

be in that spirit. I do hope, it will come about that way.

I again thank him and the House very much for giving such a good gift to me. I would request him that after he finishes his speech, if he wants to reply, he should occupy this Chair. This has been a very turbulent Chair for me. Please occupy the first Chair on my left and embellish it with your accomplishments.

13 00 hrs.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Swell.

Shri Swell was then conducted to the Deputy-Speaker's seat on the front bench by Shri Frank Anthony and Shri N.C Chatterjee

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : What about Mr. Sheo Narain now ?

SHRI SWELL (Autonomous Districts) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not know really what to say and how to say in gratitude over this flood of affection, trust and confidence that has come from you, Sir, from the Prime Minister, from the leaders of all parties and groups and, I am sure, from the hearts of my colleagues here inside and also from the hearts of those, for reasons of their own, who find it inconvenient to be present in the House.

Sir, this affection has come to me unsolicited and, therefore, it is all the more precious and cherished by me. My own prayer and hope at this moment is that I may not falter or fumble and that I may live up to the expectations of my colleagues.

Many a time I have watched you and other colleagues of mine who have had an opportunity to sit in that Chair is your absence, Sir, and I have had always said to myself that if there was one man who deserved to be sympathised and pitied more than the others it was the man sitting in that Chair. Little did I realise that the same fate awaited me. I am confident, with the affection that I have received and the hope that I shall continue to receive the same affection and even indulgence from my colleagues, I shall be able to discharge my duties impartially, and maybe, as the Prime Minister said, sometimes firmly but to the satisfaction of the House.

To the older Members of this House, I would say, "Please continue to give me your affection, your consideration and sometimes your indulgence." But to the younger Members of this House to which group I am proud to belong, I would say, "This is the challenge to youth. Please give me your cooperation. Let not the hopes of youth perish in that Chair."

Sir, I have always held the view that this Parliament is the most potent instrument for a peaceful, orderly, social, economic and political change and that as long as the people of this great country of ours whom we represent continue to have their faith, trust and confidence in this Parliament, the parliamentary democracy is safe in this country. It is, therefore, the bounden duty of each one of us not to do anything, even when we are seized by, what I would say, righteous indignation, to denigrate the House or to bring it into contempt. Sir, in all your efforts to maintain and promote the sovereignty, the dignity and the effectiveness of this House, I shall assist you and give you of my best.

I will end on a slight personal note, the note which has been struck by the Prime Minister and many of my elderly and very valued colleagues. It is true that I come from a group in this great country of ours, a small group and also from Assam, a few lakhs strong as against nearly 6,000 lakhs of population in this country and that group is tucked in a small though exquisite corner in the north-east of our country. Yet, it has not been a handicap to me. The offer of this office to me by my colleagues in this House should serve as a testimony to the wide world that the heart of India is great and good despite the trials, tribulations and sometimes aberrations and that every one of her children, however, small numerically, however remote geographically, has a place of honour in this country and is loved and cherished as such. It should also serve as a testimony that under the new dispensation the gate is wide open for the youth to come to its own and precious years should not be cast away in anger.

Sir, I approach my new task in this spirit. If my approach is right, I cannot fail.

Thank you, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : Before I adjourn, I have a happy news to Mr. Banerjee that Mr. Khadilkar will be presenting a statement.

SHRI NAMBIAR : Thank you very much, Sir.

STATEMENT RE : PROPOSED STRIKE
BY THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
OF LIC

THE MINISTER OF SUPPLY, AND ALSO MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI KHADILKAR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a statement regarding the proposed strike by the Development Officers of the Life Insurance Corporation.

Statement

Mr. Speaker, Sir, at its meeting held in October 1969 in Nagpur, the General Body of the National Federation of Insurance Field Workers of India resolved that the Development Officers of the Life Insurance Corporation of India would go on an indefinite strike from 10th December 1969, if their grievances in regard to the work norms are not satisfactorily settled by then.

2. The duties of Development Officers differ fundamentally from those of other employees. Their work is in the field and they have, therefore, no office or regular hours of work. The normal method of supervision employed to supervise other employees is therefore not available in their case. When normal grade increments were granted for the first time in 1965 to these employees it became more than ever necessary to evolve norms for proper assessment of their output. Also when the Corporation took action under Staff Regulations against Development Officers whose output was poor, the Federation contended that Development Officers should first be told what was expected of them.

3. Negotiations between the L. I. C. and the Federation on the issue of work norms were held in November-December 1968 and February 1969. The Federation stated that they were opposed to the very basis of the proposals formulated by the Corporation and put forward certain alterna-

tive proposals. The Corporation considered these too low to serve as a basis for discussions. Further, the only penalty suggested by the Federation for neglect of work was that cases of Development Officers whose performance was less than 75% of the norms during two consecutive years should be placed under effective supervision and a phased programme drawn up to enable them to come up to the standards. This meant that erring Development Officers could continue to draw salary for some years without giving adequate performance.

4. It was under these circumstances that the Corporation had to take a decision to fix the norms. Incidentally the norms fixed by the L. I. C. are much more liberal than those which the Morarka Committee later thought as proper. The scheme also provides for an adequate transitional period for Development Officers to come up to the norms.

5. The representatives of the Federation met me and discussed at length their problems. I have had discussion with the Chairman also. In view of these discussions I would appeal to the Development Officers to abandon the strike and resume negotiations with the LIC on the basis of the norms laid down.

MR. SPEAKER : For the information of the House, the voting time for the constitutional Amendment Bill will be 4-45 p. m. Now we adjourn for lunch.

13.09 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch
till Fourteen of the Clock*

*The Lok Sabha reassembled after Lunch
at three minutes past Fourteen of
the Clock*

[Mr. Deputy-Speaker in the Chair]

CONSTITUTION (TWENTY-THIRD
AMENDMENT) BILL—Contd.

SHRI RANDHIR SINGH (Rohtak) :
Our young Deputy Speaker !

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contai) : Sir,
I want to make a submission