

[श्री रामावतार शास्त्री]

शुल्क में तो कमी कर रहे हैं लेकिन उससे बने कपड़े की कीमत में कमी न हो। सरकार का ध्यान इस तरफ भी जाना चाहिये कि खरीदने वालों को भी यह अनुभव हो कि सरकार ने जो कानून बनाया है, उस से व्यापारियों के साथ-साथ कन्जूमर को भी फायदा हुआ है।

दूसरी बात मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि बाहर से सिल्क न आये—इस तरह की स्थिति हमें बनानी है और यह तभी बन सकती है जब कि देश के अन्दर सिल्क का उत्पादन ज्यादा से ज्यादा हो। हमारे देश के कोने-कोने में सिल्क उद्योग हैं, देश के कोने-कोने में सिल्क के कीड़े भी हैं और उस के लिये अरण्डी का पत्ता भी है, सब सुविधायें मौजूद हैं, आवश्यकता इस बात की है कि जो सिल्क बनाने वाला उद्योग है, उस की मदद कीजिये, उन के मजदूरों की मदद कीजिये—सिर्फ इसी बात की कमी है। हमारे यहां भागलपुर में बहुत पुराने समय से सिल्क बनता है जो पूरे देश को सप्लाई होता है। मैं यही निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि बाहर के सिल्क के कच्चे माल का जो आप शुल्क कम कर रहे हैं, वह ठीक है, लेकिन साथ ही साथ अपने देश में सिल्क उद्योग बढ़े, प्रगति करे, इस तरफ आपका ध्यान जाना चाहिये। यह तभी सम्भव होगा जब आप बनाने वालों की मदद करेंगे, मजदूरों की मदद करेंगे, छोटे-छोटे उद्योग-पतियों की मदद करेंगे, तब ही हम आत्म निर्भर बन सकते हैं। हमारे देश का सिल्क बहुत उमदा होता है, उस की कीमत भी कम होती है—इस तरफ आपका ध्यान जाना चाहिये।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed"

The motion was adopted.

16.38 hrs.

ASSAM REORGANISATION
(MEGHALAYA) BILL

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I move :

"That the Bill to provide for the formation within the State of Assam of an autonomous State to be known as Meghalaya and for matters connected therewith, be taken into consideration."

Sir, by way of preliminary observations, I would like to say that the question of the re-organisation of Assam is familiar to the Members of Parliament.....

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Bombay South) : We had to brow-beat you to bring it about.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : I don't mind giving credit to you, if you want it.

The tribal areas of Assam, as we all know, already enjoy certain autonomy under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution. But it is a well-known fact that this autonomy was not considered to be enough as the people in hill areas felt that it does not provide them proper opportunities to express their own political personality and their political aspirations. Therefore, certain political arrangements had to be thought of and the Government undertook very prolonged deliberations and, as a result of wide and prolonged consultations with different people we came to certain conclusions which were included in the statement of 11th September, 1968.

The broad details of the set up envisaged under the scheme were indicated in that statement. The entire concept was to enlarge the autonomy of the hill areas by creating an autonomous State within the State of Assam which this Bill proposes to call Meghalaya. In order to give shape to this idea, as a first step, the Constitution had to be amended by the Constitution (Twenty-Second) Amendment Act, 1969, by which powers were conferred on Parliament to enact a law for the formation of an autonomous State within the State of Assam.

With the passing of that law, the re-organisation scheme has been accepted by Parliament in principle. I do not want to repeat the arguments that were made on that occasion on the floor of the House, but I will only say that the present Bill seeks to give effect to the details of the reorganisation scheme.

The autonomous State contemplated under the scheme is a State within a State. That is to say, in regard to matters entrusted to the autonomous State, it will function like a State. In regard to other matters, the Assam Legislature and Government will continue to have the same powers and authority in the areas which will form the autonomous State. The whole concept is that certain powers have been entrusted to the autonomous State and with regard to these powers, this autonomous State will function as a State. Why I am making this categorical statement is because the Bill that is before the House for consideration appears to be a big one, a lengthy one. But, really speaking, it incorporates all the provisions concerning the States that are to be found in the Constitution. Therefore, most of the provisions of the Bill are practically the same as are in the Constitution with regard to functioning of the other States. I mention this fact because I do not want to go into detailed exposition of the different clauses. But at the same time I can say that all the clauses have been explained in the explanatory note which explains the different clauses as far as the Bill is concerned. But if you permit me, I can hurriedly mention some of the important clauses.

Clause 3 of the Bill explains the formation of Meghalaya. This Meghalaya will comprise the autonomous districts of United Khasi-Jaintia Hills.....

श्री शिव चन्द्र झा : (मधुबनी) : मेघालय का मतलब क्या होता है ?

श्री यशवन्त राव चव्हाण : मेघो का अर्थ है
This is a compound word. भाषा है
आप समझते हैं ।

It will comprise the autonomous districts of United Khasi-Jaintia Hills, Jowai

and Garo Hills. There is also an option provided for the autonomous districts of North-Cachar Hills and Mikir Hills, They can join the autonomous State on the basis of an option to be exercised by a majority of two-thirds of the members of their respective District Councils.

SHRI RANGA (Srikakulam): Mizoland also ?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : Mizoland, at the present moment, is not included.

SHRI RANGA : It can come later on.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : I cannot say one way or the other about it. If it happens, that is a different matter.

Clause 11 of the Bill provides for a Legislative Assembly for Meghalaya which will consist of not less than 35 and not more than 55 members. It has been kept flexible because we do not as yet know the option of those two districts. In case they opt to join the Meghalaya, the maximum number of legislative members can be had and if not, the minimum number mentioned.

The most important clause in this Bill is Clause 33 which, if read with the Second Schedule, defines the legislative powers of Meghalaya, and the executive power of this State to coincide with the legislative powers. Wherever the Meghalaya Assembly has legislative power, the executive power of the autonomous State will extend to those areas. The Second Schedule is a very important Schedule because it consists of three lists, A, B and C. List 'A' contains some of the items from the State List. List 'B' contains some of the items from the Concurrent List in the Seventh Schedule in regard to which the powers are given to Meghalaya. List 'C' consists of items which are concurrent between Assam Assembly and the Meghalaya Assembly. So, this defines, as a matter of fact, the legislative powers of the new State.

Then, Sir, as I said, Clause 5 defines the executive power of Meghalaya. I should explain the principle behind it. Clauses 51 and 52 provide for a separate Consolidated Fund and Contin ency Fund

[Shri Y.B. Chavan]

for Meghalaya and Clause 56 provides for the grants-in-aid at present payable to Assam under Article 275(1) and other Central devolutions in the form of share of taxes on income, Union excise duties, etc., being apportioned between Assam and Meghalaya.

There is also a provision for a provisional Legislative Assembly as it is not possible to hold elections to the Legislative Assembly of Meghalaya within a short period because considerable preliminary work such as delimitation of constituencies, etc., will be involved. Hence provision has been made in Clause 62 for a provisional Legislative Assembly being constituted. Members of this Assembly will be chosen by the elected members of the District Councils.

There is a provision about Shillong. Shillong will continue to be the capital of Assam and will also become the capital of Meghalaya. The two States will, therefore, have many matters of common interest so far as Shillong is concerned. Apart from that, Shillong is a developing area and most of the development will have to take place outside the present limits of the Cantonment and Municipality, *i. e.* in areas which will be in Meghalaya. Clause 63, therefore provides for a Special Committee to advise the two Governments on matters of common interest with respect to Shillong.

Then Clause 65 makes provisions relating to Services. I need not go into details about these matters.

Then, Sir, about assets and liabilities which is also a very important matter in the case of reorganization. The Third Schedule to the Bill contains detailed provisions for the allocation of assets and liabilities of the existing State of Assam between that State and Meghalaya. The basic approach is that such of the assets and liabilities as are relatable to functions assigned to Meghalaya should be transferred to the autonomous States. This is the basic principle.

The Fourth Schedule which is a very important Schedule contains a number of amendments to the Sixth Schedule

of the Constitution which are designed to improve the functioning of these councils. Para 6 of this Schedule contains an amendment which would enable the Government of Assam or the Government of Meghalaya, as the case may be, to entrust more functions to the District Councils, particularly, in the matter of agriculture, animal husbandry, community projects and other matters of local interest. The object is that the District Councils should also be enabled to participate to a larger extent in the local developmental activities.

As far as I can see, these are the important provisions of the Bill which explain the nature of the new setup. As I said, this Bill has the widest possible agreement in the country. This Bill became about as a result of emergence of agreement between most of the political Parties. I know my hon colleague from the Jana Sangh has certain doubts about it. I would also request him that having now accepted this principle of an autonomous State, they should very gracefully bless this Bill and wish the people of the Hill State all good luck in their new experiment.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That the Bill to provide for the formation within the State of Assam of an autonomous State to be known as Meghalaya and for matters connected therewith, be taken into consideration."

SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL (Chandigarh) : I beg to move :

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 15th February, 1970." (1)

SHRI HEM BARUA : I beg to move :

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 16th June, 1970." (2)

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री (हापुड़) :
मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूँ :—

"कि आसाम राज्य के अन्दर ही मेघालय नाम के स्वायत्तशासी राज्य के

गठन और तत्सम्बन्धी विषयों की व्यवस्था करने वाले विधेयक को एक प्रवर समिति को सौंपा जाये जिसमें 16 सदस्य हों, अर्थात्

- (1) श्री धीरेश्वर कालिता
- (2) श्री शिव कुमार शास्त्री
- (3) श्री श्रीचन्द गोयल
- (4) श्री अर्जुन सिंह भदौरिया
- (5) श्री शिव नारायण
- (6) श्री बाल्मीकि चौधरी
- (7) श्री विद्या चरण शुक्ल
- (8) श्री यशवन्त राव चह्लान
- (9) श्री योगेन्द्र शर्मा
- (10) श्री हेम बरुआ
- (11) श्री देवकीनन्दन पटौदिया
- (12) श्री कंवर लाल गुप्ता
- (13) डा० सूर्य प्रकाश पुरी
- (14) श्री राम अवतार शर्मा
- (15) श्री पन्नालाल बारुपाल
- (16) श्री हेम राज

और इन्हें संसद के आगामी सत्र के पहले दिन तक प्रतिवेदन देने का अनुदेश दिया जाये। (7)

SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL : I beg to move :

"That the Bill to provide for the formation within the State of Assam of an autonomous State to be known as Meghalaya and for matters connected therewith, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of 21 members, namely :—

- (1) Shri R. D. Bhandare
- (2) Sardar Buta Singh
- (3) Shri Y. B. Chavan
- (4) Choudhari Dalbir Singh
- (5) Shri Dhireswar Kalita
- (6) Shri Kameshwar Singh
- (7) Shri Samarendra Kundu
- (8) Shri Vikram Chand Mahajan

- (9) Shrimati Sharda Mukherjee
- (10) Chaudhary Nitiraj Singh
- (11) Shri D. N. Patodia
- (12) Shri K. Narayana Rao
- (13) Shrimati Sushila Rohatgi
- (14) Shri Mohammad Yunus Saleem
- (15) Shrimati Savitri Shyam
- (16) Shri Biswanarayana Shastri
- (17) Shri Prakash Vir Shastri
- (18) Shri Sheo Narain
- (19) Shri Vidya Charan Shukla
- (20) Shri G. Viswanathan; and
- (21) Shri Shri Chand Goyal

with instructions to report by the first day of the next session." (9)

SHRI OM PRAKASH TYAGI (Moradabad) : I beg to move :

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 28th February, 1970." (28)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The time allotted is one hour. I would therefore request members to be as brief as possible.

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री : इस बिल पर जिन्होंने अमेन्डमेन्ट्स दिए हैं, पहले उनको अवसर देना चाहिये।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The motion as well as the amendments for circulation to elicit public opinion and also for reference to a select committee are before the House now. The allotment of time was discussed in the Business Advisory Committee and their recommendation was also approved by the House.

SHRI BALRAJ MADHOK : (South Delhi) : May I clarify the position ? We had originally allotted 3 hours for it. Since only the Jan Sangh had something to say by way of opposition and the others were supporting the Bill, we reduced the time to 1 hour so that the Jana Sangh only would be given time to explain their stand.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : No, no.

SHRI BALRAJ MADHOK : It was on that understanding that it was reduced from 3 hours to one hour. Mr. Deputy-Speaker was there. He knows it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It is before the House. Let us all make efforts to be as brief as possible.

SHRI TENNETI VISWANATHAM : (Visakhapatnam) : I also want to oppose them if it is to get time to speak.

श्री रवि राय (पुरी) : हम चाहते हैं कि इसको जल्दी से जल्दी पास किया जाये ।

SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL : I have moved two motions, one for circulation for eliciting public opinion and the other for reference to a select committee.

I very much welcome the title of the Bill, not the contents, because Meghalaya will be a place full of clouds hovering over the area. Therefore this is a very appropriate name. But I must point out that this is the first time that we are departing from the scheme of the Constitution which visualises only a Parliament and States. A State within a State is a novel idea not contemplated by our founding fathers.

My second objection is that of the 6 hill districts which comprise the tribal area, we are including only 3, that is, the Khasi and Jantia and Garo, and we are giving option only to two districts, North Cachar and Mikir Hills to join. We have not been able to persuade them to join before working upon this idea.

SHRI BISWANARAYAN SHASTRI (Lakhimpur) : North Cachar and Mikir hills comprise only one district.

SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL : Strangely enough, we are not giving this option to the Mizo district. That means that the fate of the Mizo district is sealed. I am apprehending that after sometime there will be an equally strong demand from the Mizo people to have another autonomous State of their area. Otherwise, the option could have been extended to them. But this has put the seal on that and they will not be able to join Meghalaya.

Then there are certain very strange provisions. For instance, cl. 28 says that the seat of a member can be vacated if he is absent for two months from attending

the session of the Legislature. He may be ill, he may be abroad. We have not even provided for leave of absence. We are making a blank provision that if he is absent for 60 days, his seat can be vacated. I think this is a rather hard provision which does not find a place elsewhere. It is not there in the Representation of the People Act nor is this provision there in the case of other legislative bodies. But strangely enough this provision is being made here. Shillong is being made the headquarters of the State of Assam as well as the State of Meghalaya. I warn this will prove another Chandigarh because disputes are bound to arise just as disputes have arisen regarding the future status of Chandigarh. Because this is going to serve as headquarters of two States, there will be disputes. It would have been better if we were wiser and had made it the headquarters of one State. The executive functions of the two states assemblies of Assam and Meghalaya are likely to come into conflict and there will be trouble and it will be difficult to solve them. That is why I submit that if this Bill was circulated for eliciting public opinion thereon or was referred to a joint committee, all these difficulties might have been considered there and a solution could have been found so that the problems do not recur again and again and Shillong does not become a trouble spot as it has been in another case. These are my reasons for moving my amendments.

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री : (हापुड़) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, कोई भी नया राज्य बनाने के सम्बन्ध में तीन आधार होते हैं। एक तो यह कि जो नया राज्य बनने जा रहा है वह आर्थिक दृष्टि में अपने पैरों पर खड़ा हो सकेगा, दूसरा आधार यह होता है कि उस राज्य की भाषा जिस राज्य का वह अब तक अंग था उस की भाषा से भिन्न हो और तीसरा आधार यह होता है कि सुरक्षात्मक दृष्टि से सरकार उचित समझती है कि इस प्रकार के राज्य का निर्माण किया जाये। लेकिन दुर्भाग्य से यदि इन तीनों ही युक्तियों को हम ले लें तो इस के निर्माण में कोई भी युक्ति सहायक प्रतीत नहीं होती। यदि आर्थिक दृष्टि से

देखा जाये तो यह राज्य अपने पैरों पर खड़ा नहीं हो सकेगा, भाषा की समस्या इस राज्य के साथ कोई नहीं है और सुरक्षात्मक दृष्टि से भी इस प्रकार के राज्य के निर्माण करने की कोई आवश्यकता नहीं है। मेरी अपनी जानकारी यह भी है कि इस समय जो सरकार है वह स्वयं भी इस प्रकार की चीज से सहमत नहीं है, पर केन्द्रीय सरकार के निर्णय को देखकर असम सरकार और केन्द्रीय सरकार दोनों ने मिल कर बीच का मार्ग निकाला है और यह एक प्रकार का समझौता किया है। इस से प्रतीत होता है कि यह विधेयक सिर्फ तुप्तीकरण की दृष्टि से तो आवश्यक है लेकिन इस विधेयक के पीछे कोई युक्ति-संगत तर्क ऐसा नहीं है जो इस प्रकार के राज्य के निर्माण में सहायक हो सके।

दूसरा आधार यह है कि जिस राज्य का निर्माण होने जा रहा है उस के कुछ समर्थक व्यक्ति जब यहां पर आये थे तो इस प्रकार का राज्य बनाने के कुछ विरोधी लोग भी उस इलाके के आये थे। लेकिन हमारा अपना दुर्भाग्य यह था कि जो विरोधी लोग आये थे उन की बातों को हम नहीं सुन सके। शायद वे इतने वीकल नहीं थे जिस से उनकी आवाज समाचार-पत्रों तक पहुंच सकती और सुनी जा सकती।

इस दृष्टि से मैं चाहता हूँ कि यह विधेयक एक इस प्रकार की प्रवर समिति को भेजा जाय जो वहां जाकर स्वयं अपनी आंखों से देखकर सारी स्थिति का अध्ययन करे और उसके बाद किसी निर्णय पर पहुंचे।

दूसरी बात मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि संविधान में संशोधन के लिये जब गृहमंत्री महोदय विधेयक लाये थे और उस पर चर्चा चली थी तब भी हम लोगों ने कहा था कि चूंकि हमारे पास दोनों प्रकार के व्यक्ति आ रहे हैं, वह भी आ रहे हैं जो इस के पक्ष में हैं और वह भी आ रहे हैं जो इसके विरोधी हैं, इस लिए अच्छा यह होगा कि संसद् के निर्णय लेने के पहले उस की एक समिति उस स्थान पर जाये और अपनी आंखों से देखकर

स्थिति का अध्ययन करे और तब संसद् किसी निर्णय पर पहुंचे। मुझे मंत्री महोदय को याद दिलाते हुए खुशी हांती है कि उन्होंने स्वयं ही समिति में यह बात कही थी, और शायद रेकार्ड पर भी यह होगा कि अभी संविधान के संशोधन वाली बात को पास हो जाने दो, जब हम विधेयक बनाने लगेंगे तब इस प्रकार का अवसर जरूर दिया जायेगा कि संसद् के सदस्य वहां जा कर सारी स्थिति का अध्ययन करें और तब किसी निर्णय पर पहुंचें। मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि वह समय आ गया है जब गृह मंत्री महोदय अपने इस आश्वासन की पूर्ति के लिये संसद् के सदस्यों की एक प्रवर समिति बनायें जो वहां पर जाये और स्थिति को देखे।

जो तीसरी सब से महत्वपूर्ण बात कह कर मैं बेटना चाहता हूँ वह यह कि जब इस प्रकार के छोटे-छोटे राज्य हम सीमावर्ती क्षेत्रों में बनाने जा रहे हैं तब हम थोड़ी गम्भीरता के साथ इस बात पर भी विचार करें कि सीमा की सुरक्षात्मक दृष्टि से इस प्रकार के राज्य हमारे देश के लिये मजबूत सिद्ध हो सकेंगे या हमारी दुर्बलता का कारण सिद्ध होंगे। यह इस प्रकार के सीमावर्ती क्षेत्र के राज्य का निर्माण हम करने जा रहे हैं जिस से एक ओर पाकिस्तान की सीमा टकराती है, दूसरी ओर बर्मा की सीमा जाकर टकराती है। कहीं हमारे इस निर्णय से देश की सुरक्षा के ऊपर विपरीत प्रभाव न पड़े, इस दृष्टि से भी हम को सोचना चाहिये।

17 hrs.

