

MR. SPEAKER: So far as voting on this Clause is concerned, the slips have already been distributed; we will go by the slips. One more balloting is possible on the machine. We will have that. Thereafter, we will have it tomorrow at 11.00 a.m. Tomorrow's question hour will be shifted to Wednesday next; you must agree to that.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes, everything tomorrow.

AN HON. MEMBER: Why not today?

MR. SPEAKER: Our Muslim friends are on fast, we cannot keep them for long.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: Sir, everybody is in a terrific confusion as to what is going on. May I just submit, we will not be able to complete it today. Let this clause also be taken up tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: Not this clause.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: Counting will take such a long time.

MR. SPEAKER: It will be over in another five minutes. Both the Leader of the House and the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs have said that this voting may be cancelled, and may be held tomorrow. Is that the pleasure of the House?

HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: The Calling Attention that is listed for tomorrow will be taken up after the voting. Also, it is understood that tomorrow we will not take another two hours in the morning on other things.

श्री राज नारायण : श्रीमन् सगर प्राप चाहते हैं कि आज ही बोटिंग हो और दो, तीन घंटे में खत्म करना चाहते हैं तो नहीं होगा क्योंकि बटं रीडिंग में हम टाइम लिमिट नहीं मानेंगे।

19.10 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. BONUS

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): The demand for restoration of the minimum bonus which workers enjoyed before the emergency came up as a natural consequence of the demand to right the wrongs of the Emergency; and it was decided in August of last year to restore the minimum bonus of 8.33 per cent for the accounting year 1976, subject to the provisions of the Payment of Bonus Act which empowered Government to protect marginal and sick units.

Since then, requests have been received from various quarters for amendment of the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965 in certain respects. These include restoration of the original provisions of Section 34, deletion altogether of Section 34, making the 1977 amendment a permanent feature of the Act, extension of the Act to new areas; and changes in the formula for computation of bonus. Some proposals have also been made to consider the conversion of a part of the Bonus or the whole to retirement benefits, unemployment relief and the like. It is the intention of Government to study these proposals closely and to have consultations with the interests concerned before introducing permanent changes in the Act.

Meanwhile, in view of the onset of the festival season, it has been decided that the status quo should be maintained for one more year. Accordingly, steps are being taken to continue the pattern of bonus payments prescribed in the Amendment Act of 1977, namely, for an 8.33 per cent minimum bonus regardless of profit to be paid for the accounting year commencing on any day in the year 1977.

19.15 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, August 23, 1978/Bhadra 1, 1900 (Saka).