

12.08 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS (GENERAL), 1961-62—

Contd.

Mr. Speaker: The House will now proceed with the further discussion and voting on the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget (General) for 1961-62.

Shri A. C. Joshi to continue his speech,

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Shri A. C. Joshi): Yesterday when I stopped speaking, I was dealing with the production of children's films. I may take this opportunity of informing the hon. lady Member, Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri, that sufficient encouragement is also being given for the production of children's films, and that an award of Rs. 20,000 was given to Shri Shanta Ram, one of the producers of a children's film named *Phool aur kaliyan*.

Now I come to another point raised by Shri Tangamani with regard to the invitations issued to the different artistes for attending the function of State Awards. These invitations are issued to only the leading male and female artistes of the award-winning films. In *Deivappiravi* the leading male artiste Shri Sivaji Ganesan and the leading female artiste, Shrimati Padmini attended. The Director and Producer also attended. In the case of *Bhagapirivinai*, the entrant, Saravanā Films, had furnished the names of the following artistes in the order indicated below:

Shri V. C. Sivaji Ganesan,
Smt. B. Saroja Devi and
Shri M. R. Radha.

The Ministry extended two invitations to the first two only. Shri Sivaji Ganesan and Smt. Saroja Devi were invited and Shri M. R. Radha was left out. Although these individual invitations are sent out to only

a few artistes, yet the Producers or Directors are welcome to invite any other artistes, and bring them to attend the function. There is a general invitation to all artistes who would like to come. But the Ministry, as such, does not invite more than 2 in any award-winning film.

Mr. Speaker: Do they pay the travel charges?

Shri A. C. Joshi: We pay two first class fares to each individual we invite; but the rest of them who come at their own expense. The Ministry pays only for two persons. In addition, all Producers of award-winning films were and are being requested to ensure the presence of all leading artistes in the films award function.

With regard to the selection of artistes who are called to the film festivals it is left to the Directors or Producers to take such artistes as they choose. We have organised only one film festival outside India, in Indonesia, as a measure of export promotion. The artistes for this were selected by the Film Federation of India in consultation with the regional organisations, and in the case which is in the mind of Shri Tangamani, the South India Film Chamber of Commerce.

Now, about the two artistes to whom he has made special reference, Shri Gemini Ganesan and Shrimati Savitri Ganesan from Madras. He has taken objection because they happen to be husband and wife. He says they should not have been sent together. But my respectful submission is that Shri Tangamani himself has admitted that they are two prominent artistes and that they are leading personalities in the cinema world and they have been selected by the Film Federation of India. He has also objected to their selection on the ground that they are husband and wife. But it is the Indian way that the wife should travel with her husband instead of travelling with others' husbands.

She travelled with her own husband; it is good.

Shri Tangamani (Madurai): If the film in which they were acting were being exhibited I should have no objection to these people going. But it has appeared in the papers that it would have been enough if only one of them had been sent; and they have mentioned the names of other artistes like Shri Ramachandran and Shri Rajendran.

Shri A. C. Joshi: The Films Federation suggested the names and we accepted them.

Mr. Speaker: Even teachers, husband and wife, are posted to the same place. (*Interruptions*).

Shri A. C. Joshi: Shri Assar has raised a point.

Mr. Speaker: Every one of these points need not be answered.

Shri A. C. Joshi: I will just deal with one or two points. He has said that several of the films which, in his opinion, are very good did not get the awards. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has set up a certain machinery for the selection of pictures for giving the awards. This machinery consists of Regional Committees and a Central Committee. They select the pictures which, in their opinion, deserve awards; and they get the awards from the Ministry.

Mr. Speaker: I think what he meant was that it should be on an all-India basis. Why should the top awards go to only one language?

Shri A. C. Joshi: We give regional awards also, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: What he means is that the selection should be on an all-India basis. Why should Bengali alone be selected; why not Madras films? What he seems to suggest is that when there is acting, and so many other things, why should all of them go to Bengali only.

Shri A. C. Joshi: That is not true, Sir.

