4. Shri Niren Ghosh.

The minutes of dissent recorded by Shri Saroj Mukherjee, Shri Samar Guha, Shri Virendra Agarwala, Shri Shyamlal Gupta and Shri Niren Ghosh pleaded rejection of the Bill as it had been opposed by the intellectual community of Bengal and other parts of the country.

The question of bringing the Act into force has been reconsidered. A large number of representations from the National Library Association, Bengal Library Association and a Joint Convention on the National Library of India Act, 1976 have been received. The representations reiterate that the Bill at its formulation stage was opposed by the Members of Parliament and other prominent members of the Public and intelligentsia, that the Jha Committee had recommended a delegated autonomy and not statutory autonomy, and the Act would lower the image of the National Library.

The National Library is at present a subordinate office under the Department of Culture and the Director enjoys the Financial and administrative powers as are delegated to an Head of the Department, while the Act envisages a three tier arrangement with an autonomous Board, an Executive Council and the Director. It is now felt that such diffusion of authority will not be conducive to the efficient functioning of the Library. Keeping this in view and the opposition to the Act from the various quarters when the Act was formulated it has now been decided that the National Library of India Act, 1976 may not be brought into force and the Library may continue to function as a subordinate office under the Department of Culture.

The Government of India is also considering whether or not it is necessary to legislate on the subject of libraries in general or the National Library in particular. The question of repeal of the National Library of India Act, 1976, would, therefore be considered in this context.

SHRI O. V ALAGESAN (Arkonam): Sir, it has been urged on the floor of the House that there is a library of national importance in Tanjavur. It was a collection, a library, set up by Maharaja Sarfoji. It contains very valuable and very rare manuscripts in all languages—Tamil, Telugu, Marathi, Sanskrit, etc.

I raised the question on the floor of the House and taking into consideration the importance that this library enjoys in the cultural and educational field, I urged upon the Government that it should be declared as a library of national importance. The then Minister agreed to it and he agreed to bring forward a legislation on this matter.

Now, from the statement that the hon. Minister has made, it appears that the Government are going against that policy and do not want any legislation in respect of any library. I would like to have a clarification from the hon. Minister whether he takes the view that there is no need for any legislation even to protect libraries of this sort, namely, the Tanjavur Saraswati Mahal Library. I want to have that clarification from the hon. Minister.

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER: Sir, this is with regard to a particular library for which I require notice. It does not come within the purview of the present system. But I have already stated that the Government is considering whether or not it is necessary to undertake legislation on the subject of libraries in general. That is under our consideration.

12.33 hrs.

Papers laid on the Table—contd.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM (Palani): Sir, I crave your indulgence to remove a misunderstanding that has

been created by Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu by his remarks with regard to item No. 3. You will be pleased to find that these Reports are in Hindi version. As far as English versions are concerned, they have been placed at an appropriate time. Therefore, all the abuses heaped on the previous Government will give an impression that after 1974, it is only placed in 1978. I want to remove this impression. In fairness, the Minister should have removed this misunderstanding. Perhaps, because it related to the previous Government, he did not do it.

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN): I have drawn the attention of the House to the fact that English versions had been placed before and that Hindi versions have been delayed on account of translation. But the Chair had been pleased to say that even Hindi versions should have been placed in time.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: The insinuation was that because Birlas were involved, this has come up after a delay of three or four years That is not correct.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): Sir, I have given you a written notice quoting the rule. It is printed in the List of Business about Hindi versions. Of course, I cannot read English so well as Mr. Subramaniam does. I can read that it was in Hindi versions. I want to know one thing from both of my friends, Mr. Subramaniam on my right and Mr. Shanti Bhushan on my left.

Sir, my question is: would they be kind enough to enlighten this ignorant bloke as to what date the English version was laid on the Table of the House?

SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN: That is mentioned in the List of Business. That is there in the Order Paper. Therefore, this information did not require to be supplied; it is already there in the Order Paper.

MR. SPEAKER: Rule 377.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: No, no, Sir; wait a minute. On what date the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission handed it over? This is what I wanted to know.

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a point of order. Shri Lakkappa

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA (Tumkur): Under 377, I would like to raise a very important issue.

श्री भगत राम (फिल्लौर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आप को एक जानकारी देना चाहता हूं । आप का जो आफिस है, वह ठीक ढंग से फंक्शन नहीं कर रहा है क्योंकि मैं तीन बार रिपीट कर चुका हूं 377 में....

MR. SPEAKER: This is not an office matter. You better come to my chamber and discuss the matter.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA (Serampore): You must give him a patient hearing at least

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12.35 hrs.

RE. LEAKAGE OF ALVA COMMITTEE REPORT

श्री भगत राम (फिल्लौर) : मैं पी० जी० आई० के बारे में 377 में मेटर रेज करना चाहता था । आलवा कमेटी की रिपोर्ट के बारे में मैं कहना चाहता था । आलवा कमेटी की रिपोर्ट का लीकेज हो चुका है और यहां पर भी आनरेबिल हैल्थ मिनिस्टर कह चुके है कि उसकी रिपोर्ट अभी सदन की टेबिल पर नहीं रखी जाएगी लेकिन उससे बडे शोकिंग रेवीलीएन्स होने वाले है । इसलिए मैं इस मेटर को यहा पर रेज करना चाहता था । इसका पी० जी० आई० पर बडा असर पडा है और लोगों का भी उसमें यकीन नहीं रहने वाला है । यह एक नेशनल इम्पोर्टेंस-की चीज है और वह रिपोर्ट लीक हो चुकी है । वहां पर डाक्टरों ने एक रेजोलूशन पास किया है कि इसकी जूडीशियल इन्क्वायरी