

[पंडित ठाकुर दास भागवंत]

आज आप जो पावर्स इनकम टैक्स आफिसर्स को दे रहे हैं उस से मुझे तकलीफ है। मैं जानता हूँ कि जो भी पावर्स इनकम टैक्स ला में मौजूद हैं उन से इस देश के अन्दर आप पूरा टैक्स बसूल कर सकते हैं बिला किसी और पावर्स को लिए हुए जब सन् १९५५ में सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने इस कानून को नाजायज करार दिया और वह होउस के अन्दर फिर आया तो मैं ने अपील की थी शाह साहब से कि आप उन लोगों पर इस कानून को न लागू कीजिये जो कि सुप्रीम कोर्ट के फैसले के बाद उस की जद से बच गये हैं, आज उसी चीज को मैं फिर दोहरना चाहता हूँ और अर्ज करता हूँ कि मैं नहीं चाहता कि इस कानून के दूसरें एम्बडमेंट (संशोधन) की वजह से अगर कोई टैक्स इवेडर साबित होता है तो उस के बल्लिफ आप किसी तरह रियायत करें, लेकिन मैं यह नहीं चाहता हूँ कि आपने जो नया ला बनाया है उस के ऊपर अमल कर के मामूली आदमी को आप तकलीफ पहुंचायें। आप ने फरमाया है कि सात सालों में सिर्फ दो दफा इन्वेस्टिगेशन कमिशन ने तलाशी का हुकम दिया। उन्होंने तो सात बरस में ऐसा किया। मैं चाहता हूँ कि साठ बरस में भी किसी एक आदमी के घर की तलाशी न ली जाय। जो टैक्स इवेडर्स है उन के लिये मामूली कानून आप इस्तेमाल नहीं करते हैं। वह इतना जबरदस्त है कि सारी खराबियां दूर हो सकती हैं। इस कानून को पास हुए आठ वर्ष हो गये हैं, इस असे मैं हमारें नामोलिखी (साधारण-स्थिति) आ गई है। वह दिन अब दूर नहीं है जब हम इन प्राविजनस को जो मीयाद व तलाशिके आप नये बना रहे हैं हटा कर छोड़ेंगे, लेकिन ताहाभ

6 P.M.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

THIRTY-THIRD REPORT

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): Sir, with your permission, I beg to present the Thirty-third Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

APPROPRIATION (No. 2) BILL —contd.

Mr. Speaker: The House will now take up further consideration of the Appropriation (No. 2) Bill. Half an hour has been allotted for this. I have received chits from several hon. Members, although some of them are not here now. I will allow 10 minutes to the hon. Minister and 5 minutes each to hon. Members who want to speak.

Shri Velayudhan (Quilon cum Mavelikkara—Reserved—Sch. Castes): Are we allowed to discuss any Ministry during the course of this debate?

Mr. Speaker: Only the Ministries of Information and Broadcasting and the Law Ministry which have not been touched during the course of debate on the General Budget.

Shri N. B. Chowdhury (Ghatal): Mr. Speaker, I only want to draw the attention of the hon. Law Minister to one specific point and that is with regard to the lack of proper arrangement for the enlistment of voters.

Shri Bansal (Jhajjar-Rewari): Sir, I rise on a point of order. Has the Consideration Motion been moved?

Mr. Speaker: It was moved earlier.

Shri N. B. Chowdhury: Sir, I was trying to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to this specific question of enlistment of voters. At the preliminary stage when the Presidents of Union, Boards, Panchayats or other agencies are required to enlist the voters, at that stage, we have noticed, they do not take particular care to approach the people and thus make an attempt to enlist the names of all eligible voters. The result has been that after some time, when that stage was over and there was time for objections, in a large number of cases we have seen that although the people approached the registrars or some other persons to record their names there was a lot of difficulty in getting that done.

I know of one particular instance where, in the case of one panchayat area only one Union, No. 5, having a population of 9000 in the District of Midnapore within the jurisdiction of police station, Ghatal, as many as 500 people applied to the Registrar for enlistment of their names as voters. But the Registrar wanted that they should personally

go to him so that he might cross-examine them and then consider their eligibility. His office is at a distance of some 16 miles. I am talking of the Registrar of Chandrakona in the District of Midnapore.

The Minister of Legal Affairs (Shri Pataskar): In which State?

Shri N. B. Chowdhury: In West Bengal. The people did not go to his office and the result was that they could not become voters. Therefore, even though these people were eligible to vote they did not get an opportunity to enlist their names as voters. In our country, Sir, 80 per cent. of the people are illiterate. They do not read the gazette notifications and the different announcements regarding the time for enlistment as voters. Therefore, unless the local agents approach the people at the preliminary stage to enlist all eligible voters the names of these people will not be enlisted in the later stages. Even though according to law they have got a right to make objection and approach higher authorities, they do not do so and they do not take sufficient interest in these matters.

