

[Mr. Speaker]

House to grant leave of absence to certain hon. Members. This is not an occasion for him to raise this matter. If he thinks that any hon. Member who, for political reasons, is confined to jail, let him pass a relevant Act and empower me to call him here. As it is, I am not empowered to call any person who is detained there.... (Interruption). I am not going to allow any more discussion on this.

Shri Tangamani: May I make a submission?

Mr. Speaker: I am not going to allow any submission because it does not arise out of this. Sardar Swaran Singh.

Shri Tangamani: May I make a submission?

Mr. Speaker: No. Everything cannot be relevant.... (Interruption).

Shri Tangamani: But without hearing me....

Mr. Speaker: I am not going to allow. It is irrelevant.

Shri Tangamani: Without hearing my submission how can you say that it is irrelevant?

Mr. Speaker: No.

STATEMENTS CORRECTING ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS NOS. 1643, 1650 AND 1608.

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (i) In reply to Supplementary to Starred Question No. 1643, it was stated by my Parliamentary Secretary that there are many other small Blast Furnaces in the country. At present, there are only two small furnaces in the country—one in Barbil and another in Coimbatore. These two small blast furnaces were sanctioned much earlier than the visit of the delegation

to China to study the working of small blast furnaces in that country.

(ii) In reply to Supplementaries to Starred Question No. 1650, it was stated by my Parliamentary Secretary that the capacity in this country for rolling products of the Blast Furnace in the Public Sector, is very meagre. It may be clarified that the products of the blast furnace are not directly rolled. The hot metal produced by the blast furnace has to be made into steel, cast into ingots and then converted to blooms|slabs|billets for rolling. Sufficient capacity exists in the Plants in the Public Sector now for production of blooms|slabs|billets. In Rourkela where slabs are made, the capacity for converting this semi-finished steel to finished steel is not yet ready.

It was also stated that the requirements of re-rollers working on one shift, for billets would be 1.7 million tons. The correct figure is about 700,000 tons a year.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour and Employment and Planning (Shri L. N. Mishra): In reply to supplementary question asked by Shri Braj Raj Singh on Starred Question No. 1608 in the Lok Sabha on 20th April, 1960 regarding re-constitution of the Education Panel of the Planning Commission, I stated as below:

“The names of the Members of Parliament who were nominated as members of the re-constituted Panel, were sent to the Planning Commission through the Department of Parliamentary Affairs, I believe.”

The exact position in this regard is:

The Members of Parliament were nominated by the Planning Commission on the basis of the fact that they were intimately associated with educational activities. By inadvertance, the Department of Parliamentary Affairs was not consulted earlier regarding the nomination of these Members. However, necessary action is

being taken to obtain the concurrence of the Department of Parliamentary Affairs.

Shri Braj Raj Singh (Ferozabad): Since I had asked that supplementary, may I seek a clarification? Whenever a Member of Parliament is nominated by Government on any committee, it is not the consent of the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs but it is your consent which is required to be taken.

Even the other day, I had raised this point. The Parliamentary Secretary is correcting the reply which he gave on that occasion, and he is just restating whatever I had said on that occasion.

The point is this. The consent of the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs does not mean anything. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is a wing of Government, and they say that the Planning Commission have nominated these members on the panel.

My point is that in order to ensure the impartiality of the Members, it is very necessary that whenever a Member of Parliament is nominated on any committee of the Government, your consent should be obtained, but in this case, your consent is still not being obtained.

Mr. Speaker: The only question here is this. The Parliamentary Secretary had made a statement. He finds that that statement is not correct, and therefore, he wants to correct that statement. That is all the scope of the statement that he has been allowed to make. Whether he ought to take permission from me or from some others does not arise out of this. That is an independent matter altogether.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: Can I ask a supplementary question?

Mr. Speaker: There is no question of any supplementary on this. It is

only a statement correcting the reply given on an earlier occasion.

Shri Vajpayee (Balrampur): It is arising out of the correction.

Mr. Speaker: It is correction of a reply to a supplementary question. Very well, the hon. Member can put a question.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: May I know why the consent of the Speaker is not obtained while nominating Members of the House on Government committees?

The Minister of Labour and Employment and Planning (Shri Nanda): I think the Planning Commission place themselves directly in touch with the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, and we expect that all the other things will be done properly by him.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: Is it not a fact that a practice has been developed, and so far as I could see, perhaps there is a law also, that whenever a Member of the House is nominated on any committee of the Government, the previous consent of the Speaker shall be obtained?

Shri Nanda: The hon. Member is talking of some law etc. I do not think so; at any rate, I do not know if any such law exists.

Mr. Speaker: Very well. That question does not arise out of this statement.

Whenever any particular statute makes a provision for nomination of Members by the Speaker here, the Speaker does so. There are some statutes as for instance in the case of the Tea Board, Coffee Board etc. where two or more Members are elected; and they are elected here. Otherwise, whenever Government appoint any particular committee of their own, it is left to them to choose whomsoever they like. Or, they may make a motion in the House as in the case of the Railway Convention Committee consisting of Members of Par-

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liament. Let us understand the various jurisdictions.

Now, Next item. Bills to be introduced.

12.35 hrs.

RE: CHINESE PRIME MINISTER'S PRESS CONFERENCE AT KHATMANDU

Shri Vajpayee (Balrampur): May I make a submission? May I submit that the discussion fixed at 3 P.M. will not serve its purpose unless we are provided with an authoritative version of the Chinese Prime Minister's Press Conference at Khatmandu yesterday. You can direct the Minister of External Affairs to provide the Members with an authoritative version. The Chinese Prime Minister has made a hostile accusation against our Prime Minister.

Shri Yadav Narain Jadhav (Malegaon): He has said that the statement of our Prime Minister was not friendly.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members are aware that if it is a letter written by the Chinese Prime Minister to our Prime Minister, I can ask him to place it on the Table of the House. The Chinese Prime Minister does not invite our Prime Minister for his Press Conference. Therefore, our Prime Minister cannot have first-hand knowledge of what happened....

Shri Vajpayee: Government would have got an authoritative version.

Mr. Speaker: ... Therefore, it is no good asking me to ask the hon. Prime Minister to place something to which he was not a party. Of course, during the course of the debate, the hon. Member can place his own version, and if there is a different version,

the hon. Prime Minister who replies¹ will make a statement.

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): The hon. Member is saying that we should supply an authoritative version of the press conference which was held by the Chinese Prime Minister at Khatmandu. How on earth can we do that?

Mr. Speaker: That was what I said.

Shri Vajpayee: Are we to understand that Government have not received any authoritative information regarding what the Chinese Prime Minister spoke at Khatmandu?

Mr. Speaker: It is one thing for Government to be alert and get information, but it is another thing to send it round as an authoritative version, because they are not parties to it.

12.37 hrs.

TAXATION LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL*

The Minister of Revenue and Civil Expenditure (Dr. B. Gopala Reddi): On behalf of Shri Morarji Desai, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922, the Wealth-tax Act, 1957, the Expenditure-tax Act, 1957, and the Gift-tax Act, 1958.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922, the Wealth-tax Act, 1957, the Expenditure-tax Act, 1957 and the Gift-tax Act, 1958."

The motion was adopted.