

18.04 hrs.

**INDECENT REPRESENTATION OF
WOMEN (PROHIBITION)
BILL, 1986—Contd.**

[English]

DR. PHULRENU GUHA (Contai) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I welcome the Bill to prohibit indecent representation of women. It is a very laudable Bill which is to protect the value of culture. It has made provisions to prohibit indecent representation of women through advertisement, newspaper, paintings and other means. It also propose to prohibit distribution or circulation of books or pamphlets containing any indecent representation of women. Nowadays, Sir, in the name of culture we find that fashion, freedom of expression, obscenity, nudism and sex have become rampant. Unless firm steps are taken to curb the indecent manifestation, the value of our society and the dignity of women would be ruined further. Sir, I like to remind the House that it is for this type of Bill, the women and the women organisations are fighting for a long time. I am glad that this Bill has come today.

Women are taken as second class citizens. That is one of the troubles in our country. So, women cannot be considered as equal to men though what the Constitution says is quite different. Women are not honourable citizens to most of the people. Women are used in the media as sex symbols, I am sorry to say. Some obscene advertisements appear in various media. Naked women are shown to attract the attention of sex appeal. If your mothers, sisters, wives and daughters are insulted, what will be the image of women? The image of woman is the image of the society.

18.06 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : *In the Chair*]

So, it is not concerning the women only but the society as a whole. But usually it is the women who protest against this type of advertisements. But we should not forget that it concerns the society as a whole.

I would like to say that it is stated by F.A.O. that two thirds of world's work is

done by women. More than 50 per cent of world's food is produced by women. Usually in our TV, we find male is the main person in the agricultural field. The media does not really reflect the social reality but the media develops and creates its own reality. It is known that media slowly for as our mind and attitude. So, the media should project the actual reality and educate the masses.

At the end, I take this opportunity to point out that many women offer themselves to commercial concerns for monetary purpose. This is also most derogatory thing for the whole society. In this connection, I would like to say that proper arrangement for women education, girls' education and their employment should be made. Otherwise, many women have to go to this type of work.

Voluntary organisations, social reformers and women organisations have a great role to play. There should be proper implementation of this law. Mere social legislation by itself could not remove the attitude of the society. So, all of us should come together to implement the law.

I congratulate the Hon. Minister and the Government on bringing forward this Bill today.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY (Midnapore) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise not to oppose this Bill. But definitely, I will suggest to the Hon. Minister, through you, that as we have suggested, it should go to a Select Committee because there are many lacunae which she herself has accepted and which could be removed.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : I never accepted.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : We are passing through a critical time. Decaying feudal system has been replaced by decaying capital system. Today in cinema, Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Vidya Sagar, Sarat Chandra and Tippu Sultan are not heroes. Gabber Singhs and Kalu Rams are heroes now. Naturally, we have been passing through a very critical time and we do not regard women as equals.

Even today in a society like Bengal, when a bridegroom goes to marry the bride, the relatives of the bridegroom ask the groom, where are we going to. He says, I am going to bring a slave for you mother.

So, even today that is being followed. I beg to submit that you kindly accept our proposal. We are not opposed to this. You have started with a good Bill. It is quite good. But then, what is the harm if the Bill goes to the Select Committee and all lacunae are removed,

Regarding the definition of indecent representation of women, I suggest that you should accept this :

“Indecent representation of women means the depiction or description in any manner, visual or written or oral, of the figure or form or body or any part thereof of a woman, or of the situation or context in which a woman is placed, either by herself or in conjunction with others, such as to have the effect of being violent in character, or derogatory to her dignity as a human being or to her status as an equal to man.”

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA)

Mr. Speaker, I thank all the Hon. Members who have participated. I realise that my time is also very limited. I just want to say that the Bill was introduced in the other House in the last Session of Parliament and we have given enough time hoping that there would be opportunity for Members, Organisations and others to discuss the Bill and send their suggestions. It was done. It was introduced in the last Session.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

This Bill was introduced in the last Session. So, there was enough time during the inter-Session period for the Organisations as well as for all of you.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : When did we get the time to speak in the House ?

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : A number of organisations, women groups and others have discussed it during the inter-Session period. They sent many suggestions which have been considered by us.

