

15.50 hrs.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS BILL

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We now take up Bills for consideration and passing: Legislative Councils Bill.

SHRI R. MUTHIAH (Periyakulam): This is an important Bill. I wish to make an appeal to the Government. This is an important Bill, coming at the fag-end of the Session. I request the Government not to rush through with this Bill. After the resolution was passed in the Tamil Nadu Assembly, the entire political situation has changed there. It was passed during last March. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The other Members who are standing, may sit down.

SHRI R. MUTHIAH: We want a full discussion on it. There is a complete change in the political situation there. At the fag-end of the Session, we may not be able to have a full discussion on it now.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do you want an adjournment of this?

SHRI R. MUTHIAH: The entire State is against this, as also the Government. So, we want to have a complete discussion on this. I request the Government to postpone the discussion and passing of this Bill.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa): In the Business Advisory Committee meeting, certain things were said...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You do not have to mention them here.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: I also believe that certain Bills which are there in the agenda paper are very important; and it would require much time for us to give them the fullest consideration. So, we can adjourn this Bill for the next Session; and maybe, we can now take up the discussion under rule

193 on Kashmir.

SHRI ERA ANBARASU (Madras Central): No comments, though I had originally thought of offering some comments.

DR. THAMBI DURAI (Karur): Our leaders had a meeting with the hon. Speaker. We came to an understanding. We wanted to take up items like discussion under rule 193 and others. So, what we have decided is this. This is a very important Bill.

In the Rajya Sabha, they took nearly 4 hours to discuss this Bill and pass it. It is 4 p.m. now. Within two hours, we cannot finish discussion on this.

There are other important items also, which we have to take up. Therefore, we want sufficient time to discuss this Bill, because when one popular Government comes, it abolishes the Council; when another Government comes, it wants to revive it. There are so many aspects. That is why I am requesting you: please postpone this Bill to the next Session.

SHRI K RAMAMURTHY (Krishnagiri): As my colleagues have pointed out here, in the Rajya Sabha they took the pain of discussing this Bill for four hours, and passed it. Unfortunately, here two States have been clubbed together. Previously, it was only one. Recently, Andhra Pradesh Assembly also has passed a resolution, to forward this request to the Government of India, for revival of the Council there.

This is a very important Bill. I also seek your permission to have it postponed to the next Session. We can have enough time to discuss this important Bill. I also appeal to the Minister concerned to concede my request.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN (Mavelikara): In the morning, the Government wanted our cooperation in passing some of these Bills. We have already cooperated with the Government. We have extended the maximum cooperation. But the fact remains that this

Government is not showing even the courtesy of minimum cooperation to us. What I mean to say is that we were demanding, time and again, that all papers on Bofors should be placed on the Table of the House.

It is on the pretext of the NAB report, that Sweden is not allowing them to publish all the papers. On the last day of the last session, the hon. Prime Minister himself had assured this House that he would place all the papers on the Table of the House including the PMO's file, which had been specially referred to.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: They have made a suggestion that the Minister should not move the Bill; it should be postponed to the next session. So, I have given them a chance to speak on this. Now, if you want to make any suggestion, you can do so, after the Minister has moved it.

(Interruptions)

PROF. P. J. KURIEN: I have to speak about the other three Bills.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This has to be disposed of first. You can make that statement later on if you want, not now.

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): I cannot accept the allegation... *(Interruptions)*

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: If he is responding, then I have to complete it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This was not moved for consideration.

The other members said that it should be postponed to the next session. So, I have allowed them to speak about it. Now, if you want to make a statement, you can do it after the Minister has moved that it should be considered. Please take your seat. *(Interruptions)*

MR. RAM NAIK (Bombay North): A ref-

erence had been made to the meeting of the BAC... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You don't do that. You take it from the members who have said that.

SHRI RAM NAIK : That is why I wanted to confirm it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: A point was made whether it should be postponed or not. Do you agree with it?

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: I must respond to what Prof. Kurien has said. I do not accept his statement that we have not cooperated with the Opposition. If cooperation means that we are only permitted to pass those Bills which they want us to pass, such type of cooperation is not possible from us. We would like to pass those Bills which we want to pass. A suggestion has been made that the consideration of this Bill should be postponed to the next session. We are keen that this Bill should be passed for the very simple reason that by doing so we are responding to the two recommendations made by the two Legislative Assemblies for the creation of Legislative Councils.

We believe in developing healthy relationship.

One request has come from a Legislative Assembly, where the Opposition has a majority today.

In the Rajya Sabha, this Bill had been passed without any dissent. All the parties had supported the Bill. In fact, pressure upon me was that I should see that this Bill was passed. I had to cut short my speech to see that the Bill was passed and come to this House. So far as this Government is concerned, we are keen to pass this Bill; our position is that we are very keen to pass this Bill. But I leave the decision to you.

DR. THAMBI DURAI (Karur): That is why we requested you to postpone it. Because when the other Bills are postponed

that is the understanding we have given there.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Do you want it to be postponed or not?

DR. THAMBI DURAI: What have you decided?

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: Definitely, if the House agrees to it, I will not come in the way.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I think it appears that the Members agree that the cordieration of the Bill be adjourned to the next session of the House. With the agreement of the members, the consideration of the Bill is adjourned to a later date.

We now take up the next Bill, to provide for the establishment of Lok Pal.

(Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: You called me, Sir?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is adjourned, Mr. Kurien. We are not considering this Bill. This Bill is not being considered. You can have your say when the consideration starts.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: I can say it now itself.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You are not following, Mr. Kurien, the procedure in the House. It is not before the House now. We are proceeding to the next one. You can have your say when we take it up.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Are you going to the next Bill?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We are going to the next Bill. Before that, at least something has to be done. Probably you are burdened very much and did not follow what I was saying.

16.02 hrs.

LOKPAL BILL

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now we are

taking up the Motion that the Bill to provide for the establishment of the institution of Lokpal to inquire into allegations of corruption against public functionaries and for matters connected therewith be taken into consideration.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa): The same thing about this Bill also. There is time constraint, and it should not be taken up. It may be adjourned to the next session.

SHRI PIYARE LAL HANDOO (Anantnag): These Bills, one after the other, are very important. But they will require more than three hours, with the result that the Kashmir matter which is pending for the last seven days, since the 21st of May, may be left over. I would request the Government to postpone consideration of these three Bills and instead move on to matters under Rule 193 because all the three are important and all the three should be discussed.

SHRI DHARM PAL SHARMA (Udhampur): I support the contention of Mr. Handoo. I am also concerned. I want to speak on that issue.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM (Salam): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, not only Mr. Saifuddin Choudhury is right, not only is Mr. Handoo is correct, but Mr. Dharm Pal Sharma is also correct. In the B.A.C. we had first set nearly four hours for the Lokpal Bill and six hours for the Prasar Bharati Bill and I presume that if we had applied our mind for the Constitution (Seventy-second Amendment) Bill it would have taken ten hours. We need twenty hours for all these three Bills and I do not think today there are still 20 hours left for the day, to get or these matters to take up these Bills. Really, this requires serious consideration. There has been some feeling expressed—I understand from the Treasury Benches—that they had made this assurance earlier that they would see that these Bills were passed, etc., etc. But they would understand that these Bills cannot be passed, like a