

15.01 hrs.

SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Amendment of section 5)

Shri N. R. Laskar (Karimganj): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament Act, 1954.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): I rise to oppose this.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: On what grounds?

Shri S. M. Banerjee: On the following grounds. There is a general feeling in the country that Members of Parliament are privileged classes. They have been given a pass for travel all over India, and they can travel wherever they like. When nearly 27 crores of people in this country are getting only 7½ annas a day, if Members of Parliament try to get much more and try to fly always by paying the difference between the first class fare and the air fare, that will be a bad thing.

So, I oppose this Bill on moral and social grounds, though not on legal grounds.

Shri N. R. Laskar: I have clearly stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to my Bill that Members of Parliament in our country hail from far off places like Kerala and Assam, and it takes them about four days or so if they are to travel by train. If we are to function well and discharge our duties to our constituencies and also to Parliament, we must move quickly and more speedily, and as such I feel that this Bill should be introduced.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend

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the Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament Act, 1954."

The motion was adopted.

Shri N. R. Laskar: I introduce the Bill.

15.02 hrs.

REQUISITIONING AND ACQUISITION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Amendment of section 8)

श्री यशपाल सिंह (कैराना) : मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूँ कि अचल सम्पत्ति का अधिग्रहण तथा अर्जन एक्ट, १९५२ में आगे संशोधन करने वाले बिल को पेश करने की अनुमति दी जाये ।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Requisitioning and Acquisition of Immovable Property Act, 1952."

The motion was adopted.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : मैं बिल को पेश करता हूँ ।

PARLIAMENT (PREVENTION OF DISQUALIFICATION) AMENDMENT BILL*

(Amendment of section 3)

श्री यशपाल सिंह : मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूँ कि संसद् (अनर्हता निवारण) एक्ट, १९५६ में आगे संशोधन करने वाले बिल को पेश करने की अनुमति दी जाये ।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1959."

The motion was adopted.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : मैं बिल को पेश करता हूँ ।

15.03 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT)
BILL*

(Amendment of article 352)

श्री यशपाल सिंह : मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूँ कि भारत के संविधान में प्रागे संशोधन करने वाले बिल को पेश करने की अनुमति दी जाये ।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : मैं बिल को पेश करता हूँ ।

15.04 hrs.

DISCLOSURE OF ASSETS OF
MINISTERS BILL—contd.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The House will take up further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath on the 20th December, 1963, namely:—

"That the Bill to provide for the periodical disclosure of assets of Ministers, be taken into consideration."

Shri P. K. Deo (Kalahandi): I take the opportunity of congratulating my hon. friend Shri Kamath on the most appropriate Bill that he has brought forward. I do not think that any persuasion would be required or would be needed for this House and for Government to accept such a simple Bill as this, unless of course, the intention is that something should be hidden from the House regarding the assets of Ministers.

As late as 1953, when I was a Member of the Orissa Legislative Assembly, I had tabled one non-official Bill entitled the Declaration and Periodical Verification of the Ministers' and MLA's Properties Bill, and as it was a non-official Bill, and I did not have the support from the Treasury Benches, it was negatived. I hope that this Bill will not receive the same fate.

There can be no two opinions that in order to create healthy precedents and conventions and to set examples of personal standards of behaviour for posterity, and for the future generations, we should all try hard, especially when the sapling of democracy has not yet taken its firm roots on the soil of this country.

Coming to the merits of the Bill, though corruption is an age-old phenomenon of degraded human behaviour, every civilised government and every enlightened government has taken steps and has made endeavours to stop it. Similarly, this Bill also envisages that to start with, the assets, both movable and immovable, of the Ministers should be declared and should be available to Parliament for public scrutiny. We want our Minister incorruptible. I do not think that there can be any two opinions on such a commendable Bill. It should be accepted.

Of course, those days are gone when one could think of a salary of Rs. 500

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