This has happened not only in that area, but throughout the country. Even this morning we had a question regarding the failure of the Government to enlist a large number of voters in the hutments of Delhi. The same thing has happened in Malabar and other States. I would, therefore, request the hon. Law Minister to see that these people, who did not have sufficient opportunity to get themselves enlisted as voters, should be given an opportunity to become voters. In future, an opportunity should be given to them at the preliminary stage itself. The local agents and other people should be asked to approach these people in every village.

The other point I want to stress is in connection with the registration of refugees. Some time back I found that in the border districts of Nandia, Murshidabad and some other districts, a large number of refugees had migrated to India and settled there. According to our Citizenship Law and Constitution they are eligible to be voters in India. I find that they have not enlisted themselves as voters. Therefore, I suggest that steps should be taken to see that those displaced persons who have migrated to India are enabled to enlist themselves as voters at least before the next general elections.

In this connection I want to mention only one other point.

Mr. Speaker: No. I have already allowed 7 minutes to the hon. Member. I now call Shri Raghavachari who has also given his name.

Shri Raghavachari (Penukonda): No, Sir, I do not want to speak.

Shri Velsayudhan: Mr. Speaker, during the few minutes at my disposal, I shall only say a few words regarding the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

There was a complaint in this House that this Ministry had not been discussed during the budget discussions and therefore we have been allotted this half an hour's time to discuss two Ministries.

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is one which is dealing with the whole cultural life of the people of this vast sub-continent. Having a bit of close knowledge of this organisation, I can tell you that in no country has such a huge organisation of publicity machinery as the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting expanded to such an extent within a short span of time as it has done in India. The expansion that has taken place in India, when compared with any other country in the world, is perhaps the largest, largest in machinery and largest in personnel also.

This Ministry, of course, had also its own disadvantages in the initial stages. I think now it is getting into a transitional stage with the result that it has just begun only to touch the cultural aspect of the life of the country.

The Indian culture is very complicated and, at the same time, very ancient too. It is very difficult to bring it up within a short time. At the same time, Sir, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting will have to see how a new cultural life can be given to the people of this country. Of course we are living in a modern State and experiencing modern life and I do not say that we will have to bring in only the ancient culture or ancient classical and other things; but, we must give a modern tinge also to what is happening in the country. Take, for example, Kerala. In the last one or two years, there have been a lot of classical dancing or music and other things performed here as well as in many parts of Kerala, too. Compare them with

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the present trend and the growth of the literature or the classics or the drama or the dances in Travancore-Cochin or in Kerala. They do not have much relation with the actual progress that has been made in the cultural life of the people of the country. Therefore, when this classical revivalism is alone encouraged, there is difficulty created in the minds of the people, because they also want to see that with the old classical literature or classical structure of our social life a little modernism is also incorporated. This is the only point I wanted to speak about in relation to the Information and Broadcasting Ministry.

Shri Nambiar (Mayuram) : I have got to present the story about the Information and Broadcasting Ministry in a tone different from that of Shri Velayudhan. The Information and Broadcasting Ministry is one of the most responsible Ministries. It imparts knowledge, education and also it creates a character for the whole people. I have to say that with regard to the political aspect of its working my main criticism stands and it is this. The Congress Party which is in power can utilise the Information and Broadcasting Ministry for the party and for retaining the power of the party! Well, I can understand that much, but they should not stifle the views or the ideas or the activities of the Opposition.

With regard to the publicity that is being given through the radio for whatever that is happening even in this House, there is so much of partiality. Not only do they give top priority but every possible chance is being used to support the activities of the Congress and the Congressmen. I understand and I concede that they should be given their due share in the 15-minute news bulletin that is broadcast—in English or in any other language. Let them take 10 or 12 minutes. I have no grievance, but at least the remaining five or eight minutes must be given for the expressions made by those who are in the Opposition. We also represent lakhs of people and our views must be heard by the people outside and we must be given an opportunity to be heard. What actually happens is this. I have listened to the radio broadcast of what is happening in this House. In relation to the Members of other parties, it is said: "So and so spoke during the debate on such and such a Ministry". What that particular Member spoke, nobody

knows. That is a very partial and coloured view. That should not be the attitude. In the broadcast, they must make mention about what that particular Member said. I do not mean to say that all that the Member said should be broadcast. It is impossible. But at least the gist must be given. "So and so Member representing such and such party expressed such and such things in such and such a manner"—at least that must be given. There must be due courtesy shown to whatever we do in the House. Of course, we do not want the hon. Minister to expect the Information and Broadcasting Ministry people to extol us and say that such and such a Member spoke this and that in such and such a way, etc. But at least for being a Member in this House and having been elected by lakhs of people, we must have that amount of courtesy or the minimum courtesy which we expect. But it is not forthcoming. That is my main criticism.