(Interruptions)

I can only say this that as far as the suggestions that have been made, everybody has supported the Bill and welcomed it. The only point that has been made is that implementation must be given and that the loopholes should be plugged. I can assure the House that if this has been brought ... (Interruptions) There are certain provisions already in the IPC but we felt that those did not cover the denigration of women and certain other aspects. It only touched obscenity. We wanted to extend it and so the points which have been made about the status of women, proper representation of women, advertising and so on also should be covered and, that is why the Bill has been brought. I can assure the Hon. Members that we do mean business for its implementation.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : What about video and cinema ?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : This Bill does not cover films because that comes under a different Act altogether which is protected but we do hope that the Code of Conduct which would emerge from this would have its impact also on the Cinematograph Act. The Censor Board comes from the Ministry of Human Resource Development and it has been moved from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to the Department of Culture. This is bound to have some impact also on the Censor Boards. The Minister for both is the same ultimately who is here in the House and is giving the assurance.

We have provided for certain exemptions which we thought are very necessary to protect art, medicine and the religious

[Shrimati Margaret Alva]

and other such ancient monuments as well. Besides this, I do not have anything more to add. I can only say that I look for your support and I would say to the Members that a perfect Bill in any case is yet to be born anywhere in the world. It is with experience, with judicial decisions, that whatever loopholes you may have will be filled up as we go along. This is the first effort of such a Bill and I welcome support which the House has given.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Mool Chand Daga; Are you moving it ?

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Kindly allow me to speak for a couple of minutes.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Dagaji, would you withdraw your amendment ?

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Kindly allow me to speak for two minutes. I would withdraw my amendment, if you so desire.

MR. SPEAKER : There is no time left now. Either you withdraw it or I will put it to vote.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : It would not be justified. Kindly allow me to speak during the third reading.

MR. SPEAKER : It would not be possible.

[English]

There is no other option for me. This is against the rules. I cannot allow you to speak after the Hon. Minister.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : I have already moved it.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Daga, are you withdrawing your amendment ?

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Yes.

MR. SPEAKER : Has the Hon. Member leave of the House to withdraw his amendment, No. 27.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

*Amendment No. 27 was, by leave,
withdrawn.*

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Narain Choubey, are you withdrawing your amendment ?

SHRI NARAIN CHOUBEY : Yes.

MR. SPEAKER : Has Mr. Narain Choubey, leave of the House to withdraw his amendment No. 29.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

*Amendment No. 29 was, by leave,
withdrawn.*

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill to prohibit indecent representation of women through advertisements or in publications, writings, paintings, figures or in any other manner and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration".

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER : The House will now take up Clause-by-Clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2—(Definition)

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY :
I beg to move :

Page 2, line 5,—

add at the end—

"but does not include any picture or photograph of any art, architecture or sculpture".(1)

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : I beg to move :

Page 2, line 2,—

Omit "form or" (12)

Page 2, line 7,—

for "package" substitute "substance" (13)

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY :
As far as this Bill is, concerned, the definition of indecent representation of women is all-pervasive, very vague and indefinite. The over-zealous officer can make use of this definition to harass anybody. That is why I want to add the words : "but does not include any picture or photograph of any art, architecture or sculpture". I think the Hon. Minister will please accept my amendment, so that those who are dealing with this picture of art and architecture are not penalised.

[Translation]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA (Pali) :
The definition which you have given—'Satym Shivam Sundaram'—is the culture of our country. The Hon. Minister has admitted in the Bill that Konark and Khajuraho are the symbols of our culture, literature and art. The Government are preserving them. Their photographs are sold. We have a cinematograph Act for the films. The Department of Archaeology is equipped with all these Acts. They are equipped with the Indian Penal Code and Archaeological Act. As regards the definition of indecent which they have given, I would like to know the number of persons who were prosecuted and convicted under Sections 292, 293 and 294. I have a copy of Archaeological Act with me and I can read it out if he so desires. What the Government are doing? On the one hand, they want to ruin the culture hidden in our art by describing it as indecent and on the other hand they say that they will preserve it. He is giving a contradictory statement. One section says one thing and the other contradicts it. That is why, I have moved an amendment.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Let it be referred to the Select Committee.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Yes. What is the hurry? It depends on the Speaker.

