

area. I would, therefore, request the hon. Minister that Chhapra Mail should be extended upto Agra and a two-minute halt should be given at Morena station.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now we shall take up the next item—Statutory Resolution. Shri Buta Singh.

12.17 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION
RE : APPROVAL OF MINISTERS'
(ALLOWANCES, MEDICAL TREAT-
MENT AND OTHER PRIVILEGES)
AMENDMENT RULES, 1987.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (S. BUTA SINGH) Mr. Chairman, Sir, with your permission I beg to move that :

“This House approves the draft Ministers’ (Allowances, Medical Treatment and other Privileges) Amendment Rules, 1987 framed under sub-section (1) of section 11 of the Salaries and Allowances of Ministers Act, 1952 (53 of 1952) and laid on the Table of the House on the 27th February 1987.”

Sir, may I say that it is only an enabling provision. When these loans were fixed at a value of Rs. 15000, it was long back in 1957. Now the prices have risen so high that it is becoming difficult for the hon. Members to have any loan raised and meet the cost of the car. Therefore, to enable them, the loan limit has been raised from Rs 15,000 to Rs. 50,000. This can enable them to buy a car from the market.

This is only an enabling provision for which I have come to the House.

[Translation]

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV (Varanasi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not have any objection to the Resolution

moved by the hon. Minister in the house, because the prices of cars have increased considerably. I think, one can get only a second hand car or a military disposal car for Rs. 50,000 which would need extensive repairs. Even the new Maruti car is not available for this price. The price of this car has touched Rs. one lakh. The prices of other makes are very much on the higher side. Therefore, had the hon. Minister proposed Rs. 1,00,000 in the Resolution, there would have been no objection to it. In this connection, I would like to submit that the limit of Rs. 15,000 fixed for loan for the members of parliament should also be raised. You should have amended this rule simultaneously. I think, the hon. Minister has adopted soft attitude towards his colleagues and forgotten the Members of Parliament in the process. I am sure this slip is not a deliberate one as such the Members of Parliament should also be brought at par with the Minister for this purpose because the Ministers also receive pay and allowances similar to the M. Ps. besides other facilities. Therefore, the hon. Minister should reconsider the question of pay and allowances of M. Ps. afresh. Pension and other facilities available to M. Ps. should also be given a fresh consideration ... *(Interruptions)* ... The way costs and prices are rising, it is not possible for any M. P. to properly serve his constituency in order to discharge his duties in a Parliamentary system unless he is provided the needed cooperation and assistance. You have raised the postal rates to such an extent that it has become difficult for us even to reply to the letters received from the public. You have increased the rates of telephone calls also. You have fixed a limit for telephone calls but that limit too exceeds in the case of all Members. In my own case, the number of telephone calls has far exceeded the limit during the last two years. We have to make telephone calls to different authorities to help the people. If you give a telephone call to somebody, you will not get response in the first try. I would not name any Minister or individual, but when a telephone call is made, what comes the reply that the wanted person is not available. If we ask the person attending to the call to make a note, there are very few persons who

take the trouble of calling back. So, one has to waste at least four telephone calls on an average in order to get one person's work done. At the district level, the number of such calls is even higher. The position there is more tight. You must issue orders to those in authority to call back in case we do not get them on the phone. You can have a better idea about it if you ask the Minister's P. A. to keep a register for such calls. Therefore, I would urge the hon. Minister to be sympathetic towards the Members of Parliament and to make efforts to remove their difficulties. You must not deprive the M. Ps. of the relaxation you have given to the Ministers in the matter of loan for the purchase of car. They should be brought at par with the Minister in this regard.

With these words, I support the Resolution.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA (Robertganj) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Resolution moved by the hon. Home Minister regarding increase in the allowances of the Ministers.

I would like to give vent to the feelings of the hon. Members at large. There are three-four anomalies in the Resolution. First of all, the limit of Rs. 50,000 which you have fixed is on the lower side. The limit should at least be raised to the prevailing price of Maruti car and should be applicable to the Members besides Ministers. Secondly, a Member a Parliament is allowed to travel by 1st class A.C. and the railway fare for 1st class A.C. is almost equal to air fare. The hon. Members from South India and other remote areas of the country are not able to avail of Saturdays and Sundays while going to their respective constituencies by train. Therefore, I demand that the restriction on air journey should be done away with as the fare in both the cases is almost equal. Thirdly, we undertake journey daily to work in our respective constituencies but we get allowance only on the days when we attend the House or the committee meetings whereas the Ministers get their allowance daily irrespective of the fact whether they are in the House,

in the constituency or at home. Therefore, it is necessary to remove this anomaly.