Shri Achaw Singh has complained that the production of films on education is very much less, as also that of documentary films. Documentary films are already being made to the full capacity. It has to be remembered that Government have only one film unit in Bombay for making such films. Co-operation already exists between the State Governments and the Central Government in this respect. When the programme for the year is prepared, the States are consulted and they are invited to make suggestions for the production programme of the Films Division of the Ministry.

This is all I have to say.

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Raghuramalah): Sir, speaking on Demand No. 12 Shri Goray said yesterday that we are making an invidious distinction between those belonging to the ex-State Forces and those belonging to the Indian Army. I would like to say that it is not correct. In fact, that remark does not arise out of the case dealt with in the Demand. This is the case of an officer Lieut. Gurdev Singh, who was an Emergency Commission Officer in the P.E.P.S.U. Forces before integration. He was on the reserve and on integration he was released. And the question is what is the pension payable to him under the PEPSU rules. The Government of India have interpreted them in one way and he claimed it in another way. In any case, I would not like to go into the merits of this case because the matter is still *sub judice*. His suit in the lower court had been dismissed; but the High Court decreed it in his favour; and now we have been advised by the Law Officers of Government to file a petition for leave to appeal to the Supreme Court which we have done. So long as that is pending I would not like to make any further comment on it.

[Shri Raghuramaiah]

My hon. friend Shri Banerjee has raised a general issue that the pension rates in the Armed Forces are not satisfactory.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): We have got a statement in reply to a question; in fact we have got that information since.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member does not want the reply now.

Shri Raghuramaiah: Then I have nothing more to say.

Shri Goray (Poona): Though this particular individual did not belong to the Forces to which I alluded, would the hon. Minister say something about the pensions that are given to them? I mean the Armed Personnel that came and joined our Army after the merger of the States in Madhya Bharat. They have a complaint.

Shri Raghuramaiah: This is, however, a different matter that does not arise out of Demand No. 12. No doubt it will be dealt with suitably if the hon. Member gives notice of it.

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): Sir, my friend from Maharashtra, Shri Bharucha, criticised the scheme of movement of coal by sea. It is surprising, coming as he does from a State like Maharashtra which is likely to get substantial benefits out of it, he should raise any objection to this. Under this scheme coal would be moved to the States in the South, to Maharashtra and to Gujarat coastal States. As the cost of movement by sea is a little higher than by rail it was considered appropriate that the burden should not fall on the consumer industries in those States and Parliament approved a legislative measure in which it was made clear that an additional cess was going to be imposed in order to subsidise the movement by sea. I want

to clarify one point. When we move coal by railway to distant places, there is already an element of subsidy for movement of coal over long distances and the railways are actually losing because they are not being reimbursed even to the extent of the expenditure incurred by them. These are matters of deliberate policy which have been followed from time to time in the interest of serving those areas which happen to be situated at points which are far removed from the production centres.

He made another suggestion that in the railways there are certain bottlenecks and it should be explored as to whether temporary movement could not take place over these bottlenecks by trucks. That is not as simple as it appears to be at first sight. That will involve triple-handling—unloading at one point, movement and loading at another point. That is not at all practical.

Shri Tangamani in his remarks about coal mentioned about the desirability of developing Singareni colliery. I have made it clear that our policy is that as much coal should be raised from that area as we can and that is why there is a massive expansion scheme of raising more coal from Singareni in the course of the Third Plan. He also made a suggestion that dumps might be created at four centres in the State of Madras. That is a good suggestion. He himself gave the answer, when he said that movement of coal these days is not enough even to move the railways and certain goods trains had to be cancelled. So, we cannot create dumps. We cannot create stores when our transport system is so strained that we are not able to move enough of coal even to meet current requirements. But the suggestion is good and when the transport position becomes easier or when there is any slack period in the matter of movement, certainly this suggestion could be considered. There is no objection to this in principle but the sole question is whether it is practical or not.

Another question was put and I was asked to give him some information as to how much coal has been moved since May by sea. I have got some figures here. From the 1st of May to 15th of August, about 4.25 lakh tons have moved by ship. More should be moved and I think that when the arrangements get going, we will be able to move larger quantities of coal by sea. These are the only points that I wanted to make.

