

And then my experience as Deputy Speaker is only for one year. Therefore, I feel that the House is even today taking a risk. My diffidence becomes greater when I recall to my mind the names of those predecessors of mine who have occupied this office before me. I wonder how great they were and how small I am. And when I think particularly of you who has occupied this chair for 8 long years the contrast becomes more marked and conspicuous. But I have this consolation that you would be there to guide and inspire me in this responsible task. I might take this opportunity of thanking you, Sir, for the inspiration and guidance that I have been getting during the last 12 months.

Sir, I am taking up this responsibility with confidence, not because I assume that I am equipped with any qualities required to fill this office, but because I have full faith in the generosity and large-heartedness of the members of this House as also in their keen anxiety to assist in the successful working of democracy and to uphold the noble traditions of this august House. From what I have seen of the hon. Members during the last 5 days I feel convinced that every one in this House has come with a burning desire to serve his countrymen and to help promote our parliamentary system. When I look back to the past year my confidence increases all the more as I recollect that I received full co-operation and assistance from all quarters of the House. I cannot remember of a single moment when I had to complain, though there may have been many occasions when I must have erred in my judgment. I was tolerated even then. I am obliged for that generosity and crave similar indulgence from the Members in future.

As for my conduct, if words can give any assurance, I do assure all sections here that I would try to dis-

charge my duties with impartiality and evenhanded justice. Whenever I falter, and that I must sometimes, I appeal to the Members, that this may not be construed as due to any lack of effort on my part to be fair, but only due to my human failings over which I may not have any control. If this indulgence is guaranteed to me, then I can assure the House that we will be proceeding with enthusiasm to maintain the dignity of this House and to serve the motherland for which we have recently taken our pledge. I thank the House again.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES (AMENDMENT) BILL*

The Minister of Labour and Employment and Planning (Shri Nanda): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947".

The motion was adopted.

Shri Nanda: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

STATEMENT RE INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE

Shri Nanda: I lay on the Table a copy of the explanatory statement giving reasons for immediate legislation by the Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Ordinance, 1957, as required under Rule 71(1) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business.

Statement

In a judgement delivered on the 27th November, 1956 the Supreme Court held that no retrenchment com-

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[Shri Nanda]

pensation was payable under section 25F of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, to workmen whose services were terminated by an employer on a real and *bonafide* closure of business, or when termination occurred as a result of transfer of ownership from one employer to another. Since then a number of undertakings particularly in Ahmedabad, Kanpur and West Bengal closed down or put up notices of closure for one reason or another rendering unemployed large number of workmen without any compensation. Government considered that emergent steps were necessary to meet the situation that had arisen which was causing serious hardship to workers. Government, therefore, promulgated an Ordinance on the 27th April, 1957, providing that retrenchment compensation will be payable in *bona fide* closure or transfer of an undertaking in certain circumstances. It took effect from the 1st December, 1956.

MOTION ON ADDRESS BY THE
PRESIDENT—*contd.*

Mr. Speaker: The House will now proceed with the further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri M. Thirumala Rao and seconded by Shri Mathura Prasad Mishra on the 14th May, 1957, namely:—

"That the Members of Lok Sabha assembled in this session are deeply grateful to the President for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to both the Houses of Parliament assembled together on the 13th May, 1957."

Shri A. K. Gopalan (Kasergod): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you know that there are many Members who want to speak. I would like to know if the time can be extended by another two hours and after that there may be the Private Members Business, which is also there. I say this because this is the first time when so many new

Members would like to speak something.

Shri Frank Anthony (Nominated Anglo-Indians): There is also another matter. Yesterday the Prime Minister was speaking. I do not know whether it would constitute a point of order or whether it is a matter to be settled with you privately. It is strictly a limited subject whether we should have some convention that whoever speaks in the House should not repeat his speech in different languages because the time of the House is being wasted. I am referring in this connection to the speech of the Prime Minister who spoke in two languages.

Mr. Speaker: The House can ask any hon. Member to go on repeating as it wants to. Yesterday the House wanted that the speech should be delivered in English also. It is open to any hon. Member to speak either in Hindi which is the official language or in English. So also when a question is answered in Hindi, hon. Members want translation of the answer and the answer is allowed to be given. It is a novel point that has been raised just now. At the request of the House the hon. Prime Minister gave his version or synopsis of his earlier speech in English. There is no point of order in this.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao (Khammam): It was a different speech altogether

Mr. Speaker: Both are the same.

In regard to the extension of time wanted by Shri Gopalan the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address is normally followed by two general discussions, one on the Railway Budget and the other on the General Budget. If hon. Members from various groups would kindly pass on to me the names of those hon. Members who would like to participate, I have the least objection to call them.