Now I would like to say something about the legislative Assemblies and legislative councils in the country. In Bihar a legislator on an average gets a minimum salary of Rs. 5,000 per month. You give us a total of Rs. 2,250. But after deductions we never receive more than Rs. 900 Rs. 1000 or Rs. 1100. You have provided facilities of electricity and water, but we have to spend more on them also. Therefore I want that water, electricity and telephones facilities may be provided to us free of charge as is done in the case of State legislators. If you want to make us efficient and get more work from us, then it is necessary that you should do it. The question of quorum generally comes up here on Mondays and Fridays. What is the reason? The reason is that a number of Members come by train and their trains arrive at different times at 12 o'clock at 2 o'clock on Mondays. Therefore, they are helpless; they cannot come on time. Same is true of Fridays. Thus arises the problem of quorum on Mondays and Fridays. This is the main reason whether it is this side or that side. Therefore, we should be provided air facilities. We are entitled to A.C.C. first class facilities and alongwith it, if you could provide us plane facilities, I stand guarantee that the quorum problem will never arise.

Now look at the daily allowance. You are paying daily allowance to State Legislators at the rate of Rs. 101. There is no reason why the Members of Parliament should not be paid at the rate of Rs. 151. You pay us a daily allowance at the rate of Rs. 151 and make us accountable and take more work from us. The public also can take more work from us. I would like to say one thing more. You have raised the salary of Secretaries to Rs. 8000 P.M. Now a days the status of the people in the country is measured in terms of their economic position. In the eyes of the public, what is our position vis-a-vis the position of bureaucrats. We run the administration and the public also think that we run the administration, but when the question of paying salary comes,

[Shri Ram Pyare Panika]

you pay more to the Secretary and therefore, in public eyes, he is the big boss.

Finally, I would like to say that a time has come when you should pay attention towards us. I made a study about the parliamentarians in the United Kingdom and the U.S.A. and I found that we get the minimum as compared to the parliamentarians of the whole world. We are very grateful to the Hon. Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi who has assured us of office and telephone facilities. The matter is under consideration. It will be arranged at the space available between Parliament House Annexe and Parliament House, but it is not likely to materialise during the 8th Lok Sabha, it will materialise during the 9th Lok Sabha. Therefore, I would demand that till that time, you should provide us with telephone, stenography and other facilities. We receive letters from our areas. The people have elected us and they expect to reply their letters. You have raised the price of postal stamps. Who will type our letters? If we get these typed in the stenopool, there will be no quorum in the House and if we sit in the party office, difficulty will arise. These are our practical difficulties and our hon. Minister of Home Affairs knows this. I would urge upon the Government that after passing the Budget, they should bring a comprehensive bill in this regard for which we shall feel obliged. I had met the hon. Minister and impressed upon him to raise this amount from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 70,000, which should be applicable in our case also. An M.L.A. in Uttar Pradesh gets Rs. 1 lakh as car advance. You are not giving any thing to us. A Fiat N.E. costs Rs. 1.28 lakh. The advance you give us is not enough even for the purchase of a maruti car. Therefore, I would suggest that Ministers should be given Rs. 1.25 lakh and the M. Ps. Rs. 75,000 as car advance. This is the feeling of all of us here.

I express my thanks to you for giving me time. I am sure that the hon. Home Minister, in consultation with the hon. Prime Minister, will bring comprehensive bill in April in this House and remove

the existing anomalies so that we could serve the people of India more and more and fulfil their expectations which they have from us.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, Dr. Rajhans may speak. I think there is sufficient discussion on the subject. Please be brief.

[Translation]

DR. G. S. RAJHANS (Jhunjharpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I think what I am going to say is the feeling of everybody here. Previously, an M.L.A. in Bihar used to get a daily allowance of Rs. 31 and Rs. 50 which has now been raised to Rs. 75. Secondly, the rate of out station allowance was Rs. 21. Now the Government of Bihar has made laws that the M.L. As in Bihar will get Rs. 75 per day throughout the year, whether the House is in session or not.

A Member of Parliament represents the constituencies of 6 to 7 M.L. As.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not the occasion to raise all this.

