a public limited one. Its accounts have not only to be passed by the directors and adopted by the shareholders but undergo much scrutiny before and after. This Company has two directors

appointed by Government in addition to the four of the shareholders.

Shri Umanath's further point was that I indulged in appointing my friends and relatives to several posts in the Company. This is completely untrue. Even the memorandum of the union which is the basis of the question says of one appointment. There is, I say, not even one such appointment.

The Hon. Member, Shri George Fernandes, made reference to the purchase of some machine by the Company. When he wrote to me about it, I immediately sent him a detailed reply after making inquiries in the office as I was not aware or concerned in any purchase for the Company. He has offered to produce proof of what he said. I am sure it will prove my complete bonafides in the matter.

श्री जार्ज फरनेन्डीज (बम्बई दक्षिण) :
अध्यक्ष महोदय सुबूत ये हैं, हमको इस पर
खुलासा मिलना चाहिये।

12.34 hrs.

CONTRACT LABOUR (REGULATION AND ABOLITION) BILL

EXTENSION OF TIME FOR PRESENTATION OF
REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEE

SHRI K. N. PANDEY (Padrauna): I beg to move:

"That this House do further extend the time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Bill to regulate the employment of contract labour in certain establishments and to provide for its abolition in certain circumstances and for matters connected therewith, upto the last day of the second week of the Budget Session (1969)."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do further extend the time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Bill to regulate the employment of contract labour in certain establishments and to provide for its abolition in certain circumstances and for matters connected therewith, upto the last day of the second week of the Budget Session (1969)."

The motion was adopted.