

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:—

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Port Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1977, which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 13th December 1977."

PORT LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL

AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY: Sir, I lay on the Table of the House the Port Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1977, as passed by Rajya Sabha.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we take up calling attention motion. Shri Krishna Kant.

SHRI S. NANJESHA GOWDA (Hassan): I have tabled many relevant questions but they have been rejected giving no reason and in some cases, giving some rules which I have to refer to again. Sir, they are very relevant questions. Perhaps because the answers may go against some ex-Ministers or some ex-Secretaries, they have somehow managed to reject those questions. I request you to kindly look into them. They are very relevant questions.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no point in making such complaints on the floor of the House because I do not know which question you are referring to. If you come to my Chamber, we can discuss it.

12.03 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED DECISION OF THE MANAGEMENT TO CLOSE DOWN NATIONAL HERALD, DELHI

SHRI KRISHAN KANT (Chandigarh): I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Information and Broadcasting to the following matter of urgent public

importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The reported decision of the management to suspend the publication of the *National Herald* from Delhi, which may lead to its closure, and repercussions thereof on the journalists and staff."

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): The subject matter of this Notice falls in the State sphere—in this case, the Delhi Administration.

In terms of the recently amended Industrial Disputes Act which came into force on 5th March, 1976, industrial establishments employing 300 or more workers and covered by the Act are required to give the appropriate Government 90 days' notice intimating their intention to close down their unit. According to the information supplied by Delhi Administration, the *National Herald*, Delhi, which employs about 400 workers inclusive of casual workers had not given any such notice to the Administration till December 14, 1977. Further more, according to information available with Delhi Administration, the management had not till December 14, 1977 taken any decision to close down the Delhi office of the *National Herald*.

Sir, in view of the subject matter of the motion I have also requested my colleague, the Labour Minister to be here to answer any question because essentially, even so far as this government is concerned, it is he who deals with it.

SHRI KRISHNA KANT: Mr. Advani had been in the opposition and probably he remembers that when the question of newspapers comes, it is no question of any State paper. What happened to the *Times of India* and *Basumati*? It was the Central Government which was to intervene. So, this first sentence, 'The subject matter of this Notice falls in the State sphere.....' is not correct.

Secondly, I would like to know whether he is not aware when he takes this plea, that the All India Radio over which he presides, on the 13th December in its 8.10 a.m. bulletin said:

"Col. B.H. Zaidi, the Chairman of the Associated Journals Ltd. has confirmed that the Delhi Editor of the *National Herald* is being closed down in a day or two."