[Translation]

DR. G. S. RAJHANS : Sir, what I mean to say is that a Member of Parliament serves a large constituency and whenever he visits his constituency he spends Rs. 5000 on an average. Do you want him to be dishonest? Do not force all of us, who have come here after being elected, to go away from here helplessly and make way for other to come to this House. I would plead that the pay and allowances of a Member of Parliament should, at least, be equal to that of a Joint Secretary.

You must decide the pay and allowances of the Members keeping the entire picture of a district in view and also the

large constituencies they are serving. You should keep in view how best they can serve in their constituencies.

I am expressing the feelings of all of us.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS (Bhilwara) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister of Home Affairs has made a gross discrimination between the Members of Parliament and Ministers. First he raised the amount in our case to Rs. 20,000. In case of Ministers, this amount was Rs. 15,000 which he has raised to Rs. 50,000. But in our case it has remained Rs. 20,000. Mr. Chairman, Sir, can you tell us which vehicle can be purchased for Rs. 20,000 ? ... (Interruption) As some hon. Members have also said, the price of even the Maruti car is Rs. 75,000. No vehicle can be purchased with less than this price. Therefore, I want you make it at least Rs. 1 lakh both for Ministers and Members.

Secondly, this amount of Rs. 1 lakh should be interest free so that the Members have no difficulty in repaying this amount on time.

Besides, we get constituency allowance of Rs. 1250. Hon. Minister, you get government vehicles for official use but we have to make payment towards hire charges and diesel and petrol when we go to our constituencies on Saturdays and Sundays. This amount of Rs. 1250/- is spent in two days and there is no provision for the rest of the month. Therefore, either this should be enhanced substantially or provision for vehicles free of charge may be made for us in our constituencies. Then we do not mind even if you withdraw this allowance of Rs. 1250/-

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : I get vehicles in my area.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : You might be getting, but we do not get. Either you arrange vehicles for us from the State Governments or raise the constituency allowance so that we undertake four of our constituencies and serve them properly.

Similarly, Members of Parliament must be provided with Personal Assistants and also a typewriter so that they become more active and contribute more in the development of their area; so that they are able to make protracted correspondence and draw the attention of the Government towards burning problems and you are able to take timely decisions.

Just now, an hon. Member was making a point about the salaries of M.Ps. You are aware that even a class IV employee is now getting Rs. 1000 following the acceptance of the fourth pay commission's report. In this way, you have placed us in class IV. In the protocol, you have put us at number one position, but in the matter of salary, we are being treated as class V employee. Therefore, some provision should be made to conform the protocol so that the prestige of Members of Parliament is maintained. Today, when a class IV employee happens to meet us he thinks that these people are getting less salary than he gets. This position must be taken note of.

You have also shown discrimination in the matter of house rent. You do not recover house rent from Ministers. You also do not recover house rent from those Members of Parliament who have been allotted flats. But house rent is recovered from those Members of Parliament who have been allotted bungalows. This recovery of house rent should also be stopped so that everybody is treated equally.

I would like to make a submission about the medical facilities. The Ministers, even in case of minor illness, are entitled to go to the U.S.A., United Kingdom, etc., wherever they want, but the Members of Parliament do not get admission even in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences here. We have to face a lot of difficulties. You must treat us equally so that we have no difficulty in getting admission in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. If somebody suffers from any major illness and if you are generous enough you send him for treatment abroad. This discrimination must end and all should be treated equally.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN ; The scope of this Motion is very limited and only half-an-hour is allotted to it. Many Members have ventilated the grievances and there are other forums for you to ventilate your grievances. There are other fora to say all these things.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : You can extend the time. Hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is here. You can extend the time in consultation with her. It is a very important matter. It is in the interest of all of us.

Similarly, there is no limit for ministers for travel by planes, but the Members of Parliament are entitled to limited trips. There should be uniformity in the matter of air journey also so that we are able to reach those places where we are required to go urgently. The A.C. first class fare and the air fare are equal. So, if this is done, it will save time and also increase efficiency. It is very necessary to have this arrangement.

I hope that my suggestions will be accepted by the hon. Minister and that he will provide more facilities to the Members of Parliament by bringing a comprehensive Bill. These things are very essential in order to enlist more and more co-operation in running the administration of this country properly. Being the Home Minister, he should talk to the hon. Prime Minister and implement these suggestions.

