

Das, Shri Anadi Charan
 Daschowdhury, Shri B. K.
 Deb, Shri Dassaratha
 Dhamankar, Shri
 Dixit, Shri Jagdish Chandra
 Dumada, Shri L. K.
 Dwivedi, Shri Nageshwar
 Ganga Devi, Shrimati
 Gomango, Shri Giridhar
 Gotkhinde, Shri Annasabeb
 Gowda, Shri Pampan
 Hansda, Shri Subodh
 Hanumanthaiya, Shri K.
 Hashim, Shri M. M.
 Kedar, Shri S. A.
 Kakoti, Shri Robin
 Kaul, Shrimati Sheila
 Kedar Nath Singh, Shri
 Kulkarni, Shri Raja
 Mahajan, Shri Y. S.
 Mahata, Shri Debendra Nath
 Mallanna, Shri K.
 Mallikarjun, Shri
 Mohsin, Shri F. H.
 Mukherjee, Shri Samar
 Negi, Shri Pratap Singh
 Pahadia, Shri Jagannath
 Pandey, Shri Krishna Chandra
 Paokai Haokip, Shri
 Patil, Shri Krishnarao
 Raj Bahadur, Shri
 Ram Swarup, Shri
 Ramji Ram, Shri
 Rana, Shri M. B.
 Rao, Shri Jagannath
 Rao, Shri P. Ankineedu Prasada
 Reddy, Shri K. Ramakrishna
 Reddy, Shri M. Ram Gopal

Richhariya, Dr. Govind Das
 Roy, Shri Bishwanath
 Satish Chandra, Shri
 Sayeed, Shri P. M.
 Shambhu Nath, Shri
 Shankaranand, Shri B.
 Sharma, Shri A. P.
 Shenoy, Shri P. R.
 Sher Singh, Prof.
 Siddayya, Shri S. M.
 Suryanarayana, Shri K.
 Swaminathan, Shri R. V.
 Venkatasubbaiah, Shri P.
 Venkatswamy, Shri G.
 Verma, Shri Ramsingh Bhai

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The result* of the division is:

Ayes: 11 Noes: 62.

The motion was negatived.

17.00 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT)
BILL

(Amendment of article 240 and First
Schedule).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We now take up the next item. Shri B. K. Daschowdhury to move that the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India be taken into consideration.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY (Cooch-Bihar): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India be taken into consideration."

This Bill seeks to amend the Constitution of India. In article 240 of the Constitution, in sub-clause (a) of clause (1), for the words "the Andaman and Nicobar Islands", the words "Shaheed and Swaraj Dwips" shall be substituted.

*The following Members also recorded their vote, for NOES:—

Sarvashri Sadhu Ram and C. K. Jaffer Sharief.

[Shri B. K. Daschowdhury]

Further, in the First Schedule to the Constitution, under the heading "II THE UNION TERRITORIES" for the figure and words "5. Andaman and Nicobar Islands", the figure and words "5. The Shaheed and Swaraj Dwips" shall be substituted.

The Bill, apparently, seems to be very simple. But it is very meaningful. It is one of the simplest Bills that we are having in this House for discussion and consideration. As I submitted, it is a very meaningful Bill. The main purpose of the Bill is to re-name the Andaman and Nicobar Islands to "Shaheed and Swaraj Dwips". It is regarded as a constitutional amendment and I have come forward with this Bill before the House.

From long past, even immediately after the 1857 mutiny, the first mutiny, which is regarded as the first days of freedom struggle, we know, the Britishers wanted to put a check on any sort of mutiny or freedom struggle and put persons in that infamous, notorious, cellar jail in Andaman, I shall be very fair to that extent that though cellular jail was constructed in the earlier part of the century, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands were regarded as a matter of penal settlement for all those offenders, criminals and even freedom fighters and all those political prisoners were put in those lonely islands as a matter of penal settlement.

