

forward the plea that in the next Parliament the Hindu Code Bill would be discussed. I know in my constituency my opponent who was a conservative put forward the plea that because I was a communist I would support the Hindu Code Bill and I can tell my friend Shri R. K. Chaudhuri that I frankly told my electorate: 'When I go to the Parliament I would support the Hindu Code Bill'. My opponent unfortunately failed at the polls. Fortunately those people who voice such reactionary views here are in a microscopic minority, and therefore it can be safely said that the electorate of India today is not in favour of their views.

Moreover, I would like to point out that this Hindu Code Bill could not be passed in the last Parliament because the Congress Government was browbeaten by the reactionary sections of its own ranks. One will be surprised to know that a Congress Member, Shri R. K. Chaudhuri, comes forward and says that this measure will get through this House only because the Prime Minister supports it and even though the majority of the Congress members are against it. Well, this is a challenge to the leadership of Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, I say that if such a thing is true the members of the Congress Party are nothing but dumb-driven cattle, they don't think but obey. They ought to be ashamed of themselves.

An Hon. Member: It is not so.

Shri B. C. Das: On the floor of this Parliament, I ask Mr. Chaudhuri either to repudiate his assertion or the members of the Congress Party should repudiate him.

Now, it is really very surprising that even this moderate measure is opposed by the orthodox in this country. They are obviously the orthodox of 17th century minds that oppose this measure. Not any other man, I know, will go against the measure which is only a very modest attempt and which is not going to alter social relations in any revolutionary manner. Unfor-

tunately they claim that. Heavens would fall if this legislation is enacted, and the Hindu society will go to pieces. But they conveniently forget that substantially the same measures or same provisions are in the laws that are in existence in Bombay, Madras, Saurashtra and other parts. They forget that the Hindu society has not gone to pieces in Madras or Bombay or anywhere else. They forget the fact that the cases of divorce are not very large in these States. They forget all this conveniently. With all respect to my learned friends of the Hindu Mahasabha, I would say that they are doing a great injustice to the cause of Hinduism.

Mr. Chairman: It is now 2-30 p.m. The hon. Member will continue his speech on the next occasion. We shall take up Private Members' Business now.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

TWENTY-NINTH REPORT

Shri Altekar (North Satara): I beg to move:

"That this House agrees with the Twenty-ninth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 27th April 1955."

This Report deals with the allotment of time in connection with some three Bills that are stated there in the Report, and the classification of two Bills which have been stated there. I commend this Report for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That this House agrees with the Twenty-ninth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 27th April, 1955."

The motion was adopted.