[English]

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD (Bhagalpur) : Mr. Chairman, lest their record be otherwise misunderstood by outside persons, I want to make it straight.

Members of the House are not interested in increasing their allowances and other things. What we are interested is in having the facilities, to effectively work as representatives of the people. One example. There is the 20 Point Programme. Today, 20 Point Programme had become

more a drain at the block-level, BDO, CO and Daroga Raj, rather than reaching the entire thing to the common people. Every time the Prime Minister and the Home Minister say here and outside that MP must be actively moving in the areas to see that they are not done. We want to do that.

I want you to appoint a Committee and find out, to discharge this function effectively, what the Prime Minister or the Home Minister want from us, whether it is possible, to move in the Constituency even for 5 days in the whole year, forget about 5 months, in Rs. 1200/-. You do not increase the allowance. As others say, you give the facilities, for example, the jeep and other things or you increase it. But it should be viewed in this perspective. Not that we want any increase in money. This aspect should be cleared.

The speech of Dr. G.S. Rajhans should not give the impression that we want daily allowance whether we are in the House or not. That is not the point. Bihar can do it. Uttar Pradesh can do it. But, we want daily allowance when we are sitting as a Member in the House. It is a question to find out now what the Fourth Pay Commission for the Officers and the other Pay Commissions for the Military Officers have recommended. In the discharge of their functions, the hon. Minister and the Members are a little better representative. So, you must find out whether they need more daily allowance. That also should be looked into. If it is not, O.K. Then don't give it. But, I feel if you are seeing all other sides, let that also be seen for the Ministers. I do not say I want a pay like a Joint secretary or IV Class employee. That is nonsense absolutely. What is the comparison between a Member of Parliament or Joint Secretary or even Secretary of the Government of India or even Chief Secretary? What is the comparison? I am at the risk. I come, I fight election. I move every day. I see the wrath or the pleasure of the members for five years. As it is jokingly said, we are all temporaries. But, that temporary has got a grace. Permanency does not give that

grace. There are many things which are permanent. But the most beautiful thing in the world is that they are all temporary. This world is temporary. Therefore, I do not speak from that argument of being a Joint Secretary or IV Class employee. What I say is this. As representatives of the people whether it is for five years or 20 years, whatever it is, for many terms, of course, I am now here for six terms. Therefore, I am here for 30 years. So, what I say is that there should be no comparison with that. I do not compare with America because their representatives, according to the population, get a percentage. I do not think this country can afford that. Therefore, what I say, according to facility, for example, what Shri Ram Pyare Panika said, I do not know other Members, some may have less or more every day I have to post on an average 70 to 100 letters, I say on declaration Every letter that I receive, even from a poor widow, I reply her 'Yes' or 'No'. That I do. You must assess how that is possible for a Member to reply that letter and the postage and all that Is it covered by what you are giving? I do not want any increase. But let there be an assessment, pure and simple, whether if you have once agreed to give Postal facilities if you have agreed to give air facilities of travel, you have agreed to give railway facility of travel, then kindly assess whether in the present circumstances, it is possible.

These days I am quoting that I am first in so many things. For example, I first brought the freedom society in the country and I am its father. I was the first in 1954 in my speech to urge the President's motion. Now again, I say that I was the first, in 1954, to bring Members' facility in the House. Members were getting Rs. 40/- per day; Nothing else. When I came in the first Parliament Rs. 40/- was given. When you go to Bombay, either you go for the constituency work or something, when you come back, you will get either $40 \times 5 = 200$ or railway fare. I am not saying you a poor member, but an hon.

