

[Shri B. K. Nehru]

coons. The concentration of ownership of newspapers should be restricted. No one should be allowed to own more than two or three newspapers. If it comes about, an appropriate action should be taken.

Then, there is clause 14 in regard to complaints, how to deal with complaints. A complaint is brought to the Council and it will be discussed in the Council. What do they do about it? They express in writing that a warning may be issued. But no action is being taken against them. So, this sort of an imbalance as regards the owners on one side and the newspapers on the other side should be removed. The owners of newspapers should also be restrained in their operations. The newspapers should expand their activities that will help the nation.

*SHRI GOVINDA MUNDA (Keonjhar): Madam Chairman, I am grateful to you that you have given me an opportunity to speak in my mother tongue.

This Press Council Bill has been passed by the Rajya Sabha. The hon. Minister for Information and Broadcasting has presented this Bill in the House which I welcome. After it is passed by Lok Sabha it will become an Act.

Madam Chairman, I am glad that our Government is fulfilling the promises they had made during the elections. They have already passed the Constitution Forty-fifth (Amendment) Bill and the present Bill is another legislation in the same direction. While supporting this Bill I remember the days of emergency. Madam, I was a press reporter. One night at 12.00 p.m. the policemen knocked at my door and when I appeared before them they forced me to sign on a paper. I am really happy that this Bill make an end to that black period.

Madam Chairman, you will agree that atrocities are still being perpetrated on persons belonging to the weaker sections of our society and it is the responsibility of the press correspondents to highlight the truth.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you require more time you can continue on Monday because we have to take up Private Members Business now. The House will now take up Private Members Business.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS— Contd.

TWENTY-THIRD REPORT

श्री राम विलास पासवान (हाजीपुर): मैं निम्नलिखित प्रस्ताव करता हूँ: "कि यह सभा गैर सरकारी सदस्यों के विधेयकों तथा संकल्पों सम्बन्धी समिति के 23वें प्रतिवेदन से, जो 23 अगस्त, 1978 को सभा में प्रस्तुत किया गया था, सहमत है।"

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Twenty-third Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 23rd August, 1978."

The motion was adopted.

15.29 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE: PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM TO CHECK RISING PRICES—Contd.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up further discussion on the resolution moved by Shrimati Ahilya P. Rangnekar.

Mr. Mohan Dharia.

*The original speech was delivered in Oriya.