With regard to the activities of the Government I know they must be broadcast. People want to know them. Due opportunity must be given to that aspect. I do not grudge that. But as far as the question of parties are concerned, I have got a particular case to quote. When the INTUC Conference is held, they say: "The Conference of the INTUC was held at such and such a place. So and so spoke and said such and such things. Three or four Ministers spoke, etc.". But when a conference of the All-India Trade Union Congress takes place, we know they never make a mention of it. They just say: "There was a conference which was held on such and such day". That is all what they used to broadcast.

So also, in respect of any mass organisation, this political differentiation and partiality is shown. I request that the hon. Minister should pay attention to this and give equal opportunities to all the parties concerned. All the views expressed by the Members representing all parties may be made available to the people, in the way that the Members express. That is all that I have to say.

Shri Pataskar : Regarding the criticism of Mr. N. B. Chowdhury about the maintenance of proper electoral rolls, I think I have very little to add. However, I find that there is a good sign that this time, the Members of the different parties in this House are taking keen interest in the preparation of proper electoral rolls. As I said on the previous

occasion when the Bill was being considered in this House, the Election Commission last time complained that Members of different parties did not co-operate at that time in the matter of the preparation of electoral rolls. I am glad that there is now a greater realisation that proper electoral rolls should be maintained.

I am sure that the Election Commission will take every possible step to see that all those who are eligible to vote will have their names entered in the rolls. I do not think I need add anything more. I deplore whatever might have happened in the past. What was pointed out was probably a thing of some years past.

Shri N. B. Chowdhury: Some months ago.

Shri Pataskar: It may be due to the old rolls. But, so far as the preparation of the new rolls is concerned, I am sure that every possible step is taken to do it properly.

Mr. Speaker: If the hon. Member finds anything wrong, he may bring it to the notice of the hon. Minister.

Shri Pataskar: In the morning itself, in reply to a question, I said that if any specific suggestions are forwarded to me by any hon. Member, I shall duly forward them to the Election Commission for necessary action.

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): Mr. Speaker, firstly I will deal with the remarks of Mr. Velayudhan. I quite agree with him that we must do all that we can to help cultural work. But, I might say in this connection that cultural work is not the exclusive function of this Ministry or of the All India Radio. It is one of the departments doing cultural work and to that extent, it is very difficult for me to lay down any line regarding this matter. But I want to assure him that we will do all we can in our power.

The hon. Member appears to be very much in favour of modernisation of culture. I do not know whether modernisation can be practised at command. I mean that changing of culture and traditions is not something which can be easily practised. Probably, it can be brought about provided we have a will. As far as we are concerned, we have nothing against having anything modern.

provided there is a harmonious link between what was before and what is going to be now. Any new cultural activity or development is certainly to be welcomed; and, we will certainly try to welcome it. But, anything under the name "modern" need not be accepted as something very desirable. I quite agree that it is very difficult to lay down a hard and fast line in regard to this matter, but we have not closed our eyes against anything modern. Some people probably got this idea, because we have done something about classical revival. The insistence on classical revival was not for the neglect of the modern. It is because, in India as a whole—we are not taking Kerala alone—there has been a kind of vacuum in the country where there is neither modern nor ancient. When we begin to develop art and culture, it is at least necessary for us to know what exists in this country before we proceed further for something new. He may be assured, however, that we will certainly do whatever we can to have even new cultural forms. However they might appear to be, whenever they come, whenever such manifestations occur, we will welcome them and try to help them also.

Mr. Nambiar has raised a point which has been raised many times by his colleagues in the party and some other Opposition Members also. There are two questions involved. First of all, there is the question of the news broadcast by the All India Radio and proper allocation of time to the various events and personalities during the news. There is the other question of allowing the opposite point of view to be expressed on the radio. Both are quite different. Let me first take up the question of News services. First of all, it is not possible to allocate time to news according to political opinion. News will have always to be given according to the importance of the event, which is being narrated. This is the standard journalistic practice and I do not think there is any newspaper in this country or outside which is doing otherwise. I know that some Members of Shri Nambiar's party have been protesting against newspapers trying to give importance to certain speeches and suppress other speeches, giving verbatim reports of certain speeches and not mentioning at all other speakers. We do not follow that practice. Our directive is that as far as possible, within the time limit given, we should try to give a fair

[Dr. Keskar]

picture of what has happened. In judging a particular event, it is very difficult to agree. It is quite possible that Shri Nambiar may not agree with me that a particular event is important or not. He may consider a particular event to be more important than I do. There, probably we might have to differ and we may agree to differ.