[English]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : We have only provided for certain exceptions under the law. It would not be covered by the definition and it is not that we are

justifying anything. We have provided for exceptions which are part of the Bill. I do not think that the amendments are necessary.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ramachandra Reddy, are you withdrawing your amendment?

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Yes.

MR. SPEAKER : Has Mr. Ramachandra Reddy leave of the House to withdraw his amendment No. 1.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

Amendment No. 1 was, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Daga, are you withdrawing your amendments?

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Yes.

MR. SPEAKER : Has Mr. Daga leave of the House to withdraw his amendments No. 12 and 13.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

Amendment No. 12 and 13 were, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That Clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : Clause 3. Mr. Mohanty, are you moving your Amendment?

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY (Puri) : I am not moving. But I have to explain why I have given notice...

MR. SPEAKER : No. The question is :

"That Clause 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

Clause 4—(Prohibition of publication or sending by post of books, pamphlets, etc. containing indecent representations of women)

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Sir, I beg to move :

Page 2, line 30,—

add at the end—

“or in religious processions” (14)

Page 2, line 36,—

after “temple” insert, religious procession,

Clause 4 (a) (i) reads :

“the publication of which is proved to be justified as being for the public good on the ground that such book, pamphlet, paper, slide, film, writing, drawing, painting, photograph, representation or figure is in the interest of science, literature, art, or learning or other objects of general concern,” (15)

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : He has himself admitted it. Who will decide it, the court will decide it. Then he is saying that he has barred them. He is describing it indecent. Why this amendment has been brought forward, when the court is to decide? There is a provision of Censor Board under the Cinematograph Act. Once a film is passed by the Censor Board, the Supreme Court or the High Court cannot intervene. The Department of Archaeology of the Government has also admitted that it is an archaeological monument. The Supreme Court and the High Court say that once it is passed by the Censor Board, it is accepted as such. The Government should not have contradiction in its legislation. I want to buy the film and they are selling.....

MR. SPEAKER : This has already been done, there is no time now. Will the Hon. Minister like to say something...

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : No Sir.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : You understand the entire thing. You are in a hurry, because you have to attend the dinner...

MR. SPEAKER : This is for you.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : I submit that these two things are against the law ..

MR. SPEAKER : You have said it and she has listened to it. Now, what do you say, should I press it?

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : As you think.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Are you withdrawing your Amendments?

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Yes.

MR. SPEAKER : Has the Hon. Member leave of the House to withdraw his amendments?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

*Amendments Nos. 14 and 15
were, by leave, withdrawn.*

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

“That Clause 4 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 4 was added to the Bill.

Clause 5—(Powers to enter and Search)

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY :
Sir, I beg to move :

Page 3, line 10,—

add at the end—

“from a competent court having jurisdiction over the area.” (3)

Page 3, line 23,—

for “inform” substitute “produce the object before” (4)

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Sir, I beg to move :

Page 3, —

omit lines 22 to 24. (16)

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : With regard to searches, a provision has been made in the Bill that no one can go and search without a warrant. From whom is that warrant to be obtained? The Bill is silent on that. So, I have given an amendment to say that the warrant must be from a competent court having jurisdiction over that area. There is a lacuna in the Bill, that is why I have given it. I think the Minister will accept this amendment.

As far as my second amendment is concerned, whenever an officer goes and searches, he seizes some objects. He is expected to inform the court about the seizure. I want that the word 'inform' be removed and that object should be produced before the Court, so that the Court may view the object and will judge. These two amendments are very important and I think the Minister will accept them.

[Translation]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA (Pali) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the one hand, the Government are making publicity of the Indian Culture in countries like U.S.A and France, they carried all those photographs and exhibited them there; on the other hand an illiterate boy is selling those photographs. After this Bill is passed, the Government will catch hold of that boy, produce him before the magistrate, charge him for selling indecent photographs and he will be convicted for two years in addition to a fine of Rs. 5000/-. I understand the spirit of the Bill, but what Government is doing by bringing forward such an amendment. For instance, at one place I see such photographs being sold by a person in the area of Archaeological Department ..

