

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: I shall be able to say that next Friday.

13.24 hrs.

CORRECTION OF ANSWER TO S.Q. No. 899 RE. MERGER OF INDIAN BUREAU OF MINES WITH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Mines and Metals (Shri S. A. Mehdi): In connection with Starred Question No. 899 on the subject of the merger of Indian Bureau of Mines with Geological Survey of India, which was answered in the Lok Sabha on the 1st April, 1966, Shri P. R. Chakraverti had asked the supplementary question "Whether with the introduction of this new method, the Indian Bureau of Mines will be a Department of the Geological Survey or will it be practically merged with it?" In answer to this question, I had stated "At the moment it is a Department of Geological Survey".

I wish to clarify for the information of the hon. Member that my above statement referred to the Prospecting Division of the Indian Bureau of Mines which had been transferred to the Geological Survey of India. This Division, after being taken over by the Geological Survey of India, was, to start with, constituted as a separate Cell in the Geological Survey of India. It has already been stated that the residuary organisation of the Indian Bureau of Mines will continue to be responsible for conservation of minerals under the Minerals (Conservation and Development) Rules, 1958 and other duties e.g. collection and printing of statistical data of minerals and the ore dressing laboratories. This is a separate department headed by the Controller, Indian Bureau of Mines under the Ministry of Mines and Metals and there is no proposal now of its merger with the Geological Survey of India.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshangabad): On a point of order with regard to this item. You will be pleased to see that this relates to the correc-

tion of an inaccuracy in the answer given to a supplementary question on the 1st April, 1966, that is, during the last session.

I would invite your attention to Direction 16 of Directions by the Speaker. It reads thus:

"When a Minister wishes to correct any inaccuracy in the information which he has given in answer to a question...

—that is, starred question or short notice question or supplementary question—

"...or in debate the following procedure shall be followed, namely—..."

Now, kindly read sub-direction (iv) which reads thus:

"The Minister shall ordinarily intimate to Secretary his intention to correct his answer or statement within twenty-four hours thereof, provided that the Speaker may, on being satisfied with the reasons given, waive this requirement."

I would like to know whether he has given any reasons, and whether you have been satisfied and then only he has come forward to make this correction.

Mr. Speaker: He has not given me any reasons.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Can he tell us the reasons, if any, at least now?

Mr. Speaker: It is rather extraordinary that the statement is being corrected after four months. When a statement is made, it ought to be checked up by the secretariat or by the Ministry at once.

Shri D. C. Sharma (Gurdaspur): These Ministries think only in terms of eternity.

Mr. Speaker: It should be checked up whether the mistake has been discovered after such a long time.

Shri S. A. Mehdi: I had requested permission for this correction as soon as the mistake came to my notice.

Mr. Speaker: Ordinarily, when a statement is made by the Minister in the House, the Ministry should look into it and see whether there is something that needs to be corrected, and if they find that there is something which needs correction then they should make haste and inform the Minister that such a correction is required, if it is so needed. To make a correction after four months does look very extraordinary.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): Arising out of this statement I want to ask one question.

Mr. Speaker: Questions are not allowed at this moment.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: You generally allow some questions.

May I know whether it is a fact that because of this merger there is a serious trouble going on in the Indian Bureau of Mines and the employees have gone on hunger-strike and so on, and if so, whether the hon. Minister knows anything about that, and if so, what steps have been taken by Government in this regard?

Shri S. A. Mehdi: We have no information about any hunger-strike in the Indian Bureau of Mines.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE—contd.

Mr. Speaker: Now, the hon. Finance Minister. Bill to be introduced.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: I rise to a point of order under the proviso to sub-rule (2) of rule 376.

You will be pleased to see that in today's List of Business, the adjournment motion on Assam has been listed or has been put down for being taken up at 2-30 P.M. May I invite your attention to rule 26 which relates to Private Members' Business? That rule

does not contain the phrase 'Unless the Speaker otherwise directs' or anything like that. No such proviso is there also. The rule says:

"The last two and a half hours of a sitting on Friday shall be allotted for the transaction of private members' business...".

The words are 'shall be'.

Mr. Speaker: That is right. But we have accommodated this item also, because there were certain facts which were to be ascertained.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: I am not coming in the way of the adjournment motion being taken up. I am coming in the way of the time fixed for that. It is Government business and, therefore, it should come up at 2 P.M. and not at 2-30 P.M., because Private Members' Business should start at 2-30 P.M. and 2½ hours shall be allotted for it.

Mr. Speaker: The time allotted for Private Members' Business will not be affected.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Will you give more time, if necessary, after five o'clock?

Mr. Speaker: The time allotted for Private Members' Business will not be affected.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Then, it is all right.

13.28 hrs.

CUSTOMS (AMENDMENT) BILL*

The Minister of Finance (Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Customs Act, 1962.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Customs Act, 1962.

The motion was adopted.

Shri Sachindra Chaudhuri: I introduce the Bill.

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†Introduced with the recommendation of the President.