What has happened? It is strange that though we are having the 25th or the silver jubilee Independence anniversary in our country, even today, we do not find the Government coming forward with a proposal to show respect to the martyrs, the freedom fighters and political prisoners all those who sacrificed their lives, all those who had marched to the gallows for no fault of theirs but only because they wanted to free mother-land from the mighty yoke of British Empire.

As I have said in the Statement of Objects and Reasons attached to the Bill, the Andaman Islands have a very close and intimate connection with the struggle for independence of the country. A number of stalwarts, notably Mahanay Troilokya Chakraborty, Barindra Kumar Ghose, Abinash Bhattacharyya, Lala Lajpat Rai, V. D. Savarkar and many others...

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contai):
V. D. Savarkar.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY: Yes. V. D. Savarkar who made a history at the international court of law, at the Hague Court. When he stood to fight against British imperialists and, when he was being brought back from London to India for trial, there is a famous story connected with his name. He wanted to escape from the arms of the British law and he jumped from the British ship into the open sea and swam over to the French shore. The French police official, having a wrong notion of the international law, handed over Vinayak Damodar Sarvarkar again to the Britishers. It created a great sensation throughout the world among the legal luminaries, among international jurists. All this history is there.

17.05 hrs.

[SHRI SEZHIVAN in the Chair.]

You also know, Sir, that it had been our constant endeavour to wipe out all the relics of the colonial power; when we were held in subjugation by the foreign power they sent to the gallows the bravest of our patriots or sent them, as penal settlement, to Andaman and Nicobar Islands where they had to spend the best years of their life in lonely exile.

I wonder why even today in the midst of sweeping changes in the country which we have undertaken in various fields, we ourselves have not yet initiated the task of renaming those penal settlements, Andaman

and Nicobar, in great memory of our freedom fighters upon whose blood we have got this independence—associating these islands with their memories. They have still not been renamed. No measures have been taken. I am told that even when it was discussed during the Constituent Assembly—I am subject to correction—and thereafter also, in all the cases, it was said that in course of time those islands might be renamed. But this has never been done.

The question of renaming this Union Territory has assumed a new significance now because, as I have submitted earlier, we are observing the Silver Jubilee of our Independence this year. Even in our Silver Jubilee, we are nowhere. We are claiming very much that we are honouring our freedom fighters by giving them political pensions. These are places where our freedom fighters lost their lives, where our freedom fighters spent the best part of their lives, where our freedom fighters were sent to gallows, where our freedom fighters were most inhumanely treated, where those freedom fighters were put to the most arduous task which is not given generally to these ordinary criminals—they were forced, with the yoke on, to go round the wheel for oil grinding; all these things happened. It is really a matter of shame to all of us that even today we have not taken any measure to rename the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in memory of those great martyrs and freedom fighters. Fortunately, in the latter part of 1943, during the Second World War, under the able leadership of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, the interim Government of India was formed outside and when he landed in Andaman and Nicobar Islands and he hoisted the first National Flag of the country, the first thing that he declared was that, in the great memory of our freedom fighters, the names of these two islands must be changed, the relics if there be any of British imperialists should be changed. So what he did was, he renamed those

two islands as Martyrs Island and Independence Island, what he called Shaheed and Swaraj Dwips. This is exactly what I have brought in this Bill and I am putting it before the House for its consideration.

We know what story was their about this cellular jail. Very recently I had an opportunity to visit this cellular jail where a portion has already been demolished. It has, so far as I could gather, 690 cells, small tiny cells and all those political prisoners and freedom fighters, very great persons, with great courage and with great spirit who wanted to come out of the British imperialistic rule—how they were treated—they were put into these small cells from evening six to the next morning six O'clock for long 12 hours. In the jail cells there are no lavatories, no latrines nothing of that sort. No light even. There is complete darkness. What is more, all those political prisoners and the freedom fighters, those who were placed there, were not even allowed to mix among themselves, to have a sort of community life, which facility is normally allowed to even convicted prisoners. They had no barracks to have a community life and to mix with one another and to have a talk; these bare amenities were denied to them. They were not allowed to read and write. There were revolts, there were hunger strikes inside the jail. All these things were there.

