

Scindia, Shri Madhavrao
Sezhiyan, Shri
Shakya, Shri Maha Deepak Singh
Shastri, Shri Shiv Kumar
Singh, Shri D. N.
Subravelu, Shri
Vijay Pal Singh, Shri

MR. SPEAKER: The result* of the division is: Ayes 111; Noes 34.

The motion was adopted.

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN:
I introduce† the Bill.

12.40 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. CENTRAL EXCISES
AND SALT (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE
(SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN):
I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English) giving reasons for immediate legislation by the Central Excises and Salt (Amendment) Ordinance, 1973, as required under rule 71(1) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

12.40 1/2 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) PRESS REPORTS ABOUT SALARY, ALLOWANCES ETC. OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Shyamnandan Mishra to raise a matter under Rule 377.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA (Begusarai): Sir, it is with great reluctance but with a sense of duty that I have to refer to a news-item circulated by a news agency regarding the salary, allowances and amenities en-

joyed by the Members of Parliament. To say the least, this news-item has been exaggerated very much and we find that this is a gross misrepresentation of the factual position as it obtains today.

The newspaper report says that the salary, allowances and amenities of a Member of Parliament amount to no less than Rs. 5000 per month. The position seems to be completely incorrect. It could be claimed that the Members of Parliament in India receive probably the lowest so far as the salary, allowance and amenities are concerned and, particularly if you consider the price rise which has taken place to the extent of 22 to 23 per cent, their economic plight seems to be extremely miserable. There is no doubt about it.

As salary, a Member of Parliament gets only Rs. 500 a month. It has been claimed in the news-item that we are almost on par with a Member of British Parliament who gets 3,250 pounds a year. The comparison is totally wrong. Even if you take into account the total daily allowance that a Member of Parliament gets during the course of a year, the amount that he gets per month would not exceed Rs. 1000 to Rs. 1200 per month. This is an amount which is earned even by a Section Officer in the Government of India....

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: (Bhagalpur): The Parliament sits for not more than six months in a year. Therefore, this daily allowance of Rs. 1500 per month becomes Rs. 750 per month. So, Rs. 750 plus the salary of Rs. 500 come to Rs. 1250 per month. Not more than that.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: If the account is taken of the expenses that a Member of Parliament has to incur, that is, on his transport to fulfil his official engagements and even social calls which are so necessary, the secre-

*Shri Tarkeshwar Pandey also recorded his vote for AYES.

†Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

[Shri Shyamnandan Mishra]

tarial assistance that he has to get, the telephone bills that he has to pay, and all that, it would then appear that their economic hardship are coming in the way of their effective functioning.

I thought the hon. Leader of the House would come before the House and clarify the position. There must be somebody on the Treasury Benches to look after these interests of ours. They must make the position clear. Otherwise, if it becomes our duty to come forward to our own defence, it does not look very nice. I think, even now there is an opportunity either for the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs or for the hon. Prime Minister to make a statement on the subject.

One thing which beats us completely is the reasoning behind this news-item given by a news agency where this kind of disclosure has been made. It is as if something new has come; some new additions have been made to the salary, allowances and amenities of the Members of Parliament. There does not seem to be any reason for coming forward with such a news-item. I think, it is by a strange arithmetic or calculation that such a fantastic figure has been given. We are prepared to sit with the news agency concerned to find out what could be the reasoning behind this or the calculation behind this.

Mr. Speaker, although it may not be the intention on the part of the news agency, it appears to amount to an attempt to bring the Members of Parliament into contempt. Therefore, we seek protection at your hands. I think, it is the unanimous view of all the hon. Members of Parliament that, in the present circumstances, we require sympathy and not any kind of a cruel joke like this which is being perpetrated on us.

MR. SPEAKER: This morning I received this notice from Shri Shyamnandan Mishra and also from other

members. I gave a chance to Shri Shyamnandan Mishra because he happened to send it first. Prof. Samar Guha and some other members also sent their notices or met me.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contai): May I make a submission....

MR. SPEAKER: I am told by Shri Indrajit Gupta that Shri Mishra has spoken on behalf of all of you.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Sir, I had actually given notice of a motion of breach of privilege—but I did not press it since you had given permission to Shri Shyamnandan Mishra—because some of the facts mentioned in this report are incorrect and distorted. Here they say, 'travel by First Class ACC by paying a little extra'. Then they say, 'VIP treatment at government hospitals'. It is not so. We pay for it. We never wanted any extra amenities. We only want certain facilities for our work. Day in and day out an impression is being created all over the country by the newspapers that the Members of Parliament are the most privileged class. This has to be disabused, because we are representatives of the people and publication of such kinds of news constitutes an attempt to denigrate our status and our sense of responsibility. Therefore, through you, Sir, I request that a clear statement be made whether we get Rs. 5,000, whether the amenities given to us are comparable to those of British MPs. Otherwise, we will be misunderstood by the people.

MR. SPEAKER: We shall try to collect every information and if the whole information could come to us during this very Session, we will lay it before the House. I will send it to the Leader of the House also.

Personally, may I tell you that we are having this salary of Rs. 500 p.m. since the last many years? We have no trade union, nor do we agitate for dearness allowance or anything of that kind...

SHRI A. P. SHARMA (Buxar): Recently we have effected a ten per cent voluntary cut..

