

RE. QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE—contd.

श्री शिव चन्द्र झा : जवाब कुछ नहीं आया ।

MR. SPEAKER : I am sorry. I do not give my consent. It is not in order. But I can invite the attention of the Minister and the Papers that when they give the proceedings they should cover it in detail. I have been studying them all this time. This matter does not come within the ambit of privilege.

Now, the House will take up further consideration of the Architects Bill. The Hon. Minister.

12.17 hrs.

ARCHITECTS BILL—contd.

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES (DR. V.K.R.V. RAO) : I am grateful to all the Hon. Members who participated in the debate on the Architects' Bill and spoke on the various aspects of the Bill. There is practically unanimous agreement on the need to legislate for the registration of architects.

The Bill itself is non-controversial. Shri Piloo Mody referred to the long delay in bringing forward the legislation. He also paid me a compliment which I don't think I deserved. As he himself knows, the Bill in its original form sought to protect the profession of architecture and that implied exclusion of a large body of engineers and others engaged in the design, construction and supervision of buildings. There was naturally great opposition to the Bill in that form. After great care and deliberation and discussions with professional bodies the Joint Committee has changed the Bill in a very fundamental way.

The Bill before the House seeks only to protect the title 'Architect' and not the practice of architecture as such. All engineers, past and present, are free to carry on their work for the design, construction and supervision of buildings as before,

and this will also apply to future entrants to the engineering profession.

I would therefore like to repeat and repeat again that the Bill protects only the title of 'Architect' and does not prevent engineers from engaging themselves in the design, construction and supervision of buildings.

All those engineers who are engaged in the practice of architecture can also be registered when the Act comes into force, even if they do not hold a recognised architectural qualification. I would, in particular, invite the attention of the House to Section 25 (b) which permits registration of any person who is engaged in practice as an architect for a period of not less than 5 years prior to a specific date appointed for application for registration.

A question was however raised about all those engineers who might enter the architectural field in future years. There will be no bar to their professional work for the design construction and supervision of buildings as long as they call themselves engineers and not architects. If they wish to register themselves as architects, they must comply with the provisions prescribed for the purpose. We—by that I mean the Ministry—would be prepared to help them to acquire the necessary qualifications as architects. We will organise for civil engineer short-term courses both on full-time and part-time basis so that they can qualify for recognised degrees or diplomas in architecture, if they feel like doing so.

There are only 14 or 15 architectural schools in our country which are training about 450—500 qualified architects each year. It is, therefore, evident that when the Act comes into force, a very large proportion of those who will be registered will belong to the second category covered by section 25 (b), that is, those who do not hold recognised architectural qualifications but have been engaged in the practice of architecture for a period of not less than five years.