Shri Braj Raj Singh (Firozabad): This means only one lakh ton per month.

Sardar Swaran Singh: Our ultimate objective is to move about two million tons—about 1.6 lakh tons per month. The current figure of movement will go up.

Shri A. C. Guha (Barasat): What was the quantity of coal carried by ship before?

Sardar Swaran Singh: It was comparatively less. But some States were complaining that they were asked to share a great burden on account of movement by ship because they had to pay a higher price for it.

Shri Tangamani: In the note that was circulated to us, it is said that 1.7 million tons would be transported during 1961. Will we be able to complete that target? How far will Cuddalore, as a receiving port, be able to meet the situation?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I know his interest in Cuddalore but the Transport Ministry can really answer about the arrangements that they propose to have physically on the spot and about the improvement of that port.

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): Sir, yesterday, some observations were made by my hon. friend, Shri Goray and also by Shri Bharucha which require notice by us. Shri Goray left the impression on me that he was per-

haps doubtful about the policy that was being pursued by us with regard to the development of oil industry in our country. He compared the speed of work with the Assam Oil Company and thought that our work was slow. I wish to state that it is not like that, I would like to place some facts for his consideration. The Assam Oil Company drilled their first well in Assam in 1954; it took about 14 months for them to complete their first well. The Oil and Natural Gas Commission drilled their first well in September, 1957 and took about 92 days to finish their first well. Since then, that is in about 3½ years time, the Commission had completed in the entire Gujarat region about 32 wells. They first started with one rig; in the second year they brought another rig and only in the third year they had about 7 or 8 rigs functioning in Cambay and Ankleswar. The rate of acceleration of our work has been terrific. This is much more than what has been exhibited by the Assam Oil Company because, in the six years the total number of wells drilled by the Assam Oil Company had been about 105 and most of these wells were completed in the latter part of this period—the three years, 1958, 1959 and 1960. In the first three years their performance was not as satisfactory as was made out by Shri Goray yesterday. I want to assure the House that the experience and the knowledge that the Commission is now gaining is indicative of the fact that our rate of acceleration of work has been very high. By the end of the Third Plan period undoubtedly the requirement of oil will be something like what was indicated by Shri Goray and indicated by Shri Maitre: it will be of the order of about 13-14 million tons and our production of crude oil by that time should be somewhere near 8-9 million tons. Therefore, we hope to be well nigh self-sufficient some time in the early part of the fourth Plan. But consumption also is going up rather highly. There is no other alternative for us in order to catch

[Shri K. D. Malaviya]

up to the consumption except to do as we are doing today. The ability of the ONGC to handle the work that faces us is increasing and I have no doubt that the policy that we are pursuing will enable us to produce the amount of oil that we require in a satisfactory manner.

In the short time that is available to me, it is not possible for me to deal with all those perspective ideas that will go to satisfy my hon. friend with regard to the production and self-sufficiency of oil in our country in the next 5-10 years' time but I can only say that the Government is very much alive to the future needs of the country and we hope that we shall be able to satisfy the country with regard to its needs for oil.

With regard to Shri Bharucha's point, it is a fact that we have entered into a 50:50 partnership with the Burma Oil Company. It is a new arrangement that is being experimented and the pattern of details that are likely to result after consultations have still to be seen. But the broad outline is as follows: in accordance with the agreement recently arrived at between the Burmah Oil Company and ourselves, the strength of the board of directors will be six to eight and both the Government of India and the BOC will have equal number of directors on this board. The chairman of the board of directors will be nominated in alternate years by the Government of India and the Burmah Oil Company. It has been agreed that the first chairman will be that of the Government of India. The House might be aware of the fact that we have already suggested the name of a Member of the Rajya Saba, Shri Khandubal Desai, and he is going to be our first chairman. The managing director of Oil India will be appointed by the Government of India and the Burmah Oil Company in consultation with, and together, from a panel to be submitted by the BOC to the Government of India. That is

the arrangement for the appointment of the first managing director.

Shri Ranga (Tenali): Has not Government given up the practice of appointing Members of Parliament as chairmen of these management committees?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: No. We have made exemptions for such projects, and these exemptions are to be specified.