In a word, I would submit before this august House for acceptance of this Bill and the spirit behind it because it was really a struggle they waged and the blood that had been shed by the freedom fighters and the political prisoners who were housed and who were forced to live in those islands as exiles. We have later on achieved our independence.

It may be said that various other leaders from time to time contributed to the fact of the national movement and to win our independence. No doubt about it. No country wins its independence in one stage and for years and years, decades and decades.

[Shri B. K. Daschowdhury]

and even for hundreds of years fighting must have to be continued and it was so in the case of India's freedom also. Various leaders contributed whatever they could from time to time.

Now, it is the sum total of all those freedom fighters of the country and the greatest part was played by those who were placed in this prison exile in the Andaman and Nicobar islands. With these words and also to give a befitting and a salutary memorial to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and also all those freedom fighters, these islands be renamed as the Shaheed and Swaraj Dwips. I strongly recommend to this august House for acceptance of this Bill. Let it be adopted with the force and with the spirit that we are really not only observing this 25th Anniversary of Independence on the silver jubilee Independence year but we are also side by side paying our glowing tribute to those freedom fighters and also to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

With these words, I recommend adoption of this Bill to this august House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India be taken into consideration".

SHRI S. C. SAMANTA (Tamluk): I beg to move:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 21st May, 1973."

I am thankful and glad that such a Bill has been brought before us for our consent. Renaming of territories is being adopted by the Government. It is not a new thing. Not long ago, Mizoram and other States were created. So, on the part of the Government I think there will be no difficulty in renaming the islands which

my friend has referred to. What we find is and if we scrutinise all the States in India, that even in the municipalities streets are being named after great men. We are honouring these great men in the municipalities and other places. So, if in the Indian Union, it is demanded that the Andaman and Nicobar Islands should be renamed as Shaheed and Swaraj Dwip, it is a good demand, and it has come in time. Of course, Government may say that other names might come from other places. So, I want to have this Bill circulated for eliciting opinion thereon so that either these names or other appropriate names may be chosen by the Government. I think that Government would be willing to agree to circulate this Bill. They have agreed on many other things in the past. For instance, the statue of King George V has been removed from India Gate to the museum and the statue of Gandhiji would be installed there. Similarly, Curzon Road has been renamed as Kasturba Gandhi Road. In the same manner, I feel that there might not be any objection to renaming these islands also. But I think it would be better if this Bill is circulated for eliciting opinion thereon.

We have already given some recognition to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands by giving pension to those political sufferers who had been detained in the cellular jails there and had laid down their lives for the freedom of the country. Our hon. friend Shri K. N. Tiwary was himself one of those who had been detained in those cellular jails. About 500 such political sufferers have been given a monthly pension of Rs. 600, and this has been given to those who had wanted it. So, if we rename these islands, we shall be honouring the place where those great martyrs had lived. So, I would request the House and the Government to agree to this motion for circulating the Bill for eliciting opinion thereon.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 21st May, 1973."

SHRI DASARATHA DEB (Tripura East): So far as the sentiments expressed by the hon. Mover of this Bill are concerned, we appreciate them. But we must remember one thing, namely that before renaming these Andaman and Nicobar Islands as Martyrs' Islands or Shaheed and Swaraj Dweep, we must respect the opinion and take the opinion of the people who are staying in those islands and we should know whether the people living in those areas are prepared to rename their area by these names. We have given the names Nagaland and Mizoram to certain areas in the eastern region. Was it that these names were imposed by the Centre on the people living in those areas? No, they themselves wanted that their area should be renamed with these names, namely Mizoram and Nagaland. Mr. Chairman, you changed the name of your Madras State into Tamil Nadu. Was that imposed by the Centre?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Not the Chair.

