## DOWRY RESTRAINT BILL

**Shri Dabhi** (Kaira North): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to restrain the custom of taking or giving of dowry in marriages.

**Mr. Speaker:** The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to restrain the custom of taking or giving of dowry in marriages."

The motion was adopted.

**Shri Dabhi:** I introduce the Bill.

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## PUNISHMENT FOR ADULTERATION OF FOODSTUFFS BILL

**Shri Jhunjhunwala** (Bhagalpur Central): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for punishment of those found guilty of adulteration of foodstuffs.

**Mr. Speaker:** The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for punishment of those found guilty of adulteration of foodstuffs."

The motion was adopted.

**Shri Jhunjhunwala:** I introduce the Bill.

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## CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL

**Shri Madhao Reddi** (Adilabad): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

I would like to make a statement, Sir. ...

**Shri Pocker Saheb** (Malappuram): As there are many Members who do not know what this Bill is about, will the hon. Speaker be pleased to give a gist of the objects and reasons of the Bill, so that the Members might know what it is about in order to enable them to exercise their votes?

**The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** The hon Member from the other side said that he did not know what this was. Nobody, in fact, no Member of the Government knew either what this was. I doubt if many Members of the House knew about this, except that we have all suddenly seen that it is an amendment to the Constitution. [An amendment to the Constitution is a rather serious thing—it may be a good thing, but it is a

serious thing. It has to be considered carefully and properly and not be allowed to come in by a side-door and without the Members knowing anything about it, their voting this way or that way. I seek your guidance in the matter. I submit that I am not going to say anything on the merits of the question. It may be good or bad, but when there is a question of amending the Constitution, some slightly special procedure might be adopted either by the Government or by Members of the Opposition, and it should not come in this way, when people do not even know what they might have to vote for.]

**Shri R. K. Chaudhury** (Gauhati): On a point of order, Sir. It has been a convention in this House not to oppose the grant of leave *(Interruptions)*.

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. Members may kindly leave all these matters to the Chair. Otherwise, I am prepared to vacate the Chair, and they may settle the point among themselves. Let there be no interruptions.

**Shri R. K. Chaudhury:** In view of what has been just now said by the hon. the Leader of the House, I would submit that we are not cognizant of many Bills, and we know about them only after they are introduced. Therefore, the convention was—it had grown up in the previous House at least—that we do not oppose leave to introduce a Bill. I know that the Opposition has started first the ball rolling by opposing such leave before. But that is no reason why we should not respect the convention which we have created, especially when that convention has been there for a very long time, not only in this Parliament, but in the previous Parliament as also in the Central Legislature before. Therefore, Sir, I would ask you, in the circumstances mentioned by the hon. the Leader of the House, to continue that convention.

**Dr. S. P. Mookerjee** (Calcutta—South-East): May I draw your attention to one thing? What the hon. the Prime Minister has said certainly deserves consideration, that we should not lightly attempt to amend the Constitution. But article 368 which lays down the procedure for amendment of the Constitution reads:

"An amendment of this Constitution may be initiated only by the introduction of a Bill for the purpose in either House of Parliament..........."

Our rules also do not lay down that while a Bill to amend the Constitution is to be introduced, a different procedure is to be followed. It can