Shri Ranga: So, the process of distribution of largesses is continuing.

Shri K. D. Malaviya: The hon. Member is entitled to have his opinion with which I wholly differ. Similarly, a financial director will be selected by the Government of India and the BOC, in consultation with and together, from a panel to be submitted to the Government of India. You will thus see that there will be a finance member, a whole-time finance member, in this board of directors who will control and regulate the expenditure of the company. He will be wholly responsible to the board of directors. Similarly, there will be a managing director who will be wholly responsible to the board of directors and he will be appointed by the Government of India out of a panel which will be produced by the Burmah Oil Company. That will be for the first term. As to what will happen in the second term is still to be considered. I can only say that this is entirely a new arrangement in the oil world. Thus, a private sector oil company has agreed to come in this form of partnership and join hands with the Government of India, on a 50-50 basis, and has agreed to a pattern which, according to us, should work well. The chairman will be ours. The finance member will be from the Government of India and the managing director will be theirs. This will go on for some time, when perhaps, after mutual

consultation, this will be alternated by the representatives of the other party. These are the two points which were relevant to the discussion yesterday, and I hope I have answered those points satisfactorily.

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): Mr. Speaker, Sir, since a number of my colleagues have intervened in this debate and answered all the relevant points raised, there is nothing much for me to say except on two or three points which still remain unanswered, and it is my duty to reply to them briefly. Therefore, I will not take much time of the House.

I first take up the point raised by Shri A. C. Guha about the calculation of Rs. 4 crores as the annual income from the increased levy of excise duty on coal. He asked how this amount was calculated. It is known that the duty has been increased from 88 nP. per ton to Rs. 1.68 per ton, that is, by 80 nP. per ton, in respect of coal and soft coke, and by Rs. 1.20 per ton on hard coke. The production of hard coke is negligible. The total quantity of coal and soft coke despatched annually is estimated at 50 million tons which, at the rate of 88 nP. per ton, would give an annual additional revenue of Rs. 4 crores.

Shri A. C. Guha: This is on the present raising of coal, but every year it will go up.

Shri B. R. Bhagat: We cannot calculate that. On the present raising, we have calculated Rs. 4 crores, and that is simple arithmetic.

Another point was about our going in appeal to the Supreme Court in regard to the enhanced compensation that was granted by the tribunal. The hon. Member, Shri Bai Raj Madhok, said that this is misuse of Government money. I am surprised at that remark. The pay compensation which was originally fixed was Rs. 14 per sq. yd. Later on,

some landlords went to the tribunal which fixed it at Rs. 5, which was more than five times, and on the advice of the Ministry of Law,—the Finance Ministry, the Ministry concerned, that is, the Ministry of Rehabilitation, the Improvement Trust, the local Delhi Administration, all agreed that the price was not only high but rather very high—we went to the Court. The matter is at present with the Court. So, it is just to save the interest of the Government that we have gone to the court. Perhaps, owing to political reasons or some other reasons, the hon. Member said that this was misuse of Government money, to go to the court. We went to the court because, from all accounts, we considered that the compensation was very exorbitant.

There is the other point about the *ad hoc* grant paid to the Governments of Gujarat and Punjab in regard to the taking over of the subsidiary banks, namely, the State Bank of Patiala and the State Bank of Saurashtra. Shrimati Ila Polchoudhuri asked how this was an *ad hoc* grant and said that it was just a simple grant. I may point out that it does not form part of any routine grant. It has been considered on a special basis, and I shall explain how it was on a special basis that this payment was made. As provided in the Act passed by this Parliament, under the first Schedule of the Subsidiary Banks Act, 1959, read with section 14, the compensation which was determined was the excess realisable in the value of the assets of the bank over the total amount of liabilities. This was the compensation determined by the Act passed by this Parliament and the compensation was given. But then the State Governments of Gujarat and Punjab pointed out that in fixing this compensation we have not taken into account the annual profits made by these two banks. On looking into the accounts, we saw that they were taking credit for the profit in their yearly budgets and

[Shri B. R. Bhagat]

their ways and means position was affected and their finances were to be significantly affected. So, on the one hand, the point raised by them, namely, that these should be taken into account, was very pertinent. On the other hand, as the Act stood, we could not make any discrimination in respect of these two publicly owned undertakings—the State Banks of Saurashtra and Patiala—and fix compensation on a higher basis when we do not apply the same terms in respect of other institutions. So, there were legal and other reasons which prevented us from giving them a higher compensation. Therefore, we decided to make an *ad hoc* grant to these Governments.

