

[Secretary]

rule 162 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Finance (No. 3) Bill, 1956, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 12th December, 1956, and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill.'

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

SIXTY-SEVENTH REPORT

Sardar Hukam Singh (Kapurthala-Bhatinda): I beg to present the Sixty-seventh Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

THIRTY-EIGHTH REPORT

श्री ब० गो० मेहता (गोहिलवाड) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं सामुदायिक विकास मंत्रालय (सामुदायिक परियोजना प्रशासन) के बारे में प्राक्कलन समिति (एस्टिमेट्स कमेटी) की अड़तीसवीं रिपोर्ट भाग १ पेश करता हूँ।

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Mr. Speaker: The Committee on Absence of Members from the Sitzings of the House in its Nineteenth Report has recommended that leave of absence may be granted to the following Members for the periods indicated in the Report:

- (1) Rt. Rev. John Richardson.
- (2) Shri Kotha Raghuramajah.
- (3) Shri M. Hifzur Rahman.
- (4) Sardar Baldev Singh.

- (5) Shri Chandikeshwar Sharan Singh Ju Deo.
- (6) Dr. Edward Paul Mathuram.
- (7) Shri A. K. Basu.
- (8) Shri K. Janardhan Reddy.

I take it that the House agrees with the recommendations of the Committee.

Shri K. K. Basu (Diamond Harbour): May I know the reason for the absence of Rev. Richardson? He is a nominated Member. I think this House should advise the President on this. For ninety per cent of the days, he is absent. I feel the House should advise the President not to nominate him to the next Parliament.

Shri Tulsidas (Mehsane West): I remember he attended the last session. He comes from Nicobar and it is very difficult for him to go over here.

Mr. Speaker: The reports are first laid on the Table. The hon. Members should get copies of the report and look for themselves. If any further explanation is necessary, they may put their questions.

The hon. Member has requested leave of absence for the entire period of the Fourteenth Session. He is unavoidably engaged in the community project work in Nicobar. The total period of absence from 14th November to the 22nd December 1956 amounts to 39 days. The Committee on Absence of Members are of the opinion that the hon. Member be granted leave of absence for this period.

Shri Altekar (North Satara): Mr. Speaker, he has written a long letter requesting that leave be granted to him as he is engaged in the community project work. A wooden bridge which was constructed in 1952 was washed away and that bridge was again constructed in 1954. That too was recently washed away. Now it has been decided that a pucca bridge should be constructed. Cement

and other materials have been gathered. The people there have also contributed but they are not in a position to understand things properly. So, he says that unless he is present there, there will not be any progress. At the same time, if the work is not taken up just now, the cement will be spoiled. He has also stated that he is prepared to forego his salary for his absence. In that connection, this Committee cannot say anything. In the circumstances, the Committee thought that leave should be granted to him. He had now been informed that though it may be community project work, it is not a sufficiently valid reason for the purpose of granting leave. For the time being, the leave was granted. This fact has been brought to his notice by the Committee and a letter is being written to that effect.

Shri Punnoose (Alleppey): The House should not accept that explanation....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I do not want to spend time over this matter. If the hon. Members want to look into the previous history of this gentleman before granting leave, I will allow this particular name to stand over till day after tomorrow. They may read the report and come to conclusions. They should also bear in mind that after a long period of absence, one hon. Member was rusticated here and there have been all sorts of comments in the Press. We are at the fag end of the Session. That may also be taken into consideration. He has to come all the way from that place and it is also to be seen whether another person will be available to represent that area. These are all factors to be taken into consideration. Anyhow, I have no desire to hustle this matter. Let the hon. Members think over if a colleague of theirs ought to be sent out or kept inside. I will omit that name and put the other names, including that of Basu, before the House. The case of Rt. Rev. John Richardson will stand over till day-after-tomorrow. I take it that the House agrees.

Shri Mathew (Kottayam): If an hon. Member is absent only for 39 days at a stretch, is it necessary for him to get leave at all? He was absent only for 39 days.

Mr. Speaker: We are not going into that question. The hon. Member will kindly look into the Constitution and the rules. We do not know how long he was absent and all that. The hon. Member does not have the facts. What is the meaning of raising hypothetical questions like this? It may be that he was absent during the last days of the previous session and 39 days of this Session. A few days of the next session and then he will be absolutely out of court. I take it that the House agrees with the recommendations of the Committee about the others.

Some Hon. Members: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: The Members will be informed accordingly—those who have been granted leave (*Interruption*). Why should the hon. Member be childish? I am afraid childlike. Now, we go to the next business.

BROADCASTING FACILITIES FOR POLITICAL PARTIES

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): Sir, the question of giving broadcasting facilities to the various political parties for the general elections has been engaging the attention of the Government....

Shri K. K. Basu (Diamond Harbour): A little louder.

Dr. Keskar: If the hon. Members do not speak, it will be quite audible.

During the last general elections the Government found on careful consideration, that it would not have been possible to provide such facilities without rousing criticism of unfairness and partiality from one group or the other.