

[S. M. Banerjee]

the report of the Committee by tomorrow ? Suppose the Committee decides that the prayer is justified. In that case, the Bill should not be sent to the Rajya Sabha.

MR. SPEAKER : I go to the next item.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY: Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary of Rajya Sabha :-

- (i) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on the 17th December, 1968, agreed without any amendment to the Food Corporations (Amendment) Bill, 1968, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 10th December, 1968."
- (ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on the 17th December, 1968, agreed without any amendment to the Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 1968, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 9th December, 1968."

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Sixty-third Report

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH : (Nandyal) I beg to present the Sixty-third Report of the Estimates regarding action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Eleventh Report of the Committee on the Ministry of Finance—Utilisation of External Assistance.

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS Contd.

(ii) Fourth Report

SHRI S.C. SAMANTA : I beg to present the Fourth Report of the Committee on Petitions.

(iii) Evidence

SHRI S.C. SAMANTA : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the evidence given before the Committee on Petitions.

12.47 hrs.

STATEMENT RE : VISIT OF SOVIET DELEGATION

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : I lay on the Table a statement regarding the visit of the Soviet delegation headed by Mr. Skachkov, Chairman, State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations of USSR. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2779/68.]

12.47 $\frac{1}{2}$ hrs.

MATTER UNDER RULE 377

Proceedings of the House

MR. SPEAKER: Shri H. N. Mukerjee

Shri Samar Guha rose :

MR. SPEAKER: I am calling only those who have already represented.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE : (Calcutta North East) : With your permission, I wish to raise a matter under rule 377 relative to what happened yesterday in the course of the Third Reading of the Essential Services Maintenance Bill. It is a matter of unhappiness that yesterday certain incidents took place which had the effect of a kind of reflection upon the conduct of the proceedings of the House by the Chair. The papers of today are full of reports in regard to this matter. I will first quote what the TIMES OF INDIA says :

"a peculiar situation had arisen and there was a breeze between the Chair and the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs."

In THE PATRIOT, they put it a little more strongly and, perhaps, more accurately :

"There was a clash between the Parliamentary Affairs Minister, Dr. Raza

Subhag Singh, and the Deputy-Speaker, Shri Khadiibar who was in the Chair."

I was present at that time, and I have made it a point to refer to the proceedings. It so happened that repeatedly the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, who has a very important responsibility, one of whose predecessors was even for a time Leader of the House, forgot, responsibilities of his position. I am quoting the words from the uncorrected debates :

He said to the Chair :

"Every day you are changing the ruling of the Speaker. We should stick to the time-limit fixed.

"MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It will not be proper if we apply guillotine at this stage". I am not going to apply guillotine at this stage".

SHRI RANDHIR SINGH (Rohtak) : What Dr. Ram Subhag Singh said was all right.

Why should it be referred to here in this way ?

MR. SPEAKER : Why does he get excited ? The hon. Member is not blaming anybody :

SHRI SHEO NARAIN (Basti) : That Bill has been passed.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE : I am only reading in order to remind members. We are in a quiet mood. Yesterday, we might have been in an excited mood. Now I expect we are in a quiet mood.

That is why I want to recall what had been said in a moment of excitement which perhaps is regretted. That is what I wish to say.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh said to the Deputy Speaker :

"What is wrong in that ? Then, we shall have to move a closure motion".

The Deputy-Speaker replied :

"I don't mind. I will not shut out debate at this stage :

Later on also, Dr. Ram Subhag Singh said to the Deputy-Speaker :

"You observe the time limit fixed".

And the Deputy Speaker replied :

"Is it proper, at this stage, to apply guillotine ?"

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh said again :

"You observe the time-limit. Yesterday also, the Speaker announced the time schedule. You ought to have followed it."

And the Deputy-Speaker replied :

"So far as I am concerned I am not going to apply the guillotine at this moment".

My point is that the Chair, which was occupied by Mr. Deputy--Speaker at that time, in a moment of great stress and excitement was repeatedly trying to say that he was not prepared in the interests of Parliamentary functioning to apply the guillotine at the third reading stage and that he was ready to extend the time by a short ration, half an hour or so, and that is why all this happened. My feeling is that the Government has a majority in this House; it is good to have a giant's strength, but it is bad to use it like a giant who does not take note of human sensibilities. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Hiren Mukerjee is not capable of harsh words. To have a giant's strength but not to use it like a giant is a good phrase. Perhaps you have not understood it. It is neither unparliamentary nor bad language. How can I prevent it ? It is decent language. Why do you get excited ? In two minutes it will be over. I will myself reply. Shri Sheo Narain should not bad get up every second. Allow him two minutes. The other members are also there in the Congress Party, the Minister concerned is there. (*Interruptions*)

श्री शिव नारायण : अध्यक्ष महोदय, जो माननीय सदस्य अनकरकटड डिबेट से पढ़ रहे हैं, मेरी समझ में नहीं आता कि इसमें क्या प्राप्तिजनक बात है।

MR. SPEAKER : Have you finished now ? I will seek your permission.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE : I was only trying to point out that perhaps inadvertently the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs did something which amounted in my view to disrespect towards the Chair.