यह सारी बातें विचार की दृष्टि से इतनी आवश्यक हैं कि अगर शीघ्रता से तत्काल हम डेढ़ घंटे के अन्दर निर्णय ले लें और शीघ्रता में यह विधेयक पास कर दें तो सम्भव है कि आगे चल कर इतिहास में कुछ ऐसी भूलें हो जाएं जिस से यह शीघ्रता हम को नुकसान पहुंचाये। इसलिये मैं चाहता हूँ कि यह विधेयक प्रवर समिति को भेजा जाये, जो गम्भीरता के साथ सारे पक्ष और विपक्ष

[श्री प्रकाशवोर शास्त्री]

दोनों पर विचार करके किसी निर्णय पर पहुँचे।

SHRI LILADHAR KOTOKI (Nowgong): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Assam Reorganisation (Meghalaya) Bill. As the hon. Minister has stated—

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA (Delhi sadar): SIR, I want to raise a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: What is the point of order?

श्री कंवरलाल गुप्त : मैं आप की आज्ञा से आप का ध्यान रूल 70 की ओर दिलाता हूँ। यह कहता है कि :

“The Bill involving proposals for the delegation of legislative power shall further be accompanied by a memorandum explaining such proposals and drawing attention to their scope and stating also whether they are of normal or exceptional character.

इसमें इस बात को कहा गया है कि जो मेमोरेन्डम है वह इस विल में दिया गया है लेकिन उसको यह भी बतलाना चाहिए कि प्रापोजल नार्मल है या ऐबनार्मल है। इस रूल में यह बात कही गयी है कि हम जो डैलीगेशन कर रहे हैं वह गवर्नर को कर रहे हैं या सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट को कर रहे हैं या प्रेजिडेंट को कर रहे हैं। वह ऐबनार्मल केरक्टर का नहीं होना चाहिए और जिस चीज के बारे में जो कानून सदन को बनाना चाहिए वह हम किसी आथिरिटी को डैलीगेट न करें। यह इस रूल का मतलब है। लेकिन अगर आप इस मेमोरेन्डम को पढ़ें तो मैं आपका ध्यान विल के पेज 52 की तरफ दिला रहा हूँ।

“In the Fourth Schedule to the Bill (which seeks to amend the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution, it is proposed to amend paragraph 2 of the Sixth Schedule so as to provide that the rules relating to the delimitation of constituencies, elections, etc., to the District Councils which are at present made by

the Councils themselves should be made with the approval of the Governor.”

एक तो इस चीज में पावर देना चाहते हैं।

“It is further proposed to amend paragraph 4 of the Sixth Schedule to enable village level courts to function more or less like Nyaya Panchayats in the rest of the country.”

“It is intended that appeals from the village courts should lie to regular courts.”

यानी जिस तरह से इस के अन्दर विलेज लेवल कोर्ट्स हैं वह हिन्दुस्तान की दूसरी न्याय पंचायतों की तरह से काम चलाए। इस के लिये भी आप पावर डैलीगेट करना चाहते हैं।

“It is intended that appeals from the village courts should lie to regular courts.”

और उन की जो अपीलें हैं वह जिस तरह से रेगुलर कोर्ट्स की अपीलें हाई कोर्ट और मुफ्राम कोर्ट को जाती हैं उसी तरह से जानी चाहिए। यह बातें डेलीगेट करना चाहते हैं।

“It is also proposed to amend paragraph 7 of the Sixth Schedule so as to take power for the Governor to make rules for the management of the District Fund or the Regional Fund, procedure for payment of money into it, etc.”

यह बहुत बड़ी चीज है। इस में गवर्नर को यह पावर दे रहे हैं कि किस तरह से डिस्ट्रिक्ट फंड्स या रीजनल फंड्स का इन्तजाम होना चाहिए और पैसा कैसे दिया जाये। आगे भी आप पढ़िये :

“It is also proposed to amend paragraph 6 of the Sixth Schedule to empower the District Council to make regulations, with the previous approval of the Governor.”

यानी वह अपने वारे में जो नियम बनायें तो गवर्नर को मर्जी से डिस्ट्रिक्ट काउंसिल को

पावर दी गई है। उसी तरीके से इस के पहले पेज पर देखिए :

"Clause 66(2) empowers the appropriate Government to adapt existing laws in order to facilitate their application in relation to the autonomous State of Meghalaya. This power will be available for a period of two years from the appointed day."

यानी दो साल के लिये वही रूल लागू हों। यह पावर आप दे रहे हैं ऐंप्रोप्रिएट गवर्नमेंट को।

"Clause 17 empowers the President to direct, after consultation with Election Commission, the modifications subject to which the Representation of the People Act, 1951, would apply to elections to the Legislative Assembly of Meghalaya. Clause 53(3) empowers the Central Government to direct that the laws with respect to taxes on the consumption or sale of electricity and sale of purchase of goods shall have effect subject to specified exceptions and modifications for the purpose of enabling the Government of Meghalaya to collect those taxes."

ये सब पावरज नार्मल पावरज नहीं हैं। ये पावरज रूलज के जरिए डैलीगेट नहीं की जानी चाहिये। ये एबनार्मल पावरज हैं। इनको अगर मेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट को देना है या गवर्नर को देना है या स्टेट या सब-स्टेट गवर्नमेंट को देना है तो उसके लिए रूलज में प्रोवाइड किया जाना चाहिये था और वह हम बिल का पार्ट होना चाहिये था।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I think you have made your point. You need not go so much into the details of the Bill.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA : It is a matter of details.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : If one of your submissions is sustained, your point of order will be sustained. You need not go into details. You have taken 8 minutes.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA : I have taken only 3 minutes. I shall conclude in a minute. रिज्जनाल फंड के बारे में या डिस्ट्रिक्ट फंड के बारे में ये पावरज डैलीगेट कर रहे हैं। अगर इस तरह की पावरज देनी है तो इसमें इसका प्राविजन होना चाहिए था। रूलज बना कर पावर आप नहीं दे सकते हैं। मैं यहीं जानना चाहता हूँ कि रिज्जनाल फंड के बारे में इन्होंने एंप्रोप्रिएट गवर्नमेंट को जो पावर दी है, क्या वह बगैर बिल का पार्ट बने, रूलज के अन्दर दी जा सकती है ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN) : The main point is whether the powers which have been delegated are abnormal or not. I do not see how the examples he gave are abnormal. What is the definition of abnormality? If something which has to be put in the form of an Act itself is allowed to be dealt with by rules, perhaps it may be called abnormal. Possibly the hon. member does not agree with certain delegations and so he calls them abnormal. If that is the definition of abnormality, I do not think it is ever possible to delegate any powers. I do not think there is much in the point of order.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I do not think there is anything exceptional or abnormal about it. Mr. Kotoki.

SHRI LILADHAR KOTOKI : Sir, the Home Minister has already said that while the Constitution Amendment Bill was discussed in this House and the other House, the main features of the scheme under which this Bill has been brought were discussed. A Joint Committee of both the Houses went into it also. Therefore, so far as the principles of creating an autonomous State within Assam to be known as Meghalaya are concerned, they need not be repeated once again. Regarding delegation of subjects to the proposed State, the entire scheme has been brought about by mutual discussion between contending parties, viz., the leaders of the hills who wanted a separate State and the rest of the people and the Government who resisted in the beginning but both sides ultimately agreed to the present formula.

[Shri Liladhar Kotkil

This is an agreement between the contending parties. So, I would submit that as though this Bill is a lengthy one the House need not take much time in disposing of the Bill.

Shri Shri Chand Goyal referred to Shillong being the capital of both States and drew the analogy of Chandigarh. He perhaps thinks that both the States would be quarrelling over everything, including capital. Meghalaya would be a State within Assam and many of the subjects would be decided by the main State of Assam. Only the subjects that are delegated under Part A and the concurrent subjects would be within the control of the Meghalaya State. We are the people involved in this and, so far as we are concerned, there would be no dispute whatsoever in running both the States from the same capital at Shillong.

What Shri Prakash Vir Shastri has raised in his speech may apply to the main principles of the scheme. Parliament has already taken a decision on this matter and the scheme has been approved by Parliament. Therefore, I would not go into those points.

I would only appeal to the House to give us their goodwill and co-operation so that this new experiment in the country of having an autonomous State within a State may achieve the objects for which this scheme has been adopted. I would also appeal to the people of Assam and Meghalaya to exercise the same amount of understanding so that this experiment may prove successful. Even after we approve this longish Bill I presume there would be different occasions when the various details have to be settled between the two States and I hope they would be settled in an amicable way.

