

Shri G. H. Deshpande (Nasik—Central): Can any hon. Member of the House behave in a way in which the Communist Members have behaved just now? And they want the privileges of the Members of the House to be defended! Is this the way that they expect others to defend the privileges of the House?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Yes. I really am exceedingly sorry at this. Ultimately the ruling of the Chair must be obeyed. If this is the temper that is exhibited, I would take very serious notice of the conduct of the Members.

I excuse them because they are in temper over the loss of a house.

Several Hon. Members: No, no.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: This is regrettable. This cannot be condemned in too severe terms. So far as their conduct is concerned and the aspersions on the Chair and the manner in which they have behaved here, I am sure that if they do the same on coming back tomorrow, I will take very serious notice of it.

Shri N. M. Lingam (Coimbatore): This is not the first time, Sir. They behave like this.

SUSPENSION OF THE CONSTITUTION IN PEPSU.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: so far as the other adjournment motion relating to suspension of the Constitution in PEPSU is concerned, I learn that Dr. Katju, the hon. Minister for Home Affairs and States is laying a copy of the Proclamation on the Table and to give effect to the Proclamation some Resolution will have to be passed by this House. All matters relevant thereto may be discussed at length on that Resolution.

Sardar Hukam Singh (Kapurthala-Bhatinda): When will that opportunity come, Sir, when we can discuss it?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Very early.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

PROCLAMATION *re.* PEPSU

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): In pursuance of clause (3) of article 356 of the Constitution, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Proclamation issued by the

President on the 4th March, 1953, under clause (1) of article 356 of the Constitution assuming to himself all functions of the Government of Patiala and East Punjab States Union.

I also lay on the Table a copy of the Order made by the President under sub-clause (1) of clause (c) of the said Proclamation. [Placed in Library.] See No. S-11/53.]

May I, with your permission, Sir, read a short statement? Conditions in Patiala and East Punjab States Union have been extremely unstable since the general elections. No political party emerged with a stable majority; the Congress Party was the largest single group with a membership of 26 in a House of 60 and its leader, Col. Raghbir Singh formed a Ministry on the 19th March 1952. In April about the time of the meeting of the Legislative Assembly there were some defections from the Congress ranks. Thereupon Col. Raghbir Singh resigned and Sardar Gyan Singh Kurewala formed a Ministry on the 22nd April 1952.

Ever since then, political activity in Patiala and East Punjab States Union has been confined to manoeuvring for position by each party by securing adherents from the opposite camp. After the budget meeting, that is from the beginning of May up to date, the Assembly has not remained in session for more than seven days altogether. This is because with the shifting allegiance of members, the Legislature could not settle down to serious business. The second session of the Assembly was summoned for the 19th November 1952 just before the expiration of the statutory period of six months under Article 174 of the Constitution. It was scheduled to last ten days, but was abruptly adjourned on the 23rd November 1952 at the request of the Leader of the House conveyed privately to the Speaker by a short note. The adjourned session was summoned by the Speaker without consultation with the Leader on the 22nd December. On the eve of the meeting two members of the opposition crossed over and were sworn in as Minister and Deputy Minister and a 'no confidence' motion against the Government was rejected. Thereupon the House was adjourned after that day's meeting. It was subsequently prorogued without transacting any business on the agenda. Very little legislative business has been transacted throughout the year, even though important legislation has been pending for some time and demanded attention.

This state of political uncertainty has been heightened by recent decisions of the Election Tribunals. Election petitions were filed against no less than 31 members in a House of 60. Petitions against 14 have been decided and against 17 are still pending. The election of 9 members has been set aside and they have been unseated. These include 3 Ministers of whom the Chief Minister is one. One Minister has been disqualified for six years. As the Council of Ministers consists of 8 including the Chief Minister, half of the Council is gone, and an election petition against a fourth Minister is pending.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): It has been decided against him.

Dr. Katju: It is quite obvious that the number of vacancies will be very large, and these bye-elections will be in the nature of a miniature general election. Having regard to the existing conditions in the State, it is of paramount importance that elections should be held in a tranquil and free atmosphere unaffected by any objectionable pressure of any kind.

This political instability in the State Legislature has produced most harmful results in administration. Law and order position had never been satisfactory in this State and it has considerably deteriorated still further. As the Ministry itself has consisted of elements holding divergent opinions, on the one hand agrarian reforms have been held up, on the other in many areas parallel administrative authority has been established and is said to override the State authority. The whole executive administration has become weak. The effect on the morale of the Civil Services need not be emphasised. The State stands in need, along with other parts of India, of efficient administration for the furtherance of development plans, and under the present conditions such efficient administration is totally lacking, and indeed, impossible. It is therefore absolutely necessary that sound administrative conditions should be restored and the people of the State should be given an early opportunity to elect representatives of their own choice in a free and impartial manner.

The Chief Minister has tendered the resignation of himself and his colleagues to the Rajpramukh. The President has also received a report from the Rajpramukh under Article 356 of

the Constitution. On a full consideration of this report and of other information received by him, the President is satisfied that a situation has arisen in which the Government of the State cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and he has decided to take it over under his control. The Rajpramukh has been directed to accept the resignation of the Ministry. The administration will be carried on under the general supervision, direction and control of the President by the Rajpramukh with the advice of an Adviser appointed by the President. A Proclamation giving effect to this arrangement has issued today. A resolution asking for the approval of the House will be moved at a very early date.

Sardar Hukam Singh (Kapurthala-Bhatinda): The party in power still commanded the majority. Therefore I wanted to know whether it was coming on a definite date. There is no reason if it is coming belated or after some time why the Adjournment Motion should be ruled out.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It will be coming very soon. A day will be fixed as early as possible. That is the intention of the Government.

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Minister of Law and Minority Affairs (Shri C. C. Biswas): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1950 and the Representation of the People Act, 1951, and to make certain consequential amendments in the Government of Part C States Act, 1951.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1950, and the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and to make certain consequential amendments in the Government of Part C States Act, 1951."

The motion was adopted.

Shri C. C. Biswas: I introduce the Bill.