Member and you will have to suffer. I put it at Rs. 20 and Rs. 20 which came to Rs. 40/- Then we got Rs. 400 and Rs. 20/- An hon. member told me—Shri Mahabir Tyagi —: "Don't make it. People will call you '420'". It was Rs. 400+21. I moved my first amendment in the party and I moved in this House a Private Member's Resolution for that. When Acharya Kirpalani shouted at me: 'you fellows only want money', I said: "Dada, there are not many partners whose husband and wife are in the Parliament and who draw Rs. 80/- per day" like Shri Satyendra Narain Sinha. So, what I say is that it should be viewed in that perspective. We do not ask for increase. But we certainly want increase in the facilities; we certainly want increase in telephone calls and facilities. You know better. You please take the case of telephone. I cannot stop a voter who comes to my house for making a call. Nor you can do it in your constituency. Otherwise, you will always suffer from getting their votes. So, there should be some reasonable facilities. Not that, you can make the calls and put Rs. 4500/- as Bill. There are some Ministers, some important Ministers according to their work. In that case, the Bill may be to the tune of Rs. 15000/- I was also a Minister; but not to that extent. I had a reasonable Bill of the office of the Minister. What I say is that in this case also, you must take into consideration—some members said that you phone for 4 times etc. I don't say that there are majority of the Ministers who reply back. There are some Ministers who have not come from public life. There are 'Maharaja Ministers, there are *Phalana* Ministers and for example there are other Ministers who do not know a poor-man like Bhagwat Jha Azad. I agree. I have to speak to him at least six times. You also say that we will give a Statement. If he does not reply for six times, then I will put the six extra calls in his Bill. Let there be a provision in that bill I have no objection. But what I say is—either you give constituency allowance or any other allowance—we only want, as representatives of the people, to participate in the day-to-day functioning—I do not want any increase in constituency allowance.—kindly set up a Committee and see whether it is possible for a Member to do as to what the Prime Minister or the Home

[Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad]

Minister expected from a member. For example, if a Member does not move, what will happen? People would complain that you do not come to the constituency. Of course, I go. How can you move? If the entire amount is put in the constituency in moving, but still you cannot fulfil. There are 1300 booths. The constituency is 150 miles long; 70 miles broad. Do you want him to go once in five years and put his *topi* and say: or do you want me to move around? I do the other part. There are some members who believe in the first part. They do not go because if they go and meet the people, they make the people angry against them. What I say is that I am not talking on that line—on daily allowance or constituency allowance. What I am at is that let the Government decide—if they want us to participate in the 20 Point Programme; if they want us to see the different projects that are going on—as to what should be the minimum facilities that a Member should be given? Let minimum facilities be given to us. That is what I say and I hope that the Government will consider it. When Mr Arjun Singh is there, I am only saying that when a voter comes either to your constituency or to your office here, what does he do? I restrict him from making trunk calls. But still he feels that the Member has got it free. Wherever I go, he says

[*Translation*]

it is free for you. Why you cry?

[*English*]

because I am told to be a rough-rub when I speak truth. Truth speaking is roughness these days. Therefore, I have a difficulty in restricting my telephone; and it may be out of my control. Otherwise, I can not move in the constituency. Therefore, I need it. What I say is let the telephone facility be reasonable; let the clerk facility and the stenographic facility be reasonable. Even here, what we have been given by the Secretariat is a stenographers' pool. Is it enough? If it is enough, I request you one thing: let there be a pool for all the officers in the Parliament house. Let them have the same facility. Let not the officers have their own staff. Let them also have the

pool system. Let the Ministers also have the pool system and set an example. If that is not possible, then for the whole 540 members this Lok Sabha, this pool is not enough. Therefore, what I say is that I do not want any increase. I want to have facilities for effective functioning for the members of Parliament. Constituency allowance, telephone facility, facility in respect of rail travel and air-travel facilities which have already been agreed to, give them to the Member. It is a question of seeing whether they are adequate or not. I am only putting this big question before the Hon'ble Home Minister. If they are adequate, then I don't ask for any increase. If they are not adequate, then kindly look into it. That is all I have to say.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIKAGI (Mandsaur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, with your permission, I want to say only two lines, not more than that:

(Ham nahin kahate ki

Aap Hamko Vaisa Bana Dijiye,

Ham to sirf itna chahte hain

ki aap jaisa Bana dijiye)

We do not demand more. We want to be given only what you are getting.

SHRIMATI CHANDRA TRIPATHI (Chandauli): Mr. Chairman, Sir, several hon. Members have expressed their views on the Bill presented in the House by the hon. Minister and have made various suggestions while supporting them and I, through you, want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to only one point.

The Government of Uttar Pradesh has passed a bill providing for grant of an advance upto Rs. 1 lakh on 4% annual interest to each Member of Legislative Assembly for construction of a house or for purchase of a motor car. So far as the repayment is concerned, the Act provides that deductions will be made from the allowances, etc. of the Member

during his term of office in easy instalments and if some amount is still left, the Member can get his pension attached against that amount and he has to give this in writing at the time of applying for the advance. This arrangement is available in a state like Uttar Pradesh. But, here, you have provided for an advance of only Rs. 20,000 for a Member of Parliament who represents 5 Legislative Assembly constituencies. With this meagre amount, neither we can build a house nor can we purchase a motor vehicle. Therefore through you, I would like to impress upon the hon. Minister to raise this limit at least upto Rs. 1 lakh so that we are able to construct our own house either at our native place or in Delhi, the choice being left to us. The advance should be made available by the Government either for construction of a house or for purchase a motor vehicle, as the case may be.

