

that in order to constitute a sitting of the Joint Committee the quorum shall be one-third of the total number of members of the Joint Committee;

that the Committee shall make a report to this House by the first day of the next session;

that in other respects the Rules of Procedure of this House relating to Parliamentary Committees shall apply with such variations and modifications as the Speaker may make; and

that this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do join the said Joint Committee and communicate to this House the names of 15 members to be appointed by Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee."

The motion was adopted.

PRESS COUNCIL BILL

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): I beg to move:

"That this House do concur in the recommendation of Rajya Sabha that the House do join in the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Bill to establish a Press Council for the purpose of preserving the freedom of the Press and of maintaining and improving the standards of newspapers and news agencies in India, made in the motion adopted by Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 1st March, 1978 and communicated to this House on the 3rd March, 1978 and do resolve that the following 20 Members of Lok Sabha be nominated to serve on the said Joint Committee, namely:—(1) Shri Nanasahib Bonde, (2) Shri Somnath Chatterjee, (3) Shri Ishwar Chaudhury, (4) Shri S. R. Damani, (5) Shri Giridhar Goman-go, (6) Shri Nirmal Chandra Jain, (7) Shri P. Kannan, (8) Shri P. G.

Mavalankar, (9) Shri Md. Hayat Ali, (10) Shri Amrit Nahata, (11) Shri Phirangi Prasad, (12) Shri Ratansinh Rajda, (13) Shri Balwant Singh Ramuwalia, (14) Shri Jagannath Rao, (15) Shri Jalagam Kondala Rao, (16) Shri P. M. Sayeed, (17) Shri Surath Bahadur Shah, (18) Shri Digvijaya Narain Singh, (19) Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah, (20) Shri Yadvendra Dutt."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do concur in the recommendation of Rajya Sabha that the House do join in the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Bill to establish a Press Council for the purpose of preserving the freedom of the Press and of maintaining and improving the standards of newspapers and news agencies in India, made in the motion adopted by Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 1st March, 1978 and communicated to this House on the 3rd March, 1978 and do resolve that the following 20 Members of Lok Sabha be nominated to serve on the said Joint Committee, namely: (1) Shri Nanasahib Bonde, (2) Shri Somnath Chatterjee, (3) Shri Ishwar Chaudhry, (4) Shri S. R. Damani, (5) Shri Giridhar Goman-go, (6) Shri Nirmal Chandra Jain, (7) Shri P. Kannan, (8) Shri P. G. Mavalankar, (9) Shri Md. Hayat Ali, (10) Shri Amrit Nahata, (11) Shri Phirangi Prasad, (12) Shri Ratansinh Rajda, (13) Shri Balwant Singh Ramuwalia, (14) Shri Jagannath Rao, (15) Shri Jalagam Kondala Rao, (16) Shri P. M. Sayeed, (17) Shri Surath Bahadur Shah, (18) Shri Digvijaya Narain Singh, (19) Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah, and (20) Shri Yadvendra Dutt."

The motion was adopted.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): Regarding item No. 27, it was decided that it would be taken up in the next

[Shri Ravindra Varma]

session. So, we will now take up Item No. 28.

16.40 hrs.

MOTION RE. GROWING STUDENT UNREST IN UNIVERSITIES

श्री कंवर लाल गुप्त (दिल्ली सदर) : मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूँ :

“कि यह सभा विश्वविद्यालयों में तथा विश्व-विद्यालय समझे जाने वाले उच्चतर शिक्षा के अन्य संस्थानों में बढ़ते हुए छात्र असंतोष पर चिन्ता व्यक्त करती है और सरकार से सिफारिश करती है कि असंतोष के कारणों को दूर करने के लिए समुचित पग उठाये जायें।”

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR (Gandhinagar): Sir, what about item No. 27? Why are you skipping over it?

MR. SPEAKER: Item No. 28 is listed to be taken up at 4 O'Clock. The House has agreed to postpone it by half an hour.

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: Even then the House would like to have some indication of the thinking of the Government in the matter. I am not interested only in a discussion as such. It can go over to the next session.

MR. SPEAKER: When the matter was taken up and postponed, you must have been present.

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: Let him tell the House that the main recommendations of the Verghese Committee regarding autonomy will be implemented as speedily as possible. At least that assurance should be given.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA: No, there may be different of opinion on the Verghese Committee's report. It should be examined.

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: Otherwise, bureaucracy is acting in its own way. Let him give some indication as to what Government are going to do in the matter. It is a very serious matter.

SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU (Chittoor): Government has said so many times that it is going to give autonomy.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): Government stands by its basic commitment to grant autonomy to the broadcasting media, but the shape and kind of its autonomy would depend on the debate in the House. I was keen to have the debate in this session itself, but somehow it has not been possible. So far as the Government is concerned, Government stands by its commitment of granting autonomy.

श्री कंवर लाल गुप्त : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं ने सदन के सामने जो प्रस्ताव पेश किया है, वह एक बहुत महत्वपूर्ण प्रस्ताव है और उस का सम्बन्ध देश की एक बहुत बड़ी समस्या से है। मुझे भय है कि अगर हम ने इस समस्या को जल्दी से न सुलझाया तो हो सकता है कि देश का प्रजातंत्र ख़तरे में पड़ जाय और ला एण्ड आर्डर की स्थिति बिगड़ जाय, यहां तक कि वह हमारे कानू से बाहर हो जाय। इस लिए मैं चाहूंगा कि सरकार इस समस्या पर गम्भीरता से विचार करे और इस को हल करन के लिए जल्दी से जल्दी कदम उठाय।

इस बारे में मार्च, और अप्रैल, 1978 के दौरान पूछे गए सवालों के मंत्री महोदय ने जो जवाब दिये, उनसे यह प्रकट हुआ कि पिछल एक वर्ष में जितनी बार हिन्दुस्तान की यूनिवर्सिटीज बन्द हुई हैं, शायद उतनी बार आज तक कभी बन्द नहीं हुई हैं। पहल भी कभी कभी यूनिवर्सिटीज बन्द होती थीं, लेकिन अब शायद ही कोई ऐसी यूनिवर्सिटी हो, जो कभी न कभी बन्द न हुई हो और शायद ही कोई प्रदेश बचा हो, जहाँ कोई यूनिवर्सिटी बन्द न हुई हो। इस क आतारकत एक और गम्भीर बात यह देखने में आ रही है कि यूनिवर्सिटीज के बन्द होने के साथ साथ वायलेंस की घटनायें भी दिन-प्रति-दिन बढ़ती जा रही हैं।

मैं समझता हूँ कि सदन में इधर बठने वाले सदस्य हों या उधर बठने वाले सदस्य हों, इस बारे में दो राय नहीं हो सकती हैं कि आज जो स्थिति है, वह संतोषजनक नहीं है, वह एक चिन्ताजनक स्थिति है, और इसमें सुधार किया जाना चाहिए। विद्या