

re-consider this, to sit with us I can assure him that if there is a sitting of the Select Committee, we shall not let him down. We shall certainly make suggestions which will improve the Bill. But if they go on eroding the rights of the press and of the people of this country, we shall definitely oppose it lock, stock and barrel with whatever strength we have got.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA
 The hon. Member has taken the attitude that this Bill is against the working journalists or the working people. Actually, this Bill is against those who are all the time working against the interests of the working journalists, not against the working journalists, because none of the working journalists do the objectionable things which are listed in the ordinance, and I am surprised how a knowledgeable person like Shri Banerjee says that this will affect the working journalists and not the jute press. Really it is meant for all those people who have been violating the ethics of journalism day in and day out. It is going to affect them only. Those who do not violate the well-accepted ethics of journalism have nothing to fear from this.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE I say that the workers and the trade unions are going to be affected by it.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA
 I can quote that the working-class as well as working journalists need not fear anything out of this. It is only mean for such people who have been defying the freedom of the Press by misusing it in various ways. The hon. Member might have noticed that the objectionable matters that have been listed are already crimes under various statutes passed by this Parliament. The only thing that we are doing is that we are listening them in a proper manner so that in case they are represented by visible represen-

tation or printed matters which are published and circulated, only then they will be subject to certain penalties and other things to which, today, they are not. Even though it is a crime, when it is printed in the newspaper, printed in the shape of pamphlets or posters, then it is difficult to take action against them. Now, with this thing coming on we will be able to take action against those people. But those people who are saying things for the benefit of the working-class and the general people of the country, need not fear for this. Only such people who violate the ethics of this, have to fear this. I did not suspect Mr Banerjee to stand up and oppose the introduction of the Bill. It is not possible for us to refer it to the Select Committee because of obvious reasons. This being an ordinance, it has to be ratified by Parliament within a certain time.

MR. SPEAKER The question is—

That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide against the printing and publication of incitement to crime and other objectionable matter."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA
 I introduce the Bill.

STATEMENT OF PREVENTION OF PUBLICATION OF OBJECTIONABLE MATTER ORDINANCE, 1975

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) I lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) giving reasons for immediate legislation by the Prevention of Publication of Objectionable Matter Ordinance, 1975.