It was asked whether this grant will be a recurring grant. No. It is given once for all; it is a non-recurring *ad hoc* payment that was made.

Shri A. C. Guha: Is it something in excess of what the Act has permitted to the State Bank?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: Yes; then, it was asked what the actual amount is. The amount of compensation paid by the State Bank of Gujarat in respect of the State Bank of Saurashtra, is Rs. 1,65,62,500. The non-recurring grant paid by the Central Government in excess of this is Rs. 1,34,37,500. This was determined on the basis of the last three years' actual profits which accrued to them. Similarly, in the case of Punjab, the compensation paid was Rs. 70,19,200. The non-recurring grant paid by the Central Government is Rs. 22,80,800.

Shri A. C. Guha: As provided in the supplementary demands?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: Yes; that in the *ad hoc* payment—Rs. 22,80,800.

With these words, I submit that the supplementary demands may be accepted by the House.

Mr. Speaker: Yesterday certain cut motions were moved by Shri Bharucha, Shri Tangamani and Shri L. Achaw Singh while speaking on

the Demands for Supplementary Grants. On the 28th August, Shri Panigrahi and Shri P. R. Assar had sent in slips to the Table indicating the cut motions which they wished to move. Their cut motions are:—

Shri Panigrahi—Cut Motion Nos. 4 and 10.

Shri P. R. Assar—Cut Motion Nos. 2, 3, 7, 11, 14, 15, 19 and 20.

Hon. Members may move the cut motions subject to their being otherwise admissible.

Payment of additional subsidies to Sikkim and Bhutan for financing their Plans.

Shri Panigrahi: I beg to move:

"That the demand for a Supplementary Grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,56,15,000 in respect of 'External Affairs' be reduced by Rs. 100." (4).

Payment of subsidy to the sugar industry for meeting the loss on export of sugar.

Shri Panigrahi: I beg to move:

"That the demand for a Supplementary Grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,50,00,000 in respect of 'Miscellaneous Departments and other Expenditure under the Ministry of Food and Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100." (10).

Failure of our Embassies and Missions to propagate effectively India's stand about Kashmir and China's aggression.

Shri Assar: I beg to move:

"That the demand for a Supplementary Grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,56,15,000 in respect of 'External Affairs' be reduced by Rs. 100." (2).

Need for curtailment in the expenditure of our Embassies and Missions abroad.

Shri Assar: I beg to move:

"That the demand for a Supplementary Grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,56,15,000 in respect of 'External Affairs' be reduced by Rs. 100." (3).

Policy of the Government towards small banks

Shri Assar: I beg to move:

"That the demand for a Supplementary Grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 in respect of 'Grants-in-Aid to States' be reduced by Rs. 100." (7).

Failure to minimise the cost of production of sugar

Shri Assar: I beg to move:

"That the demand for a Supplementary Grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,50,00,000 in respect of 'Miscellaneous Departments and other Expenditure under the Ministry of Food and Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100." (11).

Defect in selection of the films for awards.

Shri Assar: I beg to move:

"That the demand for a Supplementary Grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 75,000 in respect of 'Ministry of Information and Broadcasting' be reduced by Rs. 100." (14).

Failure to keep proper check on the production of the films which demoralise the character of our young generation.

Shri Assar: I beg to move:

"That the demand for a Supplementary Grant of a sum not

exceeding Rs. 75,000 in respect of 'Ministry of Information and Broadcasting' be reduced by Rs. 100." (15).

Failure of the Commission to submit their report in time

Shri Assar: I beg to move:

"That the demand for a Supplementary Grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,01,000 in respect of 'Miscellaneous Expenditure under the Ministry of Law' be reduced by Rs. 100." (19).