MR. SPEAKER : The submission of the Hon. Minister is that he has made distinction in such cases by adding another provision and as such, such photographs will not be challaned.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : I agree with whatever you are saying, but what is the indecency which he has described. Nowadays, some girls like modelling. I do not blame girls for that. Today, some girls like dancing, I do not say anything about them, but when the Government exhibits photographs depicting Indian culture in foreign countries, they are bound to be published and exhibited. But on the other hand, the Government say the one who makes publicity of indecent photographs or sells them, will be prosecuted. What I want to know is whether Government will prosecute the person so caught and convict him or not?

[English]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : This has come under the exemption for Archeological and other monuments.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : I would like to know whether any advertisement will be allowed to be published.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY : I want to speak one line Sir.

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY : I also want to ask a question Sir.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot do that, Shri Mohanty. It is not permissible under the Rules.

[English]

Rules do not allow you to ask question. I cannot help you if the rules are not allowing. Not allowed.

(Interruptions)

Mr. Reddy, are you withdrawing?

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : No Sir, I am pressing.

MR. SPEAKER : I now put the amendment moved by Shri Reddy to the vote of the House.

Amendment Nos. 3 and 4 were put and negatived.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Daga, are you withdrawing it ?

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Yes Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : Has the Hon. Member leave of the House to withdraw his amendment ?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

*Amendment No 16 was, by leave,
withdrawn.*

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 5 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 5 was added to the Bill.

Clause 6 was added to the Bill.

Clause 7—(Offences by Companies)

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY :
I beg to move :

Page 3 line 37,—

add at the end—

"but a sleeping or a dormant partner shall not be held guilty of any offence under this Act." (5)

With regard to the partners and directors of this firm or company, everybody is made liable. There may be some partners who actually do not take active interest in the affairs of the company or the firm. Under this Act even those people can be punished. I have given an amendment that a sleeping or a dormant partner shall not be held guilty of any offence under this Act because he does not know what is happening.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Sir, these are the normal clauses which are normally used. The definition of the partner is the same.

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY :
Sir, I seek leave of the House to withdraw my amendment No. 7.

*Amendment No 5 was, by leave,
withdrawn.*

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That Clause 7 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 7 was added to the Bill.

Clause 8—(Offences to be cognizable and bailable)

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY :
Sir, I beg to move :

"Page 4,—

after line 7, insert—

"(3) All offences under this Act shall be triable by a Magistrate not below the rank of a first class Magistrate."
(8)

Sir, this Clause 8 lays down procedure to try the offences. You have said two things. You have said it is not bailable and that it is cognizable. My amendment is that it shall be triable by a Magistrate not below the rank of a first class Magistrate. So I request the Minister to see that it is made triable only by a Magistrate not below the rank of a first class Magistrate. It is a consequential amendment which the Minister has forgotten.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : No, Sir. I cannot accept it.

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY :
I seek leave of the House to withdraw my amendment No. 8.

*Amendment No. 8 was, by leave,
withdrawn.*

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That Clause 8 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 8 was added to the Bill.

Clause 9 and 10 were added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 1, Enacting Formula and the long title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, Enacting Formula and Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Shahabuddin you may speak for two-three minutes.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I consider that this Bill is well-timed but half-baked. There have been a spate of advertisements which are bordering on pornography in posters and journals which needs to be corrected and regulated. But I would like to ask a fundamental question to the Hon. Minister. Why does she consider that only the indecent representation of the female form should be prohibited ? These advertisements could also be indecent representations of the male form. Therefore, the proper title should have been 'Indecent Representation of Human Form Prohibition Bill' which she has not done.

Secondly, Sir, I think the word indecent representation has been very poorly defined. It does not prohibit the depiction of dynamic situations which are of violence or of sexual aggression or cruelty which also need to be prohibited in very clear terms.

Thirdly it talks about public morality. Who has to define what public morality is ? Are the bureaucrats to define what public morality is ? Therefore, to that extent the Bill gives very draconian powers to the executive particularly if it is read with Section 5 which has implications of dangerous misuse on the part of bureaucracy because it is left totally to the direction and judgement of some gazetted officers and no guidelines are provided. Therefore, this Bill should have had the provision of a proper advisory board consisting of educated persons of the intelligentsia and of the jurists at every level which should first go into that case whether it merits action under that and then only the executive should taken action. Therefore, Sir, I feel that the Bill should have been circulated for public advice before it was brought before the House.