I wish also to point out that the Home Minister, Mr. Chavan, was here yesterday at the third reading stage, and when he came, I am quoting from the proceedings,

Mr. S. M. Banerjee said :

“Since the Home Minister is here, I would like to know whether he would be replying to the debate.”

Mr. Chavan replied :

“Certainly, I am prepared to reply”.

Then, towards the end, when Mr. Shukla was called upon by the Deputy-Speaker to reply, Shri N. Sreekantan Nair said :

“We had a promise from them that the Minister of Home Affairs will reply and not the Minister of State. We had that promise in the House”.

Mr. Deputy Speaker then said :

“It is not proper. I cannot dictate . . . Do not make it an issue, Mr. Nair”.

Mr. Sreekantan Nair said again :

“Mr. Chavan is the mastermind behind it. He should reply”.

Mr. Deputy Speaker could only say :

“I have called Mr. Shukla to reply. The Home Minister is here. If he so desires, at the concluding stage, he can add a few words.”

My grouse—I have been a Member of this House long enough—is that when a matter of this description which has caused such controversies, which has led to extension of time over and over again for reasons which you also have said were understandable, when a matter of this description is under discussion in the House and the Minister, the Senior Cabinet Minister concerned, is present in the House, it is only fair to the House that he replies. He did not choose to reply even after he had given an assurance that he would. That amounted to something which the papers interpret to mean that Mr. Chavan was visibly annoyed. I found it in the *Indian Express*. I cannot get a copy of that. It is said in the papers that he was visibly annoyed. This is very bad for the parliamentary traditions of this country and I do hope that you would make your observations in regard to this.

MR. SPEAKER : I too read the papers. It is such a strain for Speaker or anybody in the Chair, such a strain which may even result in nervous breakdown. After all the time was extended not once or twice but from 7 hours to 24 1/2 hours. Naturally it must have been a strain to the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs also. On every side there was strain and everybody went through an atmosphere of tension. Therefore I do not think after the Bill is passed we should allow this misunderstanding to continue. In the evening again the Home Minister was here at 8 O'clock. He was replying to the half-an-hour debate. He gave satisfaction not only to the friends here but when Shri Srinibas Misra raised something, to that also he replied and all those who stayed went home with the satisfaction that a good reply was given. At times we get excited. After all we are human. A few of us are always excited but the rest of us get excited now and then. Another thing is yesterday when that point came where Gandhiji died . . . Is the hon. Minister saying something ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH) : Shri Mukerjee has lightened my burden. He has read out the proceedings, because I come from the rural area and I am not as experienced as the hon. Member

nor can I ever dare to claim that I am a senior Member. He has read out from the uncorrected copy of the proceedings. I do not know whether there is anything objectionable and the Deputy-Speaker himself repeatedly pointed out to me and suggested that the debate should be curtailed but whenever he came here, he in his wisdom thought he might have perhaps rightly thought that it should be extended. I want to act in an honest way. But whatever be the promise, the promise was made by all of us including Mr. Mukerjee that the Bill should be allotted 7 hours and as you have yourself said it went upto 34 hours.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : Not 34 hours, But 24 hours.

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH : I accept that. My friend like Mr. Mukerjee has come from a big metropolitan city of Calcutta and I am coming from a rural area. If the standard of reporting is what they have reported, no honest pressman would have based his report on the basis of such reports and no hon. Member of this House should try to scare this House and overwhelm the members and the Ministers by raising such frivolous points of view. (*Interruptions*).

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN) : I owe an explanation because hon. Shri Mukerjee gave me the distinction by making a special reference to me on the floor of this House. I can say that I was never annoyed. One fundamental rule that I have followed in this House is not to get annoyed.

SHRI HEM BARUA (Mangaldai) : You cover your anger with a disarming smile.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : What can I do ? The only point that has been made again and again is that I did not reply. I did not reply because I thought it would be unfair to the Minister in charge of the Bill who piloted the Bill here for 7 days. It would have been unfair to my colleague.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE : Then why did you say you would reply ?

13 hrs.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : That only showed that I was not unwilling to reply. In the meanwhile, I had written a note to the Deputy-Speaker and told him that it would not be very fair to my colleague, and I would like to intervene if he wanted me to, I had said that. Of course, ultimately the Deputy-Speaker asked the hon. Minister of State to reply and he did.

SHRI SURENDRANATH DWIVEDY (Kendrapara) : I want to point out only one thing. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs said something which is of very great importance according to me. He said that the Deputy-Speaker privately told him, "Let us allot the total time; the discussion is going on and let us do something". And then the Chair behaved in a different manner. This is very strange.

SHRI HEM BARUA : May I submit that the Deputy-Speaker, against whom there is a serious allegation, should resign ?

13.01 hrs.

INDIAN PENAL CODE (AMENDMENT BILL)

SHRI TENNETI VISWANATHAM (Visakhapatnam) : I beg to move :

"That this House do extend the time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code and to provide for matters incidental thereto, up to the last day of the Budget Session (1969)."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do extend the time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code and to provide for matters incidental thereto up to the last day of the Budget Session (1969)."

The Motion was Adopted

RE : DEATH OF MAHATMA GANDHI

MR. SPEAKER : Before we adjourn, I should like to say a few words.