

12.5½ hrs.

[English]

**Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Castes
and Scheduled Tribes**

SHRI K. PRADHANI (Nowrangpur) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by Sub-rule (1) of Rule 331B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, twenty Members from among themselves to serve as Members of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the term beginning on the 1st May, 1997 and ending on the 30th April, 1988."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by Sub-rule (1) of Rule 331B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, twenty Members from among themselves to serve as Members of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the term beginning on the 1st May, 1997 and ending on the 30th April, 1988."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI K. PRADHANI : Sir, I beg to move :

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate ten Members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 1997 and ending on the 30th April, 1998 and do communicate to this House the names of the Members so nominated by Rajya Sabha".

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate ten Members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 1997 and ending on the 30th April, 1998 and do communicate to this House the names of the Members so nominated by Rajya Sabha".

The motion was adopted.

12.07 hrs.

[English]

Rehabilitation Council of India

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That in pursuance of Sections 3(3)(h) and 4(1) of the Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two Members from among themselves, to serve as Members of the Rehabilitation Council of India, subject to other provisions of the said Act."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That in pursuance of Sections 3(3)(h) and 4(1) of the Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves, to serve as Members of the Rehabilitation Council of India, subject to other provisions of the said Act."

The motion was adopted.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, before the Bofors issue is taken up, I would like to raise a very important and urgent matter. Thousands of textile workers of National Textiles Corporation and of IDPL, from all over the country have come to Delhi. They are demanding revival and modernisation of the National Textiles Corporation. Two months ago, there was a meeting with the Hon'ble Prime Minister. He has also agreed for the revival of the National Textiles Corporation and there was an agreement. Shri Venkat Swamy who was the former Textiles Minister is also present here. He took the initiative and there was an agreement among the Government, the Unions and the Management, for the revival and modernisation of the National Textiles Corporation. There were some conditions, but till now nothing has been done. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : Sir, the package of the earlier Government pertaining to the NTC should be implemented by the Prime Minister. There is a clear-cut

decision about how to revive it. Why does the present Government delay the implementation ? There are three textile mills in my Constituency itself. The Prime Minister must implement the package of the earlier Government.

..(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I think, you have made your point.

..(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, the workers are in Delhi; they are not taking their salaries for the last few months. . . .(Interruptions) I request the hon. Prime Minister to respond to this. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Sir, you know about the NTC mills, You were the Labour Minister and you know about it. The Prime Minister must implement the package of the earlier Government. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, you were the Labour Minister and you also took some initiatives in this regard. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): An announcement was made in this House in respect of NTC (Interruptions) Hon'ble Prime Minister is sitting here... (Interruptions) NTC Unions from all over the country had reached here to stage a demonstration.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : You also took initiative to save the National Textile Corporation. Prime Minister is here. We request the Prime Minister to respond to this matter.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Purnea): In Bihar ten thousand youth siting on *Dharna* in support of their demand, were beaten mercilessly and put behind the bar. They were beaten with cane and rifle butts. On the one hand the Government says. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I am speaking about NTC. You may kindly raise this issue later.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government have not issued any order to fulfil their demands(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : The Prime Minister is here. He may say whether the Government will implement

the pckage agreement which is there between the Government and the management.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : They were lathi charged on the order of the collector and S.P. Those youth have been raising their demands for the last twenty years. There is no body to listen their voice but there are so many to supress their voice. This is a serious matter(Interruptions) They were lathi charged(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : You may speak after me. I am speaking about NTC. . . .(Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, an amount of Rs. 50 crores was sanctioned for modernisation of NTC Mills but so far no action has been taken thereon. We want a statement in this regard from the Government. There are NTC Mills in Rajasthan where workers are being retrenched. No modernisation work is being undertaken.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : The Prime Minister is here. Let the Prime Minister respond to this matter(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS (Idukki) : Sir, I want to raise an important matter about Kerala. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. Do you want answer or not?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Mehta, please sit down. We are on that point. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : As you said, I am quite aware of the issue. Mr. Venkat Swamy is very much present here. When he was the Textiles Minister, I was the Labour Minister. I know of the unanimous agreement of all the trade Union leaders. I do not know about the progress of that agreement. I will enquire from the Textile Ministry and let all the Members know about it.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am asking Mr. Venkat Swamy who knows the subject.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY (Peddapalli) : A Cabinet decision was taken one month back on this issue but the

Government is not implementing it. The Government is not taking it up. I had taken up the issue with the Prime Minister, the Minister of Textiles and the Secretary concerned. They do not have guts to implement it. They have got a plain mind.

MR. SPEAKER : Pappu Yadavji, you may please sit down. You have made your submission and that has been recorded. This is your Government, not mine, you may please take it from the Government. Dr. Girija Vyas.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You have already spoken. It has been recorded. You cannot speak twice on the same subject.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Let the Prime Minister answer.

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot expect the Prime Minister to answer all these kinds of things.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Textile Minister is not present here. Whenever he comes, a proper statement will be made on this subject. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No, no; nothing more.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Minister has agreed. I have now called Dr. Girija Vyas.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. GIRIJA VYAS (Udaipur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw your attention. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have told the Minister, you may pursue it. I have told Shri Paswanji. Now it is enough. You may please sit down.

(Interruptions)

DR. GIRIJA VYAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, kindly ask the Prime Minister to remain here.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Do not worry about that. You make your own statement.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) saw the Prime Minister leaving. We do not know what transpired in the Chamber. Yesterday, when we wanted to raise the Bofors issue, you did say that the Prime Minister will be here for this important issue and we will raise the issue. What happens now?

MR. SPEAKER : On Friday, I promised about it. Yesterday, the Prime Minister requested me to postpone it because he was to go to Orissa. The Prime Minister is very keen. He had come here. He was here for some time.

He is going to receive the President of Turkmenistan. He has an official duty to perform. As soon as he is free, he will be back.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Does it mean or does it not mean that Bofors will be raised today ?

MR. SPEAKER : Bofors will be discussed today. We will start just now. I just wanted to give a hearing to the women M.Ps.

[Translation]

DR. GIRIJA VYAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw your attention towards a commitment. You had given an assurance to the woman inside and outside the House and even during the IPU meeting that an important Bill is being brought forward in this Parliament for providing reservation to the women and we were expecting that there would be some provision in the 10th BAC Report to introduce this Bill but after going through the BAC report we doubt the intentions of the Government and BAC members in this regard. I, through you, want to know as to what would be the fate of the women Reservation Bill? We want assurance from you in this regard and appeal that, at least, in the next BAC report this item must be included in the agenda. Today, women from all over the world are looking for this bill. Not only women, but men are also looking towards it.

MR. SPEAKER : This question can be answered by the Government right now. Mr. Jena, Do you have something to say in this regard?

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : Sir, it is a unanimous request from *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please, we have had enough now.

(Interruptions)