In passing I would welcome another measure that government have proposed, namely, the setting up of the North Eastern Council where the States of Assam and Meghalaya and the adjoining States will discuss their security and development problems. So far the State of Nagaland has not given its consent to join the Council. I hope by the time this Bill is considered by both Houses that State will also give its consent so that there could be integrated development of the entire north eastern

region and that backward region may develop at an accelerated pace so that the development and security of that region, and for that matter of the entire country, would be secure. With these words, I welcome this Bill.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We have got some amendments to this Bill. I will divide them into two categories—one for circulation for public opinion and the other for reference to Select Committee. Naturally, the amendments to the clauses would be taken up at the next stage.

श्री श्रीम प्रकाश श्यामी (मुरादाबाद) :
उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, अभी गृह मंत्री महोदय ने जो बात कही है, मैं उसके बारे में साफ कर देना चाहता हूँ कि जनसंघ मेघालय या आसाम के ट्राइबल एरियाज़ के हित का विरोधी नहीं है, परन्तु जिस ढंग से मंत्री महोदय इस बिल को लाये है, हम उस के विरोधी हैं।

आसाम की पहाड़ी जातियाँ पिछड़ी हुई रही हैं, आसाम सरकार ने उन की अपेक्षा की, उनका कल्याण होना चाहिए और अगर अलग स्टेट के द्वारा उनका कल्याण होता है, तो वह बनानी चाहिए, इस बारे में हमारा कोई मतभेद या विरोध नहीं है। लेकिन मेरा कहना यह है कि सरकार इस ढंग का बिल लाये, जिस से समूचे पहाड़ी क्षेत्र का कल्याण हो और कल कोई नई आवाज़ न उठे। इस के लिये यह आवश्यक है कि समूचे पहाड़ी क्षेत्र के लोगों के साथ विचार-विनिमय किया जाता। अब तक यह होता रहा है कि नागालैंड में आन्दोलन हुआ, तो उनका एक अलग स्टेट बना दिया गया, फिर मिज़ो लोगों के आन्दोलन करने पर अलग मिज़ोरम बना दिया गया और इसी तरह अब मेघालय बनाया जा रहा है। गवर्नमेंट की यह पालिसी ठीक नहीं है। सरकार उस समस्त एरिया के हित और देश की सुरक्षा का ध्यान रखने हुए एक ऐसा काम्प्रोहेसिव बिल लाये, जिस से सब का भला हो सके। मैं चेतावनी देना चाहता हूँ कि मंत्री महोदय यह जो बिल लाये है, उस से वह समूचे भारतवर्ष में एक नई आप लगाने जा रहे हैं।

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : A matter of opinion.

श्री श्रीम प्रकाश त्यागी : अगर मेघालय बनाना है, तो उस को एक अलग पूरी स्टेट बना दिया जाये। यह "स्टेट विदिन स्टेट" की बात शलत है। जब सरकार चार लाख लोगों की स्टेट बना रही है, तो फिर कल छोटा नागपुर के चालीस लाख लोगों की तरफ से, और तेलंगाना की तरफ से अलग स्टेट बनाने की आवाज क्यों न उठेगी? उन सब को स्टेट बनाया जाना चाहिए। या तो सरकार इत बारे में पालिसी निश्चित कर दे, वरना यह उनका अधिकार है।

सरकार मेघालय बनाये, इस पर हमें ऐतराज नहीं है, लेकिन सरकार उन हिल एरियाज पर यह जो मेघालय जबर्दस्ती थोप रही है, उस से वहां के लोग भी संतुष्ट नहीं हैं। वहां दो पोलिटिकल पार्टीज हैं : हिल पीपल्ज पार्टी और डेमोक्रेटिक हिल पीपल्ज पार्टी। हिल पीपल्ज पार्टी ने तो इसको परीक्षण के तौर पर—पूरे तौर पर नहीं—स्वीकार किया है। लेकिन डेमोक्रेटिक हिल पीपल्ज पार्टी ने कहा है कि हम इस को स्वीकार ही नहीं करते, और उन्होंने इस को स्वीकार नहीं किया है। सरकार ने मेघालय में गारो हिल्ज को भी शामिल किया है। वहां के लोगों ने भी इस को पूरे तरीके से स्वीकार नहीं किया है। यह उन पर लादा जा रहा है। (इयबघान) उन्होंने इस को रिजेक्ट किया है। वहां के लोग भी इस सेट-अप से संतुष्ट नहीं हैं।

मंत्री महोदय जनसंघ को शलत साबित करना चाहते हैं। लेकिन इस बिल के क्लोज 7 में कहा गया है :

"The Chief Minister shall be appointed by the Governor and the other Ministers shall be appointed by the Governor on the advice of the Chief Minister".

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : Is, he allowed to go into the merits at this stage?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : At this stage please do not go into the details. At the moment only whether it should go for circulation or to the Select Committee is before us.

श्री श्रीम प्रकाश त्यागी : अच्छा। सरकार आसाम की पहाड़ी जातियों के विकास के लिए, उन के जीवन को ऊंचा उठाने के लिये, यह बिल लाई है, इस के लिए हम उस को धन्यवाद देते हैं। लेकिन इस लंगड़े बिल से आसाम के ट्राइब्स का भला नहीं होगा।

स्टेट विदिन स्टेट बनाना ठीक नहीं है। सरकार उस को यूनियन टैरीटरी बनाये, स्टेट बनाये, हमें ऐतराज नहीं होगा।

इस लिए मैं चाहता हूँ कि इस बिल के बारे में तमाम हिल ट्राइब्स के लीडर्ज की ओपीनियन और पब्लिक ओपीनियन जानने के लिए सरकार एक जायंट कमेटी बनाये और उन सब की राय सेलेक्ट कमेटी बनाये और उन सब की राय लेकर एक काम्प्रिहेंसिव बिल लाये।

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : I am rather surprised to hear the same arguments which I had replied to when we considered the Constitution (Amendment) Bill.

SHRI R. D. BHANDARE : Same words.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : Possibly, the same words also.

Shri Prakash Vir Shastri made one point. It is true that at one stage I had told him that if necessary some group of MPs could go and see the situation there. They can, even after passing the Bill, go there. (Interruption).

I am sure that after Meghalaya comes into existence, if the Members of Parliament go there the Government of Meghalaya will give them a grand reception.

श्री श्रीम प्रकाश त्यागी : लेकिन आप को वे जरूर काले झंडे दिखायेंगे।

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : Apart from that, some of the arguments made by other Members were about the question of security, etc. If I can make any claim, this Bill, is

[Shri Y. B. Chavan]

the real solution to the problem of security. By trying to suppress the political aspirations of the people, you do not strengthen the forces of security. On the contrary, you weaken the forces of security.

श्री रवि राय : मणिपुर में भी आन्दोलन चल रहा है। उस को भी स्टेटहुड दे दी जाये। बाद में तो देंगे ही, अभी दे दी जाये।

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : Therefore, this argument does not stand. I do not understand the argument of Shri Goyal. He made certain points.....

SHRI RANDHIR SINGH : Chandigarh.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : I can very well imagine that Chandigarh is on his mind. That is understandable. One point that he made was about the absence of Members, etc. He considers that provision to be rather unusual. If he kindly sees article 194, of the constitution, he will see that this is the same provision for the same objective. As I said, most of the articles applicable to the States have been practically incorporated as they are, in the Bill.

Sir, I do not see any reason why we should go back again and send the Bill for circulation to elicit public opinion thereon or to go again to the Select Committee because the Joint Select Committee has thoroughly gone into all the aspects of the problem. When the Parliament has accepted the principle of the Bill, what is the point in going for eliciting public opinion or going to the Select Committee again. It is merely trying to resort to dilatory tactics.

With these words, I oppose these amendments.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shall I put all the amendments together for circulation and reference to Select Committee? I put them together.

Amendments Nos. 1, 2, 7, 9 and 28 were put and negatived.

SHRI BALRAJ MADHOK (South D. Ihi) : I want to speak on the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Will you speak now or on the third reading of the Bill?

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK : I want to speak at this stage.

SHRI E. K. NAYANAR (Palghat) : This is a general discussion. We would like to know the procedure that you are following.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We are at the consideration stage of the Bill. Shri Bal Raj Madhok.

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am sorry to say that the hon. Home Minister has said that the suggestion to refer the Bill to a select Committee or to elicit public opinion thereon is a resort to dilatory tactics. I beg to say that there is no such idea in our mind.

When the Joint Select Committee was discussing the Constitution Amendment Bill, even then, we had suggested that this was a very important matter and that it should be gone into deeper and the hon. Home Minister had suggested that we may do it when the Bill comes before the House. Now the Bill has come. Because they are in a hurry to pass it, what he thought to be correct at that time becomes a dilatory tactic now. This is neither fair to him nor to us.

Now, this Bill is going to be passed. I have no idea of standing in the way. But I would like to place my misgivings before this House. I am not an astrologer. But I do have my own assessment of the situation. I would like to place in before the House and, through this House, before the country so that in future we may have some guidance from it I would like to give some suggestions also.

This Assam area has a number of units. We have the Assam State with a population of nearly a crore including about 13 lakh people of the hill areas. We have Tripura with a population of about 13 lakhs; we have Manipur with a population of about 8 lakhs; we have Nagaland with a population of 4 lakhs and we have Mizo land area with a population of about 3½ lakhs.

Now in this area these units have different status. Manipur is a Union Territory. Tripura is a Union Territory. Nagaland is a full-fledged State, more than the other States in some matters. Assam is a State. And now this is going to be a sub-State within Assam.