At the time of taking advance he can give in writing that in case he fails to repay the entire loan during his office term, the balance amount be adjusted against his pension and to this, I feel, there should be no objection from the Central Government. There should be no hesitation about it because even a Joint Secretary in the Government of India gets this loan for this purpose. Then there is no justification to put a limit of Rs. 20,000 in our case. Otherwise, it would be better not to grant this loan at all, because we will be utilising this amount for some useful purposes, thus creating a burden for us. Therefore it is my submission to the hon. Minister that limit of this loan may be raised from Rs. 75,000 to Rs. 1 lakh as suggested by many hon. Members. Besides, I am of the view, as has been suggested by Shri Azad also, that instead of the constituency allowance, you arrange to provide us an Ambassador car as and when we visit our constituency in connection with the 20 point programme on which much stress has been laid by our hon. Prime Minister. The reason for this is that it would look awkward if we go by jeeps and the District Magistrate and other officers come by Ambassador cars. There should be clear instructions that in as the

case of officers, an official car should always be made available to the Member of Parliament for inspecting the 20 point programme in their respective constituencies. With these words, while thanking you, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister to give serious thought to our suggestions and consider them sympathetically. We have been recommending various applications of others for sympathetic consideration. Therefore, our suggestions may also be considered sympathetically.

SHRI NARESH CHANDRA CHATURVEDI (Kanpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I think, one aspect has emerged clearly out of this discussion. I fully agree with the views of Shri Shyam Lal Yadav and Shri Azad, but would like to make one point clear. Members of Parliament are peoples' representatives and have all the privileges and prerogatives and if we enjoy all comforts, the people of the country will not forgive us. We must bear this always in mind.

Secondly, the way the I. A. S. officers are getting money it cannot be compared with us. I fully agree with Shri Azad on this score. You try to give them maximum pay. It can not be compared with us. Having heard some words, I am feeling hurt. Therefore, I want to say few words. I neither want mercy nor sympathy. If this amount is considered to be enough for sincere discharge of duties of an honest Member of Parliament then there is no need to increase the amount. But, keeping in view the rising prices, if this amount is not considered sufficient to manage the work honestly, then it must be increased. When the price of an ambassador car has risen from Rs. 8,000 to Rs. 1.15 lakh what use this amount of Rs. 20,000 or Rs. 50,000 will be? When a bill for Rs. 10 has gone upto Rs. 150, what purpose will the above amount serve? These difficulties must be taken note of. You provide a vehicle for 10 days in Uttar Pradesh. Do you know how that vehicle comes in what condition that comes? A few persons like me who own a vehicle, make use of it. Will it be justified that Government officials go by shining vehicles and the

[Shri Naresh Chandra Chaturvedi]

Hon. Members of Parliament in old, dilapidated vehicles? In spite of all this, do you think they will have all the respect? When you do not protect their honour how do you think that others will respect them?

The respect of the Members of Parliament depends on their character, their ability and the service they do and they are re-elected after every 5 years after passing these tests and still do they need your mercy and sympathy? Have we come here to do clerical job? We do not require your mercy. We need the sympathy and mercy of crores of the people of India and none else. We do not need the mercy and sympathy of the collector who is authorised by you to give us any condemned vehicle. If we require the vehicle at 8 O'clock, they will send the same at 2 and some times they will not send at all. If the driver is on leave, the vehicle will come after the meeting is over. We do not want this mercy, this sympathy.

The Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs must take into account the pay, allowances and pension received by State Legislators before fixing the pay, allowances and pension of the Members of Parliament. As Members of Parliament we do not even have a table and a chair free of charge. *(Interruptions)* the M. LAs do not have to pay for the furniture, etc. they are provided with.

If somebody wants to fix an appointment with any Minister, he has to ring up at least 18 to 20 times and then he gets an appointment. Sometimes, one does not get the appointment at all.