MR. SPEAKER: Then, the allowance of Rs. 51 that we are getting is only during the sitting period of Parliament. We have calculated that it comes to nearly Rs. 1,500 or 1,400. The MPs do not have the concession of a free house—they pay for it, though with a concession. It is not something new; it has been there since the olden times. I have seen it abroad and I sincerely and honestly tell you that we are the worst and the least paid Members of Parliament. I will show it to you. We do not compare ourselves with the Americans. Now, they had got another addition. They get 25,000 dollars, Mercedes Benz cars, stenographers, libraries secretaries, offices, and so many things, but we are too poor for that. For the British Parliamentarian, I calculated and I discussed it with the Member; last time and I got the information, it comes to about Rs 12,000 a month. Not only this, there are many other allowances also I have noted them down somewhere. Last year the Secretary-General and myself were there and we got this information. Even in the smallest countries to which we go, we find what their Members of Parliament get. Here, do you want a member of Parliament, to just sit here not reading and replying to the hundreds of letters he receives every day? I receive so many letters. Now I have more than 2 PAs. I have got so much private correspondence. They are kept 18 hours busy. You imagine if I were to do it myself, will it be possible? You leave me aside. As a Member I had two Stenos. One used to come in the morning and another in the afternoon. They got Rs 150 each. Still they were grumbling that they had to do a lot

Telephone Bills—you cannot imagine, these honourable guests when they come, what a heavy burden they add sometimes.

Also consider the number of guests you have. We will send all these guests to the UNI gentleman and we will see I honestly tell you that when I was an MP I used to spend double the amount I got as MP because our constituencies are too near. In this way, South Indian MPs are very lucky. Bihar people also are equally lucky.

य० ए० आई० वालों ने जो खबर दी है, उन को क्या पता कि क्या मुसीबत होती होगी। ये सारी चीजे पब्लिक ने भी दुरुस्त होनी चाहिये। पब्लिक को इन्वेष्टमेंट ग खर्चा नहीं करना चाहिये, इन नैवेगरी वर्ड्स एंड नहीं करना चाहिये, फिर तो 500 रुपये में गुजारा हो सकता है। लेकिन अगर पब्लिक इतनी कारम्प्लाइड करायें टेलीफोन करायें और यह चहते कि उन को जवाब भी फौरन मिले तो फिर यह बात भी पब्लिक के सामने आ जनी चाहिये कि इस काम के लिए बाहर मिनटों फॉर्मिड मिलनी है। मैंने सिर्फ उसी मुल्क में देखा है कि मेम्बर को इन्वेस्ट भी करना है और फिर उस में जलस फील करने है। सारा दिन यहां पर जो काम चलता रहता है, वह किन्तु के लिये करने है, घर के बच्चों के लिये नहीं करने है।

मुबह मेरे पास कुछ मेम्बरा ने कुछ प्रकट किया था मैंन सोचा कि मैं भी आप के साथ ही थोडा सा गुल्फा निकाल ल। हम प्रेमवालों के साथ बैठने को नैसर्ग है आप को भी बैठ ऊगा, आप उन को समझाई। जो इन्फरमेशन इकट्ठी करनी है, वह भी इकट्ठी कर के उन के सामने रखग।

We will see where we stand.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Some of us have to maintain three establishments. I got elected from a rural constituency. So I have to maintain one establishment here, one at Calcutta and the third one in my constituency.

अध्यक्ष महोदय मैं आप को बल्लाऊं—पंजाब में बतौर स्पीकर और मिनिस्टर के

[अध्यक्ष महोदय]

जो मैं लतः था, जब उस से भा कम मिलती है। पंजाब में एम० एल० एच० 500 रुपये लेते हैं, उन को बसों और रेलों का पास भी दिया हुआ है। बाखिर मेम्बर को कई जगह जाना होता है—कास्टोचूएन्सी में जाना होता है, दूसरा जगह जाना होता है, यहाँ आना होता है, अगर आप इन का भी गिलटी नहीं देंगे तो रुपये तो एक ही दिन में बराबर हो जायेंगे।

इस लिये इस में आप का चिन्ता नहीं होनी चाहिए—जिस भाई ने यह खबर दी है, मैं उस का बुलाऊंगा उन को गलतफहमी दूर करूंगा। मुझे पिछले दिना कुछ एम० पी० न कहा था—हालात बड़े खराब है, हम दूसरा के लिये रोते हैं, लेकिन हमारे लिये कोई नहीं राता, ज़रा बारूपाल का तगडा किया जाय। आप समझ गये हों। बारूपाल के तगडा हाने का क्या मतलब है। बहरहाल सारी चीजे आप के सामने आयगी।

(12) STRIKE IN CEAT TYRE FACTORY,
BOMBAY

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA (Serampore): I have got a brief submission to make. It is this. There are more than 1300 workers of the force owned CEAT Tyre factory, Bombay. They are on strike since the 13th of November, protesting against the over-work-load and demanding increase in their emoluments. The Labour Ministry has failed to take up the cause of the workers. The failure of the Government to settle this dispute has aggravated the tyre, tube shortage in the country and created untold sufferings to small transport operators. I wish to draw the attention of the Government through you, Sir, and I make a submission that they must try to avert the strike at the earliest opportunity so that production may not be hampered. So far as I know,

the workers are very eager for a settlement on condition that no new work-load is there and they get their proper emoluments.

MR. SPEAKER: May I know from the hon. Minister if he wants to make any statement today or later on?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): I am not aware of the strike. I will try to find out the position and do whatever is necessary.

MR. SPEAKER: With regard to the facts which have been brought up to your notice you can come out with some statement later on.

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA: Yes.

SHRI S. M BANERJEE (Kanpur): About the Indian Airline Strike, let the hon Minister come with a statement Sir Negotiations are going on. I would request the Minister through you to make some statement about it

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: New conditions have been imposed on the other hand.

12 59 hrs

MATERNITY BENEFIT (AMEND-
MENT) BILL

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): Sir, I beg to move*:

"That the Bill further to amend the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 was enacted to secure uniformity in the payment of maternity benefit to women industrial workers and its pro-

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.