My first misgiving is that this is not going to solve the problem because this is a compromise solution, compromise solution not in the sense that this is going to be accepted by both sides, but it is something like this : when you do not want to tackle the issue, when you do not want to come to brass-tacks, when you want to avoid the realities, then you make some such compromise. As my hon. friend Mr. Tyagi, just now said : quite a good number of hill people do not like it; they want a full-fledged State. My first submission would be; if at all we have to satisfy—I do not want to stand in the way the aspirations of the hill people, then make it a full-fledged State. The sub-State idea is a wrong idea. It is not going to solve any problem and within six months or a year—I wish I am proved wrong—a demand will come that it should be fully separated, there should be a separate State. I think, Mr. Chavan can have that kind of foresight at least. Something like that is bound to happen. When you are passing a Bill, why not do it in such a way that you tackle the problem to some extent for some years at least. You are only tackling the problem for six months or a year—not more than that.

Then, to have in one area different States with different status is wrong. In this area all the States should have one status. Today you have in that area two Union Territories, one Nagaland and now this is a sub-State. This, I submit, is a wrong solution. The best thing would be to make all of them Union Territories with some more powers, but being a border area about which the Centre has more responsibilities in respect of funds and in respect of security the Centre must have more say in those matters. Therefore, I would submit that the best course would be to make this area a Union Territory. Tomorrow you may have to make the Mizo area a Union Territory. Tripura is a Union Territory. Manipur is a Union

Territory. Nagaland too will have to be treated as a Union Territory, and then all these can be grouped together in one Eastern Council. That would have been some solution. The way you are doing it now is only tinkering with it; it is not a solution. Therefore, my misgiving, my fear, is that it may create more problems that it solves.

Even though this Bill is passed now and a sub-State comes into being, I would repeat the suggestion that was often been made in this House; please appoint a Commission to reorganise the whole of the north-eastern region and the north-western region. I am not one who is afraid of smaller States. I personally feel that smaller States may perhaps be in the interest of the country and may even perhaps strengthen the Centre. Today what we find is that we are developing the personality of the States, and the personality of the country as a whole is disappearing; we want to maintain the personality of the State, whether it is Maharashtra or Andhra Pradesh or Gujarat or any other State; today we are laying greater stress on the personality of States and are ignoring the personality of the country as a whole. It is not a very good thing; it is a dangerous thing. If there are smaller States—in the hill areas, the population is small and the States will have to be small—that must be done on a scientific basis. My submission is that, even after having passed this Bill, a Commission may be appointed which may go into the question of reorganisation of the entire eastern region and bring all the Union Territories and the States on the eastern region within its purview. You have the problem of Cachar and Mihar hills. You have the problem of Mizo area which you have to tackle sooner or later. Therefore, such a Commission must be appointed and this Commission must have a very wide terms of reference. You are thinking of North Eastern Council; you also have in mind that something has to be done on that line. Therefore, even before you do that, appoint a Commission. Let it go into the whole problem and whatever suggestions it gives, implement those suggestions, and then if this thing comes out of the Commission, I will accept; I will then have the satisfaction that people have gone into the whole question deeply, have thought over it and have discussed

[Shri Bal Raj Madhok]

and considered all the aspects. But at the moment I feel that this is being done in a hurry as if it is a family affair between the Congress Government in Assam and the hill leaders there.

But you cannot tackle the problem as a family affair, because the family itself is breaking. Therefore, you cannot tackle the problem of Telengana as a family affair. You cannot tackle the problem of Vidarbha as a family affair. They will have to be tackled on certain scientific basis by keeping the views of the people and the wider considerations of the development of the country in mind. Therefore, I hope that this suggestion should be given due thought.

I would also like to say that we will have sooner or later to appoint a similar Commission for the North Western Area—Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir as well. Their problems have also to be considered. A Commission like this will have to be appointed for the North Western area so that that area can be re-organized. The question is not one of stifling the aspirations of the hill people. The question is one of reconciling the aspirations of the different areas with the overall unity of the country. I stand for integration of the country and I stand for the unity of the country. Whatever Chavansahib might think, I still claim and the world knows that I am a better nationalist than Mr. Chavan himself. He, in the company of communalists, has become communalist. Therefore, I would say, for God's sake you are the Home Minister to-day and you may not be Home Minister tomorrow. Don't do a thing which may....

AN HON. MEMBER : You will become the Home Minister.

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK : I can become the Home Minister and Prime Minister too. What is wrong about it?

Therefore, don't do a thing which might bring some dividends to you as a political party—that political party is also gone—or to you as a person, but might do harm to the country. My fear is that this Bill will do harm to the country and will not do that good which the people of the hills deserve. Therefore, my submission is : pass this Bill, but see that, the misgivings

that I have—I had also expressed similar misgivings about Nagaland and I am not happy that they became true—may not come true. Therefore, the two suggestions I have made about re-consideration of the whole issue after appointing a Commission and after going into all the aspects of the problems. You must accept and implement and give an assurance to that effect to this House so that while we pass this Bill, we may have a feeling that this is not the last word and that a more lasting solution will have to be found in the interests of the nation.

SHRI DHIRESWAR KALITA (Gauhati) : On behalf of the Communist Party of India I welcome this Bill. This Bill was long overdue. I do not want to speak much on this Bill because the time is very short.

This Bill, I want to say, will satisfy the Hill people as also the plains people of Assam. According to my knowledge, up till now, no political Party which exists in Assam, even, Mr. Bal Raj Madhok's Jana Sangh, has objected to this Bill. So, it seems that we are having full support to this Bill.

It has done two things. One is that the separatist tendencies of the hill people which are there so long and which is a headache for the Government of India also for the Government of Assam as also for the people of Assam have cooled down. At the same time they the hill people as also the plains people will have to live in harmony. This is a very good thing. In that respect I welcome this Bill. At this stage I do not want to say much. But this is a novel and new experiment in our Constitution.

It is a very new thing. Through you, I appeal to both the Governments that this should create a feeling on both sides which will not generate feelings of bitterness between the plains and hill people. I hope that the provisions which have been made in this Bill will be adhered to and worked with sympathetic understanding by both sides. That is what is necessary and that is what I also want to stress through you.

I would say to the people and the coming Government that the thing must not be

seen of a desire to snatch something from the Government of Assam. The tendency to create feelings which would embitter relations should be avoided. If the spirit of accommodation is accepted, if this outlook is accepted, I hope that through this Bill Assam and the people of the new State will live in such a way as to set an example to the rest of the people of India, especially in those parts where similar problems might exist. If necessary, the same experiment may be tried in Bihar in connection with Jharkhand; there are also some hill areas in U.P.; there is also the problem of Telengana. This will be an example to the people to show how democratic aspirations of people in some corners can also be met in a way which will satisfy all the parties.

With these words, I welcome the Bill and hope that the whole House will support it.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI (Bhubneshwar) : I welcome this Bill with all my heart. I have been a little associated with this question when the agitation was going on and you and your colleagues were negotiating with the Government here. I must congratulate the leaders on the way they carried on the negotiations and the constructive approach that was brought to bear on the problem which has resulted in this democratic solution. All sections of the House are in unanimous agreement on the solution that has emerged in regard to this important matter.

Many issues have so far been settled in our country. But every issue when settled left a trail of bitterness. But this has left a vast fund of goodwill. Perhaps this is an occasion when every section of the House, you and your colleagues in Maghalaya and they on the government side should guard against any such contingency arising in future.

We find a new awareness on the part of the Government and its leaders and on the part of you and your colleagues and the people of the autonomous region. They will have to come closer together, understand each other in a spirit of goodwill and make the solution of this problem successful.

As the hon. Minister has said, perhaps this may be a model for the solution of

many other problems in our country. I hope you and your colleagues and the other parties have shown the way in this respect. Others with similar problems will follow your lead.

It also goes without saying that you and your colleagues and the great people of Meghalaya will stand as brave sentinels on our frontiers and be great defenders of the integrity of our great Mother India.

With these few words, I congratulate all on this achievement and support the Bill wholeheartedly.

SHRI HIMATSINGKA (Godda) : I support the principle of the Bill. As a matter of fact, the Bill before the House is the result of a consensus of the parties concerned in Assam and in the Hill areas thereof. I am glad this agreement has been arrived at. If it had not been, feelings would have been embittered and the position would have been worse.

If Government come to quick decisions on any problem that crop up, a lot of trouble that starts due to delay and goes on accentuating would have been saved. Take the case of border disputes, Commissions have reported. But no decisions are taken. There is the problem of Chandigarh and other matters. Certain recommendations have been made by Commissions. If these had been acted upon, it would be easier for the people to accept these decisions which are arrived at after proper inquiry by high powered Commissions.

But we go on delaying in the hope of satisfying this party or that party. In the meanwhile feelings are embittered and new questions crop up. Feelings would have been embittered here also if there was further delay. The provisions of the bill are more or less copied from the Constitution making certain alterations here and there to suit the special needs because it is a State within a State. Those provisions that exist in the Constitution have been taken bodily as and where they were necessary. I feel this is a right step taken to allay the fears of the people in that area. I feel that if the administrative setup of any State or area took care of the backward areas and did not neglect those areas, this kind of

[Sri Himtsingka]

suspicion or feeling of separation would not arise and there will be no demand for a separate State. Unfortunately what happens is that those who are in charge of administration do not give equal importance to areas which are backward. They should so act that the question of a separate existence or a State would not arise, unfortunately, some areas are neglected and that is how these questions crop up. I support this Bill.