As far as the proceedings of this House are concerned, I am afraid, I am not able to agree with him. I also follow the proceedings. It is obvious that when parliamentary proceedings are reported, it is not possible to give all the speeches. Suppose there is a debate and on the Radio, he has to summarise the debate in five or seven minutes, how is it possible to give what every one spoke? If Shri Nambiar likes, I shall show him summaries of debates which have been broadcast on the Radio. We have seen that a practice is made that at least the leading Members of the Opposition are not only mentioned, but their views also are mentioned. Naturally, it is not possible to mention all the political parties which are in the opposition. Supposing there are about half a dozen parties, how is it possible in six or seven minutes to give all?

Shri A. M. Thomas : (Ernakulam) : Whenever Shri Nambiar is in the House and has participated his name would have been mentioned.

Dr. Keskar : Shri Nambiar is an important Member.

Shri Nambiar : We are not discussing any question of Nambiarism. We are discussing something different.

Shri Bansal : Is there anything called Nambiarism?

Dr. Keskar : There may be; I do not know.

I am prepared even to take samples of some days' news and show Shri Nambiar how the things is being dealt with. It is quite possible that the thing may not be working to perfection. Nothing works to perfection. The News Editor has to decide on the spot and make the choice. It is possible that on certain days it may not be found that an exact following of this directive has taken place. Generally it has been followed and I am prepared to take steps to see that it is

followed if the hon. Member brings to my notice any dereliction from the general direction which I have just now mentioned? As I said, as many Members as possible are mentioned. If there is a big debate in the House throughout the day and if in five or seven minutes, he has to mention the whole debate, I do not see how it would be possible for the News Editor to give what hon. Members spoke. If we have got a half-hour report on parliamentary proceedings, then, it may be possible to mention in a summary what hon. Members spoke. I also follow the news. It is generally the practice to mention Opposition leaders and give a summary of what they said and also mention that they are Opposition leaders belonging to a particular party. I am afraid I cannot agree with Shri Nambiar. I invite him to bring to my notice anything which he considers to be wrong, and I am prepared to accept wherever I find that it is wrong.

The other point which he mentioned was regarding opposition parties not being allowed to express their views. This question was mentioned last year also. I explained then that the question is whether we should allow free political discussions on the Radio. *Prima facie*, fundamentally, I am not opposed to it, provided that would be a practical thing. But if hon. Members would analyse this, they would find that it is not at all practicable. It might be so in a country where there are two or three political parties. They are divided into some standard parties, and it is possible to allocate some time. That also in most countries is done on specific occasions. But here, there are a number of parties. There are a number of parties at the Centre, and in the States also, there is similarly a large number of parties. If we allow this privilege, we shall certainly have to have a large amount of space in the radio for this purpose only. Most of the ordinary programmes will have to be curtailed, because we have to remember that if space on an all-India scale has to be allotted, then the privilege will have to be extended to all the regional languages also, which are fourteen in number—and at present, we are broadcasting in all the fourteen languages—and that will bring up a very difficult practical problem. I personally have no objection, but I feel that there are these practical difficulties which cannot be surmounted so easily as the hon. Member thinks.

We have, therefore, thought it better that no political party should be allowed, or that no political controversy should be allowed to be discussed there, unless, of course, parliamentary proceedings or assembly proceedings come in there. It is quite possible that we might in changed circumstances think of adjusting ourselves in this matter. But for the moment, these practical difficulties will have to be taken into account.

I would like Shri Nambiar to bring to my notice whatever samples he has got, and I shall certainly look into them.

Mr. Speaker : The question is :

“That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the service of the financial year 1956-57, be taken into consideration.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2—(Issue of Rupees 44,78,94,45,000 out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the year 1956-57)

Amendment made : Page 1, line 8—

for ‘sums’ substitute ‘sum’

—[SHRI C. D. DESHMUKH.]

Mr. Speaker : The question is :

“That clause 2, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 3, the Schedule, clause 1, the Enacting Formula, and the Title were added to the Bill.

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh) : I beg to move :

“That the Bill, as amended, be passed.”

Mr. Speaker : The question is :

“That the Bill, as amended, be passed.”

The motion was adopted.

6-30 P.M.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Half Past Ten of the Clock on Monday the 23rd April, 1956.