

14.59 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Nineteenth Report

SHRI K. M. Koushik (Chanda): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House agrees with the Nineteenth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 14th February, 1968."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House agrees with the Nineteenth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 14th February, 1968".

The motion was adopted.

15 hrs.

WIDOWERS' RE-MARRIAGE BILL*

श्री रघुबीर सिंह शास्त्री : (बागपत): मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूँ कि विधुर पुनर्विवाह के लिए उमर बढ़ाने वाले विधेयक को पेश करने की अनुमति दी जाय।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the re-marriage of widowers."

The motion was adopted.

श्री रघुबीर सिंह शास्त्री : श्रीमान् मैं विधेयक पेश करता हूँ।

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Amendment of articles 4, 80 etc)

श्री शिव चन्द्र झा (मधुबनी): उपाध्यक्ष महोदय मैं बागदव सदन से दरखवास्त करता हूँ कि मुझे भारते के संविधान में आये संशोधन करने वाले विधेयक को पेश करने की अनुमति दी जाय।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

श्री शिव चन्द्र झा : मैं विधेयक को पेश करता हूँ।

15.01 hrs.

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Insertion of new section 7A)

डा० गोविन्द दास (जबलपुर): मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूँ कि लोक प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम, 1951 में आये संशोधन करने वाले विधेयक को पेश करने की अनुमति दी जाय।

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): Sir, I rise to oppose this Bill at the introduction stage on two grounds. I must make it clear to my hon. friend, Dr. Govind Das that defection may mean political corruption unless it is based on an ideology. The hon. Member is aware that in this House there was a non-official resolution moved by the hon. Member Shri Venkatasubbaiah which was

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[Shri S. M. Banerjee]

supported by us with certain amendments from myself and Shri Madhu Limaye. It was accepted by the Home Minister and finally it was accepted by this House in the amended form. As a result of that a Committee to consider the entire matter of defections has been set up. This matter is already under the consideration of that Committee. It was unanimously felt in this House, by all sections including the ruling party, that no legislation is going to solve this problem of defection. The feeling was that it was entirely a political issue and it has to be tackled on a political level. I know, and the hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs will kindly bear me out, that even in the meeting of the Whips held in Simla last year a unanimous resolution was taken that this matter should be settled by convening a meeting of all the political parties and having a consensus. It was the unanimous opinion that defections are bad. Today I find that after having done all the mischief the Congress is coming forward with a legislation to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951. They want to say, as is given in page 2 of the Bill, that if a Member after he is elected to the House of the People or to the Legislative Assembly of a State resigns from the party on whose ticket he contested the election he shall be disqualified. I fully appreciate the sentiments of my hon. friend. His is a very noble idea. I know he has never defected, I admire him. All honour to him. But, Sir, who started the game? It started with the Congress right from Shri Asoka Mehta. I do not want to name more people.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: At this stage, Mr. Banerjee . . .

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Sir, I am not mentioning any more names. Just

to justify my objection I should say something. That was why I wanted to point out that this game was started by the Congress. Therefore, unless that Committee submits a report this Bill should not be brought here.

Another reason is, a similar Bill moved by a PSP Member, Shri Misra, is already before the House. It has already been introduced and it has only to be categorised. So I request my hon. friend, Dr. Govind Das, through you, Sir, to wait till the report is submitted by that Committee so that the House knows what the recommendations are and whether this has to be tackled on a political level or not.

In the absence of such a report this Bill will not be fruitful in this House. So, I would request him to withdraw the Bill or not to introduce it at least today; let us wait for the Committee's report.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951."

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: No reply to my objection, Sir?

The motion was adopted.

डा० गोविन्द दास : मैं विधेयक को पेश करता हूँ।

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

Amendment of articles 343, 345 etc.)

SHRI J. MOHAMED IMAM (Chitradurga): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.