SHRI LOBO PRABHU (Udipi) : We are concerned; the parliament and the country are concerned with this Bill because this area is on the borders of three countries—Pakistan, Burma and China. It is a vital area and Mr. Panigrahi described it as the sentinel of India. The Home Minister has also added that it is a security problem. I therefore venture to congratulate him that he has brought this Bill with the consensus of all concerned. We are not concerned so much as the people of Assam and it is good that not one voice has been raised against the Bill since the Constitution was amended. If it was a compromise, it was also the consensus of the people concerned.

I have got to refer to one or two small points, not in a spirit of criticism but it is possible that they could have been overlooked. The hill areas were neglected in the past. The plains people had more say in the Government; perhaps they were more educated also. Under clause 56 the grants to be made under article 275 have been left vague to the discretion of the President. It would have been better if something was done to rectify a deficiency which might have existed in respect of the development of the hill areas.

The Home Minister has already referred to clause 33 as a very vital clause. In respect of Part C of the Second Schedule there may be some confusion as both States have been given the concurrent powers without showing who should initiate. I do not know if at this stage anything could be done. I do not have the misgivings of Mr. Madhok. But I fear that there may be some difference of opinion; one State starts legislating without the consent of the other. Some provision bringing the Central Government into the picture would have been more useful.

Clause 65 deals with the services. It has been provided that the State Government of Assam may with the concurrence of the Central Government, make division of the officers. It is not ensured that the Meghalaya State may not be loaded with officers not of their choice.

It might have been better if after a period of time it was left to the Meghalaya State to express itself on the allocation of these officers.

Lastly, clause 74 deals with the local self-government, panchayats and so on. Here again, I have a misgiving that in abolishing the panchayats of the tribal areas, we may be going against the real wishes of the people. Those tribal people who had their panchayats may feel that the new panchayat, the Nyaya Panchayat which you are substituting, would not serve the same purpose. As a matter of fact, we are all critical of the Nyaya Panchayats in India and I do not think you should have exposed them so freely to an area where the existing panchayats were working satisfactorily.

I do feel that we and the House have reason to be proud of this Bill because it is a Bill which expresses its confidence in a small area where a minority community — I would not say the majority—is in a majority. I congratulate this House and I congratulate the Parliament in having his confidence in the people of Meghalaya.

SHRI E. K. NAYANAR (Palghat) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I welcome this Bill on behalf of my party, but it is a step forward which is not fully satisfactory. In 1962-63, and in 1967, during the elections which took place in the tribal areas and in Assam, the APHLC demanded full statehood, a separate province. At that time, the Central Government did not accept their demand, but after a long struggle, the Government to a certain extent accepted their demand; it is a new experiment. The tribal problem of Tripura, Manipur and NEFA are all now yet to be solved. We have already accepted full statehood for Nagaland, as a Nagaland State, but considering the realities as they stand today the demand of the Assam hill people for a separate State is still there.

Now, the right of nationality in a multi-national country to have full autonomy including statehood under the Union is not conditional upon the size of the nationality. India is the homeland of diverse nationalities, some big or more developed and other smaller or weaker, and a few are newcomers in the scene of history. All must have equal rights. The creation of a hill State would not weaken Assam, a border State. On the contrary, it will strengthen the unity of the Assamese people, the unity of Assam and the strength of the country.

The weakness of national integration, as it exists today in India, emanates not from linguistic States and their autonomy, but from the truncated nature of this autonomy under our Constitution. We cannot unite the Assam zone, including the Union territories, unless we stand on the principle that all nationalities including the tribal ones, having a distinct homeland, language, etc., should have the right of full autonomy under the Indian Union.

As a first step towards that goal, this autonomous State is a new experiment inside the Assam State. I welcome this Bill and hope that we can unite the Assamese and the tribal people more than now.

SHRI V. KRISHNAMOORTHY (Cuddalore) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, on behalf of my group, we welcome this Bill; even though it is belated, it fulfils the aspirations of the hill people who were struggling very hard for so many years to have a separate State. I would like to generally agree with the proposition made by Prof. Bal Raj Madhok that this is only a half-way to meet the demands of the hill people, and soon they will start agitating for a full-fledged State. The Home Minister should ponder over this whether before creating any new sub-State, it is not better to have a long view and concede a full-fledged State. In the eastern borders, there is an awareness and a desire in the minds of the people to have full Statehood like Nagaland. The population of Manipur is 8 lakhs as against 4 lakhs of Nagaland. Yet, the Nagas have got a separate State and the Union Government is giving Rs. 27 crores from the central budget to Nagaland merely because Nagas were

demanding secession. The Manipur people naturally ask, "Why should we be punished? Why not give us a separate State so that we can have more money like Nagaland?" Similarly, the Mizos are also demanding a separate State. In this Bill, there is no provision giving the option to Mizo hills to join the sub-State of Meghalaya, as has been given to other hill districts. I do not know why this is so. The Government of India should find out the psychology of the Mizos, if they are struggling with the army and they want separate Statehood. I do hope that just as the Naga problem has been settled, the Mizos problem also would have been settled, provided the Home Minister has pondered over the matter and tried to meet their grievances. If the politicians do not look into the grievances, it bursts into a demand for a separate State or country. This Bill does not give the option to Mizos to merge with Meghalaya if they decide to do so.

This new proposition should also have been tried in some other parts of the country. There is a movement for a separate Telengana State. I request the Home Minister to throw forward this proposition to Telengana and if they agree, they can have a sub-State within Andhra Pradesh.

We in the DMK respect the sentiments and aspirations of the people, where they may be, whether in Meghalaya or in Telengana or any other place.

AN HON. MEMBER : What about Himalaya?

SHRI V. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Himalaya they have already conceded to the Chinese.

Now, Shillong has become the capital of two States. As Mr. Goyal said, the war is going to start in Shillong after six months. Assam people will say, "we do not want to give up Shillong". So far as Meghalaya is concerned, I know, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, how much you struggled for the creation of that State. Merely because you occupy the Deputy-Speaker's Chair, you are prevented from expressing any opinion. On your behalf, I plead that Shillong should form part of Meghalaya. Assam people should shift their capital from Shillong to Gauhati. That will solve the problem permanently.

[Shri V. Krishnamoorthi]

With these observations, I support the Bill and express the wish that the people of Khasi, Garo, Mikir and Jaintia hills will have a full-fledged State if not now at least in future through suitable amendments passed in this House.

SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA (Kalia-bor) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I welcome this Bill because it is the result of a lot of labour, hard work and patience and we believe that the doubts expressed about our capacity for reconciliation, capacity to make adjustment, will disappear with the passing of this Bill. I know that doubts can be expressed and all of us had our doubts whether this arrangement will last. But let us see whether it lasts. Because, the principles that are involved are nationally important principles.

I am surprised that even progressive people think that there can be only two structures—Union Territory or State. I think this experiment in democratic structure of an autonomous State within a State is certainly a very progressive step, because it prevents bureaucratisation in the name of Central security or authority. I think no question of national security should be brought in to bureaucratise this area. The north eastern area should not be allowed to be the vested interest of bureaucracy. If that happens, then bureaucracy would become the thorn of the north east and, having a vested interest, it would have an interest in distorting the affairs in the north east. So, I think we should not think in terms of Union Territories. It is but right that idea has been rejected, that ghost has been exercised. When power cannot be transferred completely, let us think in terms of a small autonomous State within a State rather than a Union Territory. I would say the same thing about NEFA and other areas also. I would say that merely because there are centrifugal forces we should not think in terms of rejecting the formation of smaller States. They should be given a chance.

We wish the new State of Meghalaya godspeed and we believe that this arrangement will certainly work. So far as we are concerned, we assure this Parliament that we will do our best to make it work.

We also firmly believe this arrangement will be a model for functioning in other areas.

आजं फरनेन्डीअ (बम्बई दक्षिण) :
उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, सब से पहले में मेघालय की जनता को और आल पार्टी हिल लीडर्स के नेताओं को बधाई देना चाहता हूँ कि एक असं की लड़ाई की कामयाबी आज वह देख रहे हैं और अपना एक राज्य कायम करने में आगे बढ़ रहे हैं। मैं आपको भी बधाई देना चाहता हूँ कि आप की मदद में आज यह विधेयक यहाँ पारित हो रहा है। मुझे मान्य है कि आप की इस विधेयक को यहाँ लाने में बहुत भारी मेहनत रही है।

इस विधेयक का समर्थन करते हुए मुझे यह प्रार्थना करनी है कि सरकार पूरे उत्तर पूर्वी सीमांचल के बारे में कोई ठोस नीति अपनाये। गृह मंत्री जी ने अपनी तक्रार में यह ज़रूर कहा कि जनता की जो आशा आकांक्षायें हैं उन को दबा कर प्रजातन्त्र को आगे नहीं बढ़ाया जा सकता। यदि इस एक वाक्य को गृह मंत्री तमाम उत्तर पूर्वी सीमांचल के बारे में याद रखें तो मैं समझता हूँ कि कई समस्याएँ इस इलाके से दूर हो जायेंगी।

18 hrs

यह उर्वसीअ का प्रश्न है। उर्वसीअ हमारे सदन के कुछ लोगों को विदेशी शब्द लगता होगा, लेकिन जिम इलाके को आप नेफा कहते हैं उस को हम उर्वसीअ अर्थात् उत्तर पूर्वी सीमा अंचल कहते हैं। कभी आप उर्वसीअ के बारे में सोचें। वहाँ की जनता को इस समय कोई प्रजातान्त्रिक अधिकार नहीं है, उन का एक संसद सदस्य यहाँ पर है, और मैं जानता हूँ कि इस समय पर वहाँ के संसद सदस्यों की संख्या बढ़ाने की मांग है, वहाँ कुछ स्थानीय स्वराज्य उन को मिले इस के बारे में भी उन की मांग है। मैं कहना चाहता