(Interruptions)

13.00 hrs

Please do not ring the bell. Kindly listen to the points I am making. They have to be taken seriously. A Member of Parliament has to look after 5 legislative Assembly constituencies.

(Interruptions)

In some cases it is 5-8-10. In Uttar Pradesh, to which I belong to there are 9 to 10 lakh people in a constituency and a Member of Parliament represents 10 to 12 lakh people. You can imagine in what conditions he has to work and if somebody wants to work honestly, he cannot do so. Please do not force us to become dishonest. Please do this much that we are able to serve the public with honesty.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have only two submissions. First, do not go much into the personal benefit that Members of Parliament get out of their pay, allowances and other facilities but make a study of their needs which are necessary for efficient discharge of their duties and then take a decision what must be given to them.

Secondly you must take into consideration as to what extra facilities should be extended to a member who serves 5 to 8 times more people than the state legislator who represents a constituency having one lakh population. You must take care that Members of Legislative Assemblies do not get more pension, more pay and allowances than those of the Members of Parliament. It is my submission that you must not do such ridiculous thing. If a Minister is to be given advance for purchase of a vehicle he should be given full amount. Do not give him advance to purchase a chevrolet car, but give him that much money that he can purchase an Ambassador, a fiat or a maruti car. If you want to do a thing do it properly otherwise, do not do it. Besides, Ministers are not above the Members of Parliament. If somebody has been appointed a Minister, he is from amongst us. If today someone is a Minister, he may cease to be so the next day and someone from amongst us may become a minister. Therefore, there should be no discrimination between these two categories. Whatever is given to us as Members of Parliament, it should be uniform for all and there should be no discrimination, and if there is any discrimination, it should not get the approval of the Parliament. This is my appeal to you.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (S. BUTA SINGH): Mr. Chairman,

the motion presented by me in the House has a very limited scope. But it has given an opportunity to the hon. Members to ventilate their difficulties that come in their way in the efficient discharge of their duties. The hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs who is present here and I have noted all the points raised by the hon. Members. Since it is the joint responsibility of the Government, I have noted down all points, though all of them do not concern my department. I know how to process these cases because in the past I had also been the Minister in the Department of Parliamentary Affairs.....

(Interruptions)

The hon'ble Members Shri Bhagwat and Shri Chaturvedi have raised a basic issue that it would not be proper to compare hon'ble Members of Parliament with any official or any officer because hon'ble Members represent sovereignty of the country, the Parliament is sovereign and therefore they should not be compared with any head of the Department or an official of any other category. It is the duty of this House and Government to provide such necessary facilities to the Members of Parliament as would enable them to serve the country and the people of their respective areas with honesty and devotion, without any fear or favour. I fully agree with the hon. Members. In this regard, several hon. Members spoke in detail. Shri Girdhari Lal, Shri Panika and Shrimati Chandra Tripathi and several other hon. Members have expressed their views on other aspects. I feel that the comparison drawn between Ministers and the Members of Parliament is also of no use. Primarily, we are Members of Parliament and we all serve the nation and the duty we are assigned is a matter of chance. We all are assigned some specific task, somebody is given the duty of a gate keeper and some of a Secretary. It is in the service to the nation. We have to discharge the specific duty assigned to each of us. But basically we come to this House as Members of Parliament and therefore, they should be given facilities as parliamentarians and there should be no discrimination in this regard in anyway.

I shall put up all your suggestions

before the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs or the Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs which is the proper forum. But the motion under discussion here has been brought under the provisions of the salaries and allowances of Ministers Act which comes under my charge. As you know, the law concerning the salaries and allowances of the Members of Parliament is a different one which was also passed by this august House. Action on the suggestions made by the hon. Members will be taken under this Act. I shall try to place all the suggestions and, if possible with improvements, before the Council of Ministers through the Parliamentary Committee so that we are able to take some decisions on them and bring them before the House.

With these words, I would request the House to pass this motion of amendment so that I make preparations for the second one.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :
"This House approves the draft Ministers' (Allowances, Medical Treatment and other Privileges) Amendment Rules, 1987 framed under sub-section () of section 11 of the Salaries and Allowances of Ministers Act, 1952 (58 of 1952) and laid on the Table of the House on the 27th February, 1987."

The motion was adopted.

13.09 hrs.

The Lok Sabha adjourns for Lunch till ten minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.14 hrs.

The Lok Sabha reassembled after Lunch at fourteen minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]