

financial year ended on the 31st day of March, 1954, in excess of the amounts granted for those services and for that year."

The motion was adopted.

†

Shri Alagesan: I introduce the Bill.

APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS)
No. 7 BILL.**

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the service of the financial year 1956-57 for the purposes of Railways.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the service of the financial year 1956-57 for the purposes of Railways."

The motion was adopted.

††

Shri Alagesan: I introduce the Bill.

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) BILL

The Minister of Legal Affairs and Civil Aviation (Shri Pataskar): I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the removal of disqualifications for membership of, and voting at elections to, Parliament and State Legislatures, and for certain miscellaneous matters in connection with such elections be taken into consideration."

As hon. Members are aware, there has been a change effected in the election law with respect to disqualification incurred on the ground of several kinds of corrupt activities. For instance, under the Act of 1951, there was a major corrupt practice, minor practice and illegal practice. Then, there was a very complicated return of election expenses to be filed, and for not having filed the election expenses return in the proper form, disqualification was incurred by the candidate as well as by the election agent. The elections are very near. At the time when the Act was amended, we naturally made the provisions simple and we abolished the distinction between major corrupt practice, minor corrupt practice, illegal practice etc. All the same we find from facts which we have investigated that the number of persons disqualified for failure to lodge return of election expenses, as required by law, is nearly 9,511. It appears that when we amended the Act, probably the disqualification with respect to voting so far as these members are concerned has been removed. But so far as the question of their being entitled to stand as candidates is concerned, I think that disqualification has not been removed. The Election Commission itself out of these 9,511 cases, has probably removed the disqualification in the case of about 3,000 odd people, and 6,000 persons still remain disqualified. Probably many of them are not even aware of the disqualification that they have incurred. Now we have simplified the return of election expenses and in view of the changed procedure to be followed in this matter, it is desirable that all these disqualifications which have been incurred by these people should be removed wholesale. That is why there is provision in this Bill saying that the disqualification of these persons will stand removed.

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†Introduced with the recommendation of the President

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