हूँ कि इस के बारे में तत्काल सोचा जाये। मणिपुर, त्रिपुरा के बारे में सभी मित्त बोले हैं। मैं भी एक इशारा देना चाहता हूँ मंत्री महोदय को कि अगर मणिपुर का मसला बहुत जल्दी हल नहीं किया जाता तो वहाँ एक गम्भीर परिस्थिति निर्मित हो जायेगी और जिस तरह आज आप ने नागा प्रदेश में दो डिवीजन को नागा लोगों से लड़ने के लिये रक्खा है, वही हालत मणिपुर में हो जायेगी। गृह मंत्री महोदय जरा ध्यान से इस बात को सुनें कि अगर मणिपुर में तत्काल कोई कदम नहीं उठाया तो जो गम्भीर परिस्थिति वहाँ निर्मित हो जायेगी उस की जिम्मेदारी सरकार के सर पर होगी। जो उस की आठ लाख की आबादी है उस में मे वहाँ के सिर्फ साढ़े आठ सौ वर्ग मील इलाके में मैतैयी लोग रहते हैं। आप जानते हैं कि उत्तरी इलाके के नागा लोग इस समय इस बात पर परेशान हैं कि जब नागा प्रदेश में नागा लोगों के राज्य को आप ने कबूल किया तो जो नागा लोग मणिपुर में हैं उन के राज्य को आप क्यों कबूल नहीं कर रहे हैं। इसी तरह से मणिपुर के दक्षिण के पहाड़ी इलाके में मीजो, कूकी और अन्य लोग रहते हैं उनको भी परेशानी है। वह कहते हैं कि अगर नागा राज्य आप कबूल करते हैं तो हम लोगों का राज्य क्यों कबूल नहीं करते। वहाँ एक ऐसी परिस्थिति बन रही है जिस में मणिपुर टूट सकता है। एक तरफ हम नागा लोगों को साथ मिला कर ऐसे पहाड़ी इलाके की बात नहीं चला सकते हैं जो साढ़े चार हजार वर्ग मील का इलाका है, दूसरी तरफ जो मीजो लोग असम के अन्दर आन्दोलन चला रहे हैं उस की सीधी मदद ले कर दक्षिण मीजो लोग आन्दोलन चला सकते हैं। इस के बाद बच जायेगा मैदानी इलाका, जो सिर्फ साढ़े आठ सौ वर्ग मील है, जिस में साढ़े चार लाख मैतैयी रहते हैं। मैं चाहूँगा कि इस टूटन की परिस्थिति बनने

से पहले और हिन्दुस्तान से वह अलग हो यह जो आन्दोलन शुरू हुआ है उस को बढ़ावा मिलने से पहले मणिपुर के बारे में भी सरकार कोई ठोस फैसला ले तथा उन के राज्य की मांग को मंजूर करे। वही हालत त्रिपुरा में भी है और असम के अन्य पहाड़ी इलाकों के बारे में भी जहाँ यह आन्दोलन जारी है।

अन्त में मुझे इतना ही कहना है कि आज मेघालय राज्य बन रहा है लेकिन उन तमाम इलाकों में जो शोषण हो रहा है उस को रोकने के बारे में भी कुछ सोचा जाये। आप जानते हैं कि असम में चाय के बागान और तेल विदेशी लोगों के हाथों में हैं। करोड़ों रुपयों का रेशम असम का विदेशों में जाता है। सरकार असम आयल कम्पनी का राष्ट्रीयकरण नहीं कर रही है। असम के चाय बागानों को विदेशी लोगों के हाथों से ले कर उन का राष्ट्रीयकरण नहीं कर रही है। कब तक यह मामला टलेगा। इन पहाड़ी इलाकों के लोगों का शोषण हो रहा है क्योंकि उन पर कब्जा ऐसे लोगों का है जिन को हमारे देश के लोगों से कोई प्रेम नहीं हो सकता, जिन के दिमाग में शोषण के अलावा कोई और बात जा नहीं सकती है।

इस इलाके का बचाव आप कैसे करेंगे क्योंकि एक तरफ चीन है दूसरी तरफ पाकिस्तान है और यह सारा सीमा प्रदेश है। आप गम्भीरता के साथ इन इलाकों के बारे में सोचें, उन राज्यों के पुनर्गठन के बारे में, वहाँ की जनता की प्रजातान्त्रिक मांगों के बारे में और सब से अधिक वहाँ होने वाले शोषण के बारे में आप सोचें। मणिपुर का यह मामला है कि जो भी अफसर वहाँ जाता है वह चोरी करता है। उन लोगों पर हम किस्म के कई आरोप लगाये जाते हैं। मैं गृह मंत्री जी से कहता हूँ कि वह इस बात की जांच करायें कि जो जो अफसर वहाँ पहुँचे हैं उन पर क्या क्या

[श्री जार्ज फरनेन्डीज]

आरोप हैं, भ्रष्टाचार के क्या आरोप हैं, पैसा खाने के क्या आरोप हैं, लोगों पर जुल्म करने के क्या आरोप हैं। जो शोषण का माध्यम मैदानी लोग वहाँ जा कर बनते हैं उस को कैसे रोका जाय इस पर मंत्री महोदय गम्भीरता से सोचें।

मैं मेघालय की जनता और वहाँ बनने वाली सरकार को बधाई देता हूँ। इस विधेयक का समर्थन करता हूँ।

SHRI KARTIK ORAON (Lohardaga) : Sir, this is in every sense a Tribal State and nobody would be happier than you to find the commendable effort of yours thinking concrete shape in the form of creation of an autonomous State within Assam. From that seat you moved for the creation of this State; now from this seat you are able to see for yourself the fulfilment of that.

You can do us some more favour. You have been able to create a separate State for 7 lakhs of tribals in the Garo Hills District and in the United Khasi-Jaintia Hills District. There is Chota Nagpur and Santhal Pragana with 42 lakhs of tribal people. You can do us a favour by creating a separate State there. You can also do me a favour by allowing me to speak more often in this House so that the people would come to know the circumstances under which the tribals and other people in that area are labouring. Economically, this area is more viable to have a separate State.

SHRI OM PRAKASH TYAGI : You will have it.

SHRI KARTIK ORAON : Of course, we will have it.

You will go down in history for having created a separate State for 7 lakhs of tribals in the Garo Hills and the United Khasi-Jaintia Hills. But only 5 per cent of the tribal Christians are looking forward to you. Let hundred per cent of the tribals look forward to you. That should be the aim.

I welcome the Bill. But I cannot help submitting one thing. In the Garo Hills and the United Khasi-Jaintia Hills, 76.86 per cent of the population are tribals. Please don't misunderstand me. Whenever I get an opportunity, I want to speak in favour of 95 per cent of the non-Christian tribals who are extremely backward and unable to look after themselves. With the very idea that the people might misunderstand me, I become paralysed. I would like to submit to you and also to the Government that this area has even now got 55.8 per cent of tribal population which is still following the traditional tribal faiths. They are extremely backward, illiterate and incapable of looking after themselves. My submission is that if proportionate representation is not given in the Assembly, I think, there will be no representation for this section of the people. I am sorry to say this. This must be borne in mind by the Government and by all concerned.

The State of Nagaland came into existence in 1963. There are 44.33 per cent of the tribals, still following tribal faiths. These people are extremely backward and illiterate. About the post-matriculation scholarships, 56 per cent of tribal Christians get about 97 per cent of the post-matriculation scholarships and 44 per cent non-Christian tribals get only 3 per cent of the post-matriculation scholarships. I am not biased and hold nothing against tribal Christians. But let the country know the position of these tribals who are outside the pale of Christianity. These tribals are still roaming about naked in jungles. We have not been able to look after them.

The feelings of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru have been epitomised in these words :

"Let the tribes develop according to their own genius and according to their own tradition, not to despise upon their past but to build upon it".

These people must be represented in the Assembly. That is my contention. Democracy should come to mean respecting, regarding and demanding the rights of every citizen in the country, whether that particular citizen is conscious of his

rights or not or even has the capacity to demand his rights. Otherwise, democracy, becomes a farce for the weaker sections of the people.

I do not mind the creation of a number of States. I want that Chota Nagpur and Santhal Pragana should also have a separate State. The people there have every right to have a separate State. There are 42 lakhs of tribals there. Their total population in this region is about 1.50 crores. I take this opportunity to ventilate the grievances of the people of Chota Nagpur and Santhal Pragana. With you in the Chair, Sir, I request you to bring political pressure on the Government to bear for the creation of a separate State of Chota Nagpur and Santhal Pragana.

I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this Bill.

*SHRI TENNETI VISWANATHAM (Visakhapatnam) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I whole-heartedly support the Bill introduced here by the Hon'ble Home Minister. Because of the co-operation and spirit of good-will on the part of the people and leaders of Assam and Meghalaya, it has become possible for this new sub-State to come into existence. As the Hon'ble Minister has stated, I hope that the people and leaders of this border State would remain ever-vigilant in guarding the borders and help in defending the country. Not only this, there is a novel feature in the creation of this State. Though this was a controversial matter, the people and leaders of Assam and Meghalaya have shown a commendable spirit of adjustment and understanding in bringing about an acceptable solution of the problem. This has added a new dimension to the Indian culture and has enhanced its prestige. I hope that this new experiment would be successful. One or two Hon'ble Members have expressed certain misgivings. Perhaps this may be so, to some extent, due to the very name of the State—Meghalaya—'Abode of Clouds'. But being the eastern-most part of our country where the sun is first to rise, I am confident that the bright rays of the sun would dispel the darkness caused

by the clouds of doubt and the new State would march ahead towards progress and bring prosperity and happiness to its people. I once again welcome this measure.

