

adorn the Ministerial Benches. Are you happy with what is being done to you?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): I am not unhappy.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I have done, Sir. I have said what I had to say.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North) : Sir, I think Hon. Jaswant Singhji has raised a very vital point and in the interest of Parliamentary etiquette and decorum, I would only request the hon. Home Minister just not to press it for voting at this stage. Keep it pending, keep it in abeyance, have a better wording tomorrow or day after tomorrow and then it can be passed. Otherwise it would look very ridiculous that the Ministers are being compared with the Secretaries. I think you can withhold it for a day and amend it and come tomorrow. That is my suggestion.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN : Sir, I quite appreciate the point which the hon. Member, Shri Jaswant Singhji has raised that the working should have been better. But now, for matters of getting the kind of allowances, if instead of using the word 'Secretaries' some other word could have been used, it would have been better. But I do not think that there is any room for postponing this. I shall request that this may be passed.

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI (Contai) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister has already said that the draft Resolution seeks to enhance the medical privileges to the hon. Ministers and he has also said that the draft Resolution seeks to bring the privileges at par with those of the topmost Government servants. I do not know why such a step is being taken. The Ministers are definitely not Government servants in the sense that they have not adopted the jobs in expectation of allurements. They have come in this field to serve the interests of the people. By people I mean those people who need Government assistance and cooperation for their survival and livelihood.

I know those people are deprived of the basic necessities. So if the Ministers do not get their amenities increased, it would be good for the country. Those deprived people at least expect that their elected representatives would undertake those sufferings as they are undergoing.

But as far as I know, many of the present Ministers are accused of lacking in morality which we value so much in the public life. So, we shall not be able, I think, to succeed in persuading them to refrain from taking those increased amenities. However, neither I support the Bill nor do I oppose the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That this House approves the draft Ministers' (Allowances, Medical Treatment and other Privileges) Amendment Rules, 1995 framed under sub-section (1) of Section II of the Salaries and Allowances of Ministers Act, 1952 (58 of 1952) and laid on the Table of the House on 23.3.1995."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. CHAIRMAN : We shall now go to the next item. Shri Ram Naik.

SHRI RAM NAIK : I am on a point of order. I am raising an objection on a point of order on this Ordinance and this Bill which is supposed to be taken up now. This particular Bill, the Depositories Bill, 1995 was introduced in the Lok Sabha only yesterday, that is, on the 28th November. And for giving amendments to any Bill, a minimum period of two day's notice is required. I request your reference to page 40, para 79 of the rules. Rule 79 (1) says :

"If notice of an amendment to a clause or schedule of the Bill has not been given one day before that day on which the Bill is to be considered any member may object to the moving of the amendment, and such objection shall prevail, unless the Speaker allows the amendment to be moved."

Briefly the point is that a minimum of two day's notice is required to be given for moving an amendment. Since the Bill was introduced yesterday, we could not move the amendment. And from that point of view, this Bill cannot be taken into consideration today. It can be taken into consideration tomorrow and the sense of the House should be taken into consideration.

Secondly, this is a sort of an appeal to you that this matter should also be considered. We have done sufficient work today. Therefore, I would request to you that the minimum period for moving an amendment should be given to us and the Bill should be taken up for consideration tomorrow.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : It is not a matter of rules. But my objection is a very serious one. I got the copy of this Bill today through my envelope. One has to go through it otherwise how does one participate. Therefore, our earnest request to you is that we are now approaching 6.00 p.m. Since this came in the form of an Ordinance, the Bill has to replace it. There are Bills to other Ordinances which have been circulated. What should have been done is to take those Bills first and then to take this Bill. I think, the Minister

of Parliamentary Affairs is not always devoid of a good sense. Therefore, he can consider this. I am also addressing the Chair to kindly to take up the other things.

Then I would say that I am strictly for the rules. But I do not agree with his suggestion that a minimum time should be given for moving an amendment because then the ruling may come that the notices for amendments should be accepted as the discussion goes on. That is neither here nor there. So kindly consider this. Therefore, my suggestion is to hold it up today and introduce some other thing. As far as I could see, there is not much difficulty in getting that Bill also passed despite the Statutory Resolution. But propriety demands that it should be taken up later than those Bills which have been circulated to us earlier. That is all I have to submit.

SHRI RAM NAIK : There is one more point. That particular point is that this is not just a small Bill of an amendment. This is a comprehensive Bill. For a comprehensive Bill naturally a comprehensive study is required. This is an original Bill. That is why we certainly need time to speak on that. From that point of view also it is desirable that the House should be adjourned.

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA) : Since Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee is always full of good sense and wisdom, I have no objection in accepting his advice on this matter. But I must make one observation that these gentlemen, our friends here in the House, always tend to let down their leaders. Their leaders make all kinds of promises in the Business Advisory Committee about the timing, about the time given and about the business to be conducted in the House. Either they have no respect for their leaders or they do not understand what their leaders are

talking about. I have no difficulty to adjourning the House 15 minutes before the time. It is perfectly all right. If Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee thinks that it is very good sense to adjourn the House 15 minutes before time, I have no objection to it !

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : It is a case of pure lack of understanding.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : My good friend, the Hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, has found it fit to make some tangential remarks. I receive the maximum, unstinting support from my party. Mr. Ram Naik raised a point of order. There was some substance in the point of order.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA : He would give the ruling on that.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : My request to the Parliamentary Affairs Minister is that when you concede something, please concede it with grace, not tangentially hitting at us. That is all I have to say.

MR. CHAIRMAN : As the Parliamentary Affairs Minister also agrees that it should be kept tomorrow, this will be kept tomorrow. But there is no point in the point of order of Mr. Ram Naik.

The house stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow at 11 a.m.

17.34 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, November 30, 1995/Agrahayana 9, 1917 (Saka)*