Terms of reference of the Commission in view of the National Integration.

Shri Assar: I beg to move:

"That the demand for a Supplementary Grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,01,000 in respect of 'Miscellaneous Expenditure under the Ministry of Law' be reduced by Rs. 100." (20).

Mr. Speaker: Shall I put all the cut motions to the House?

Shri Tangamani (Madurai): My cut motion No. 9 relating to failure to control of cost of production of sugar may be put separately?

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the demand for a Supplementary Grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,50,00,000 in respect of 'Miscellaneous Departments and other Expenditure under the Ministry of Food and Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100. Failure to control cost of production of sugar". (9).

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Speaker: I shall now put all the other cut motions to the House.

The cut motions were put and negatived.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

DEMAND No. 34—GRANTS-IN-AID TO STATES

"That the respective Supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the order paper be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st day of March, 1962, in respect of the following demands entered in the second column thereof—

Demands Nos. 18, 32, 34, 42, 61, 73, 85 and 132."

The motion was adopted.

[The motions for Demands for Supplementary Grants which were adopted by the Lok Sabha are reproduced below—Ed.]

DEMAND No. 18—EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,56,15,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1962 in respect of 'External Affairs.'

DEMAND No. 32—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS AND OTHER EXPENDITURE UNDER THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE.

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1962 in respect of 'Miscellaneous Departments and other Expenditure under the Ministry of Finance.'

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1962 in respect of 'Grants-in-aid to States'.

DEMAND No. 42—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS AND OTHER EXPENDITURE UNDER THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 5,50,00,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1962 in respect of 'Miscellaneous Departments and other Expenditure under the Ministry of Food and Agriculture'.

DEMAND No. 61—MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 75,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1962 in respect of 'Ministry of Information and Broadcasting'.

DEMAND No. 73—MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURE UNDER THE MINISTRY OF LAW.

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,01,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1962 in respect of 'Miscellaneous Expenditure under the Ministry of Law'.

DEMAND No. 85—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS AND OTHER EXPENDITURE UNDER THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND FUEL.

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,75,00,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1962 in respect of 'Miscellaneous Departments and other Expenditure under the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel'.

DEMAND No. 132—CAPITAL OUTLAY OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND FUEL.

That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 4,58,00,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1962 in respect of 'Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel'.

12.42 hrs.

INDIAN PENAL CODE (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code, be taken into consideration."

This is a short matter and I presume it is perfectly non-contentious also. The object of this Bill is to amend Section 153A and also to effect minor amendments in sections 295A and 505.

The object of this Bill has been clearly mentioned in the Statement of Objects and Reasons. Those who are aware of the unfortunate happenings during last year or so are aware

that in India there are certain forces which are not only antinational, but also which provoke certain feelings of hatred. They go to the extent of creating want of harmony between people and people either on the ground of race, language or religion or similar other fissiparous tendencies. The country has suffered to a large extent on such writings, speeches and actions as well. It is, therefore, necessary that some steps should be taken—positive and constructive steps—for achieving what is known as national integration, the integration of the nation in the fullest sense of the term, in spite of all disturbing tendencies to the contrary.

In this connection, as you are aware, the Congress appointed a National Integration Committee some months ago. Their report is before the public. The report was fully considered by Chief Ministers of the various States. The National Integration Committee made a recommendation that section 153A of the IPC should be suitably amended and effectively enforced. The Chief Ministers met twice in Delhi and considered the matter not only so far as these sections are concerned, but they approached the problem from all points of view bearing on national integration. Integration has to be brought about and disintegration has to be stopped by taking a number of positive or constructive steps. In addition to that, as the House is aware, there are certain anti-national and anti-social forces. So, something has got to be done to prevent them from doing all these things. So, the question arose as to whether any amendments in the penal law of the land was essential. The question was also considered by the Chief Ministers and they said:

"Such tendencies ought to be fully curbed with a firm hand"

They suggested amendments in two Acts. The Bill to amend the IPC is before the House now. They suggested amendments to the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Representation