SHRI HEM BARUA (Mangaldai) : The basic idea behind this Bill to reorganize the State of Assam with two districts of Assam known as the sub-State of Meghalaya is to bring about understanding between the people in the plains and the people in the hills, and from that standpoint, it is a praiseworthy effort and the PSP lends support to it. But then the fact remains that there are many loopholes in this omnibus Bill and I think that these loopholes should be examined, in order to do justice to Parliament, by a Joint Committee of Parliament. I do not want to go into the basic reasons for which this is demanded—a sub-State. If you propose to constitute a sub-State on the basis of ethnology, then I would say that there are 66.8 lakhs of tribal people in Madhya Pradesh, 42 lakhs in Orissa, 42 lakhs in Bihar and 20.6 lakhs in West Bengal. What are you going to do about those people? Let us think of it from a wider perspective.

Another thing is this. You would agree with me that the hills people do not have to pay income-tax or wealth tax. Do you have anything in this Bill, any provision in this Bill, saying that the income-tax laws and the wealth tax laws will extend to Meghalaya also? You have nothing like that here.

You talk of economic exploitation. Where is economic exploitation? The Pataskar Commission has exploded the theory of economic exploitation. The per capita income in the hills has gone up. That is what he has said. The schools and hospitals have also grown up there; the number has been increased in the hills. Therefore, there has been no economic exploitation.

About linguistic exploitation, if you see the provisions of the Assam Official Language Act, you will find that there has been no linguistic exploitation.

The PSP lends its support to this Bill on the ground that the Bill satisfies the

*The original speech was delivered in Telugu.

[Shri Hem Barua]

political aspirations of certain sections of the APHLC.....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I would request you to co-operate with me. We have to complete it.

SHRI HEM BARUA : I am trying to be very brief. I am not getting into those things. I can prove by quoting from the Pataskar Commission's report that there has been no economic exploitation. I can prove by quoting from the Assam Official Language Act, which is the best Act in India, that there has been no linguistic exploitation. I can prove all these things....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We have gone through that round before.

SHRI HEM BARUA : Now the thing is this. The Sixth Schedule of the Constitution wants to bring the backward and the underdeveloped hills' people to the level of development of the plains people.

It is a commendable thing and the principal objective of the Sixth Schedule was not further disintegration but the principal objective was further integration. But what is it you are doing ? There are people in this House who speak about the Sixth Schedule. As I understand, the Sixth Schedule does not visualise fragmentation. It visualises integration. Whatever that might be, according to the Sixth Schedule you have the Regional Councils and the District Councils for the autonomous Hill areas and you have retained these District Councils. District Councils have legislative, executive and judicial powers and you have retained them for Meghalaya also. That shows you have promised a sort of diarchical administration for the District Council and I would say for the State Assembly also. Since this Bill visualises far-reaching changes in the Constitution, you have two Chief Ministers, two Councils of Ministers, two State Assemblies within the same area functioning, it is going to raise many administrative, geographical, judicial and other problems. That I know. Then there are two Chief Ministers. Then between the Chief Minister of the proposed Meghalaya and the Chief Minister of Assam there is going to be a perpetual quarrel. This Bill will have a trouble like that. If this

Bill succeeds, if this far-reaching decision of the Government of India succeeds in bringing about a sort of understanding between the hill people and the plains people, it is the most welcome thing. I would say from that standpoint, we welcome this decision but not this Bill. This Bill should go to a Joint Select Committee of Parliament in order to examine all these provisions.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We have disposed that already.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : I was very happy to see the general support of the House to this Bill. Some of the Members—perhaps except the hon. Member, Shri Bal Raj Madhok all other members—have supported this Bill and even some members from Jana Sangh who spoke also supported the basic concept of the Bill. I am very grateful for their very generous support.

Shri Balraj Madhok is not present here.

SHRI V. KRISHNAMOORTHY : He has not opposed it. He wanted a full-fledged State.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : He did not oppose it but he cursed it that it will become a failure. He is normally a prophet of doom. I wish he were here. But that is not the point. I do not want to emphasize that particular aspect. I would only say that in the last speech of Shri Hem Barua, though he has certainly some reservations, but even then he has supported the Bill and I am very grateful. He made only one point that in the actual working there are going to be some difficulties. I won't say that there would not be any difficulties. There are bound to be difficulties when we are creating a new administration within an administration. But I think the capacity to solve the difficulties is the real challenge in the normal life. In order that there may not be any quarrel, there should be only a sole member of the family—if one asks like that.....

SHRI HEM BARUA : If that head of the family suffers from blood pressure, it is worse.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : This is not a problem. No objection to the Bill as such was taken. Certain small suggestions have been made. They do need consideration at a later stage. Certainly we will look into them.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill to provide for the formation within the State of Assam of an autonomous State to be known as Meghalaya and for matters connected therewith, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Now we take up clause-by-clause consideration.

Clause 2—(Definitions)

SHRI OM PRAKASH TYAGI : I beg to move:

Page 2, line 1,—

after "of" insert—

"Assam or" (17)

Page 1, line 14,—

after "State" insert—

"or Autonomous District or Districts or both" (20)

Page 2, line 2,—

after "Meghalaya" insert

"or Autonomous Districts of North Cachar Hills or the Mikir Hills". (21)

Page 2,—

after line 8, insert—

'(m) "Autonomous District" means the Autonomous Districts of North Cachar Hills or Mikir Hills.' (22)

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA : We can take up clause by clause consideration tomorrow.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No, we have still time to complete this.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA : Kindly listen to us. Do not be in a hurry. It will be passed if not today, tomorrow. I am prepared to sit. But we want to exercise our right in speaking during the third reading. This is a very important Bill. You should not go about it in such a hurry saying that in any case we have to pass it, so let us finish it in a few minutes.

SHRI SEZHIAN (Kumbakonam) : While we want to take note of criticism, there is also this consideration that the Bill has to go to the Rajya Sabha. Therefore, let us help Government in getting it through to the Rajya Sabha as early as possible.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am entirely in the hands of the House. I only have the impression that we have discussed enough.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA : No.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : They have no objection to the Bill...I would request you to co-operate.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA : I do not want to place any hindrance. Let it be passed. But we must have our own say. We have a different outlook.

SHRI RANGA (Srikakulam) : This is certainly not the right of proceeding way with a Bill with so many clauses, simply placing us all at the mercy of the Business Advisory Committee where our friend the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs with his persuasive capacity has done his work so efficiently that he was able to get allotted to it just one hour. What sort of satisfaction can we have that a Bill with so many clauses should be disposed of in one hour as against the original three hours fixed for it ? Does it satisfy your conscience ?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : This is a decision of the Committee.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA : But this is a very important measure.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : If he is entering into an argument, it is a different thing. The House has agreed to it. It is not as if something is being imposed

[Mr. Deputy-Speaker]

on us. It is open to the House to revise the decision, if members want. It is a sovereign body. But the House had felt at one time that since there is no controversy on this, we should dispose it of as quickly as possible. I will put it to the House.

SHRI SURENDRANATH DWIVEDY (Kendrapara) : It looks ridiculous that within five minutes we can go through two stages of such a comprehensive Bill. Then let us decide that there will be no discussion, no amendments since you want that it must be disposed of quickly.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No, no.

SHRI SURENDRANATH DWIVEDY : If you decide like that, from all points of view, I fully support it. But what harm is there if we take half an hour tomorrow to finish it? Why rush through at the last stage?

SHRI SEZHIYAN : Today's half hour discussion could be postponed to tomorrow and this could be continued today.

SHRI D. N. PATODIA (Jalore) : It cannot be postponed. I will not be here tomorrow. It is on today's agenda. It must be taken up at the appointed time.

SHRI KANWARLAL GUPTA : This never happens in the House. You are in a hurry and the hon. Minister is in a hurry. I cannot understand this.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : I am not in a hurry. They have agreed to finish it in one hour. Let him persuade the house.

SHRI KANWARLAL GUPTA : He must have brought it earlier.

SHRI RANDHIR SINGH : The half hour discussion might be postponed to tomorrow.

SHRI D. N. PATODIA : It cannot be.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am entirely in the hands of the House.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA : Clause by clause consideration and the

third reading will take one hour; it is a big and important Bill... (*interruptions*).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let us agree on this that we take up this as the first item after question hour tomorrow and that we do not spend more than one hour on this.

We shall take up the next item—half an hour discussion now.

18.26 hrs.

HALF AN HOUR DISCUSSION

CHANGES IN LIC PREMIUM RATES

SHRI D. N. PATODIA (Jalore) : The LIC is a typical example... (*Interruptions*.)

SHRI P. L. BARUPAL (Ganganagar) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, there is no quorum... (*Interruptions*.) Are we to go on sitting from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House has agreed to this.

SHRI D. N. PATODIA : The L.I.C. is a typical example of how a State monopoly acts against society and social justice... (*Interruptions*.) The LIC was nationalised in 1956. Prior to that I remember very vividly and clearly that the various insurance companies who were doing life insurance business were accused of extravagance, corruption and misuse of public funds and of charging high rates of premium. It was in fact one of the objectives of nationalisation, that they would improve and work efficiently and the premium would considerably be reduced.

18.28 hrs.

[SHRI M. B. RANA in the chair]

The policy-holders in this country were given a definite assurance at the time of nationalisation that the Government would see to it that the rates were suitably reduced as soon as possible. Between 1956 and now, the business of the L.I.C. increased manifold, partly on account of various compulsory legislative measures, partly on account of the tax