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY (Alipurduars) : Sir, this Bill does not provide for the decency of dress. We have got topless, bottomless, mini, maxi dresses also. So this does not provide what is decency and what is a decent

dress. The foreigners are coming without a decent dress. Whether we can check it or not, it is not provided. Decent people cannot go to see. Most of them are nude. Whether this Bill provides for these foreigners to move like that is not clarified. So, it seems to me that it is quite useless. In the cities and towns also, cabarets and nude dances spoil the young people. This is my question which the Minister should answer.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Sir, the Member seems to have misunderstood the scope of the Bill. This Bill is not here to set standards of dress for the women or anybody else. This is the depiction of women in the media, in advertisements, in various ways which denigrates the women. Let me say that we are not only talking here of indecent representation. That is why we have extended the scope to speak about the denigration of women also, the way she is presented. Again Shri Shahabuddin spoke about certain things being left out. Let me come to that later. We have spoken about the effect which the depiction has. It can be in any form. The question is what effect it would have once it is depicted in that particular way. (*Interruptions*) We are only talking about the obscenity. We are going beyond obscenity in this Act. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA (Pali) : Kindly go through the Section and you will not only see obscenity but advertisements. Photos and everything is there.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Secondly, Sir, in the Indian Penal Code *Mens Rea* is necessary. Here it is not necessary. It is the question of the effect it has, whether you intended it or not. About leaving men out of it, I think, it is a question of opinion. If the men feel that they are being discriminated against ladies, maybe we can later on think of including them also. But I can assure them that there will be less status for the nude men than...

(*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed"

The motion was adopted.

— — —

SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT : What about the next subject ?

MR. SPEAKER : We Will take it up in the next session. There is no time.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

[English]

PROF. N. G. RANGA : Sir, before we adjourn, I wish you and all the other Members a very Happy New Year.

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you.

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : On behalf of my party and myself, I thank you for the way you conducted the proceedings of this House with all the decorum and decency.

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA . I also thank you for conducting the business of this House in such a nice manner.

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY : It was a very lively session.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, we have a very nice time, absolutely.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT): Sir, on behalf of my very large party here, I thank you for all the cooperation and above all, the indulgence you have shown to many of us. Thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you.

Hon. Members, the 7th Session of this Hon. House concludes today. Before I adjourn the House sine die, I deem it my duty to thank the Members from all sections of the House for the unstinted cooperation, courtesy and affection that they have shown to me and my colleagues. I really take it as enjoyable, because from tomorrow onwards, I will be feeling lethargic. I do enjoy when the House is in session. Really, this is so lovely to work. It is so nice to have these discussions all the time. I do not mind the rumpus for ten or fifteen minutes that you do, but we have all the discussions,

I have had the good fortune of having a young and energetic Deputy Speaker. A great event during the session was his wedding. I think we have created a first in the history of Indian Parliament, any Speaker or Deputy Speaker getting married. He has spent long hours in the Chair in my absence and has conducted the proceedings with great ability. Not only that, he did it at certain times when I take your leave; I beg your cooperation at certain times because you have entrusted some tasks to me as Speaker, as Chairman of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, as a Member of the Executive Committee of the IPU, and I absent myself from the proceedings of the House for seven or eight days together. That is because of your magnanimity; you say: "Now, you have assumed that responsibility, you carry that out". And during my absence in those long stints, you have very ably and nicely cooperated with the Deputy Speaker and I have had no complaint or grudge about that.

I thank the Deputy Speaker heartily for the assistance that he has ungrudgingly extended to me. My thanks are also due to the members of the Panel of Chairmen who have shared with both of us the onerous task of conducting the proceedings of the House. I think, it was the first time that we left it to the Chairmen alone.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH : Many many thanks.

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA . You should also thank Mr. Daga, who chaired for one day.

MR. SPEAKER : I think, rather you should thank him, because he has got the knack to score; he does not mind which goal it is.

During this short Session, we have had 26 sittings lasting over 175 hours.

The Session began with the discussion on the adjournment motion moved by Prof. Madhu Dandavate regarding the failure of the Government to ensure strict security arrangements at the Rajghat on the 2nd October, 1986 leading to the unsuccessful attempt to assassinate the President, the Prime