

[Mr. Speaker]

an important measure like the Finance Bill is being discussed. At least they should depute their deputies who would be able to give replies. I understood that yesterday some point was raised by an hon. Member about certain shipping difficulties and all that. It is not possible, in the nature of things, for the Finance Minister to reply to that. It was with reference to that, I believe, that the Deputy-Speaker said whatever he said. But some hon. Members specifically referred to the absence of the Finance Minister. That was not a very correct thing to do. The Finance Ministry was represented by the presence of the Minister of Revenue and Civil Expenditure.

There was another reason why the Finance Minister was not present. He had communicated to me that he was ill and was under medical treatment and he was unable to attend the House under medical advice. He would take at least five or six days to be able to be present in the House and he is taking rest as ordered by his doctors. So, the remarks about the Finance Minister were, to my mind, rather unkind especially because the Minister of Revenue and Civil Expenditure was present and he had ample ground for remaining absent from the House. I would, therefore, urge upon hon. Members that in case they have to make any grievances they would better ascertain the facts first, and it would have been better to have enquired from the Minister of Revenue and Civil Expenditure as to why the Finance Minister was not present. There was no occasion for a remark against him.

**Shri A. M. Thomas** (Ernakulam): He ought to have informed the House.

**Mr. Speaker:** He informed the Speaker and information to the Speaker is information to the House. Whatever that may be, I read in the papers that the Minister of Revenue and Civil Expenditure got up to say something but before he said one sentence or half a sentence, there was laughter and the House was not inclined to take him seriously and he could not, therefore,

proceed further and give reasons. Whatever that may be, my only point is this. Let us say anything we want to say in a responsible manner after making enquiries. There is a case for legitimate grievance in a matter like this if the Minister is absent and does not give any explanation. I can understand that, and a Member is entitled to point that out. I do not deny the right of the Member to say that the Minister is not present; he is entitled to say so. Here the Finance Ministry was represented.

So, that ends this particular matter.

After presentation of a formal report by Shri Altekar, we will proceed with the Finance Bill.

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#### COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

##### TWENTY-EIGHTH REPORT

**Shri Altekar** (North Satara): I beg to present the Twenty-eighth report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

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##### FINANCE BILL—contd.

**Shri D. C. Sharma** (Hoshiarpur): I shall pay my humble tribute to the Finance Minister for steering the financial ship of our State with a great deal of competence but at the same time, I know that the Finance Bill is a kind of peg on which one can hang any number of tales.

I am going to bring to the notice of the Finance Minister certain things which are basic to the prosperity and well being of India. A large number of persons on the floor of the House have expressed themselves on the grievances and needs of their constituencies.

[**SHRI BARMAN** in the Chair]

Most of these persons have come from those constituencies which may be called as neglected areas. Though we believe in a classless society, we