SHRI DASARATHA DEB: It was not imposed by the Centre. The people of that particular area wanted their State to be renamed in that manner. There was no question of taking the opinion of all the people living in the entire India. It is possible that the people living in the rest of India may be in favour of renaming these islands in this manner, but if the people of the Andaman are not favourable, then I feel that we should not proceed with it.

That is why ascertainment of the opinion of the people of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands should be the first priority. If any section of the

people of those islands is opposed to this idea, we should not rename these islands. I am in favour of renaming them; I am not against it. But we must follow certain democratic principles and respect the opinion of the local population. That is why before we take a decision, I would request the Mover, the House and the Government to agree that we must consider the opinion of the people of that area.

*SHRI C. CHITTIBABU (Chingleput): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to say a few words on the Constitution (Amendment) Bill of Shri B. K. Daschowdhury. Through this Bill Shri Daschowdhury seeks to give the name of SHAHEED AND SWARAJ DWIPS to Andaman and Nicobar Islands. It is very necessary to change the name of Andaman and Nicobar Islands because the very name evokes a frightful feeling of the horrors perpetrated on the patriots of our country in the prisons of Andamans. I would not object to the impersonal name of Shaheed and Swaraj Dwips in memory of the role played by Andaman Islands in our freedom fight, if the people inhabiting these islands so desire. I fully agree with the view expressed by my hon. colleague, Shri Samanta, that the Bill be circulated among the people of Andaman and Nicobar Islands to ascertain their wishes in this matter.

Here, I do not think, Sir, that you will prevent me from expressing my own sentiments as my emotions have been stirred up by the role of freedom fighters and patriots from Tamil Nadu. I would particularly recall the name of the great son of Tamil Nadu, Thiru V. Q. Chindambaranar who launched the first Indian ship, built out of his own resources undergoing all sorts of odds, and sailed it over the high seas of Bay of Bengal in defiance of the mighty mercantile shipping of the British Imperialism.

*The original speech was delivered in Tamil.

[Shri C. Chittibabu]

Even today he is venerably remembered as KAPPALOTTIYA TAMILAN. It was the symbolic first ship of Free India that touched the port of Andaman Islands. I have also to refer to a few more patriots of Tamil Nadu who sacrificed their everything in the freedom fight, and it is regrettable that they are not popularly known in North India in the same degree as the patriots hailing from North Thailaiadi Valliammai, who gave protection to Mahatma Gandhi in South Africa against all odds, belonged to Tamil Nadu. KODI KATHA KUMARAN of Tiruppur who gave his life protecting the honour of the National Flag, Thiru V. O. Chidambaranar, Subramania Bharathiar, whose patriotic songs reverberated and aroused the flame of freedom movement in Tamil Nadu, Thiru VEE KAA, Vanchi Ayyar, Salem Vijayaraghavachariar, Rajaji, Subramania Siva, Thanthai Periyar Ramaswamy Naicker, Arignar Anna, the Founder of Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam who thundered that Freedom was our birth-right and we would sacrifice our lives at the altar of freedom, are a few of the distinguished and cherished line of patriots of Tamil Nadu; the people of Tamil Nadu would consider it as the greatest honour done if anyone name of these patriots is given to Andaman and Nicobar Islands. You also know, Sir, that Tamil people are living in large numbers in Andaman and Nicobar islands.

Sir, I happened to visit Andaman and Nicobar Islands in 1962 as the spokesman of Dravida Munetra Kazhagam. At that time, Shri K. R. Ganesh who is now the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance was not in the Congress Party. He belonged to the Communist Party which opposed the Congress Party then. I had expressed my views then against the Communist Party to which he belonged. It was a day's journey from Andaman to Nicobar Islands. I visited all the 101 islands around the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. I

went to the cellular jail referred to by Shri B. K. Daschowdhury and paid my homage by touching the ground on which many patriots of India spent long years. I also saw the places where the bombs of Japan caved in. I also know the story of Akoojee Company which got undue favours during the time of Rajendra Prasad in an auction of dismembered ships.

In Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Tamils, Telugus, Malayalees and Bengalis live in large numbers. Before a name is chosen for Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the opinion and the wish of these people should be ascertained. Since it was the first Indian ship of Chidambaranar that touched Port Blair, it would be most appropriate to name at least the Port Blair as Chidambaranar Port.

When our Prime Minister recently unveiled the statue of Thiru V. O. Chidambaranar at Tuticorin, the people of Tamil Nadu expressed their desire that the Tuticorin Port should be named after Chidambaranar. I was astounded to read the answer given by the Transport and Shipping Minister, Shri Raj Bahadur, two days back in Rajya Sabha that the Government of India would not encourage the idea of giving the names of patriots to ports. I was at that time remembered of the callous neglect shown to the needs of the recipient-patriots of *Tamra Patras*. I was also of the people inhabiting these islands, reminded of the fact that in spite of repeated requests over the years no portrait of a Tamil patriot found a place in the Central Hall of Parliament. I was reminded of the unfamiliarity of the All India Radio announcers with the name of Tamil Nadu which was pronounced by them as TAMIL NADA, though they were up-to-date in making partisan political broadcasts.

I have no objection to considering a change in the name of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. But, it is very important to take into account the wishes of the people inhabiting these islands.

As suggested by my hon. friend, Shri Samanta, that will be in keeping with the spirit of democracy.

Before I conclude, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to say a few words on this Bill on behalf of Dravida Munnetra Kazhgam.

श्री सारस्वत राव (घोसी) : सभापति महोदय, मैं इस विधेयक का हार्दिक समर्थन करता हूँ। लेकिन श्री दासचौधरी जी से यह आग्रह करना चाहता हूँ कि स्टेटमेंट आफ ग्राज्जक्ट्स एंड रीजन्स में जो नाम दिये गये हैं उन में कुछ गलतियाँ हैं। लोकमान्य तिलक अण्डमान निकोबार जेल में कभी नहीं रहे, न लाला लाजपतराय ही रहे हैं। बाकी जो नाम हैं वह सही हैं। वे कृपा कर के इन त्रुटियों को शुद्ध कर लें। इन टापुओं को हमारे देश की आम जनता तो जानती भी नहीं थी। उस का नाम काला पानी शब्द से हमारे देश में प्रसिद्ध था और यह तब कुख्यात हुआ था जब 1903-1904 और 1905 में हिन्दुस्तान में विशेष कर बंगाल और महाराष्ट्र में क्रान्तिकारी आन्दोलन शुरू हुआ और अंग्रेजी साम्राज्यवाद को सशस्त्र क्रान्ति की चेष्टा के जरिये समाप्त करने का प्रयास शुरू हुआ। इस सिलसिले में दर्जनों, कोड़ियों और सैकड़ों क्रान्तिकारी उस जेल में बन्द किये गये। तब से हिन्दुस्तान की जनता इन टापुओं को काले पानी के नाम से जानने लगी।

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member may continue next time. We shall

now take up half an hour discussion

17.28 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY
 COMMITTEE

EIGHTEENTH REPORT

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): I beg to present the Eighteenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

17.29 hrs.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

CHANGES IN STRUCTURE OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will now take up the half-an-hour discussion. I request the hon. Member to confine his speech to 10 minutes. Then, two hon. Members have to put their questions, and then the hon. Minister has to give his reply.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contai): Mr. Chairman, Sir, at least I am happy to say that wisdom has at last dawned upon the Government of West Bengal to change their hasty and whimsical decision to suddenly revise the present system of education there, of which they had an experience of 13 years. Suddenly, one night, they agreed that it should be changed in the sense that this system is not going to be introduced next January, but from 1974. This is at least good, though it was an abrupt change.

But I want to know from the hon. Minister whether, before taking the decision to change the present structure of 11 years' school course and three years' degree course, the West Bengal Government had any consultation with the Central Government because a large part of the State's finance is also subsidised by the Central Government. There may be two reasons why this system should be changed. One may be that the present system of 11 years up to the