

[Shri P. G. Mavalankar]
these 10 Lok Sabha bye-elections and 27 Assembly bye-elections will take place as early as possible.

Secondly, I would request the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to find time for discussing the Annual Reports of the U.G.C. and the U.P.S.C. Sir, you have admitted these two Motions. But week after week, I find, the time is not being allotted for the same.

Thirdly, there was an accident earlier this month in Saurashtra to the Kirti Express as a result of which some people died and many were injured. It is suspected—there are newspaper reports—that the accident took place because of some sabotage. Therefore, I would like the Railway Minister to come out with a statement telling us the details of the accident

SOME HON. MEMBERS rose—
(Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: No please, sit down. Don't do it like that. Why don't you follow the rules?

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Chirayinkil). Sir, I have given notice.....

MR. SPEAKER: No please; I am not allowing it.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: This is about the same matter. There must be some reason for not allowing me. I have given notice...

MR. SPEAKER. If there had been one, I would have got it. It is not with me.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE (Betul): Sir, the hon Member says, he has written to you. . . (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: Why should I tell it every time? When the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs makes a statement regarding the business for the next week, the practice that we follow is that the Members give proper notice that they want to make a submission on that.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: When a Member makes a solemn statement that he has written to you

MR. SPEAKER: The Members whose intimations I got in time were given an opportunity.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: I gave a notice to the Office at 9.30 in the morning.

MR. SPEAKER: Yours is another one.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: On a point of order, Sir. I seek your ruling on it. My point of order is that in case a Member sends his intimation to you in time and, if for some reason or other, it does not reach you, and the Member makes a solemn statement on the floor of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: No question of "late" or "in time" This is not at all on this item.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: I want to raise the same matter that Shri Vajpayee raised.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE. I am not on the merits of that. Assuming that a communication has not reached you inadvertently due to some lapse of the Secretariat or on the way, and the Member makes a solemn statement that he has sent the communication to you in time, I seek your ruling whether such a statement of a member made on the floor of the house will be accepted as correct or not.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not at all on this item.

13.16 Hrs.

STATEMENT RE. STRIKE BY NURSES IN DELHI HOSPITALS

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR): Shri Vajpayee and other friends raised the matter of the strike by the nurses of the Delhi

hospitals and I want to say a few words on that. He has solemnly promised that on the two issues that were raised which we are prepared to consider, he will prevail along with Mr. S. M. Banerjee on the agitating nurses that the strike be withdrawn . . .

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Gwalior): What are you going to say?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR: I will give full information first to the House because they have gone on strike without notice. . . (Interruptions). It is very important. You take up an issue and when any employees whether nurses or others, particularly in this vital sector like hospital services, resort to strike after giving them time and after giving them assurances that the two matters which you have raised, viz., (1) washing allowance and (2) uniform allowance . . . (Interruptions). I had a long talk with them yesterday when they came in procession. I have assured them that definitely I am prepared to consider keeping in view the Pay Commission's recommendations so far as washing allowance is concerned. Here, I presume I have some freedom to deal. But regarding uniform allowance I have to refer the matter to the implementation cell in the Finance Ministry. If you so desire, I will make a statement just now. It is a long statement but it is necessary in the public interest. . . (Interruptions)

Some representatives of the Delhi Nurses Association met me on 16th August, 1973. They gave me a copy of their earlier representation dated 31st July 1973 and stated that if their grievances were not redressed immediately, they would resort to a strike. I pleaded with them to give me seven days' time to consider such of their demands as are outside the purview of the recommendations of the Pay Commission and also indicated to them that in respect of the Pay Commission's recommendations, these matters

are being dealt with by a special organization set up by the Government and that the Ministry of Health has already made some recommendations to this implementing cell. The nurses who were present both inside and outside my residence raised slogans and also started a dharna. The present position is that the nurses of the Safdarjung Hospital, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, the Hindu Rao Hospital, the Willingdon Hospital and the Silver Jubilee TB Hospital have all gone on strike. The percentage of attendance in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences is nil, in the Safdarjung Hospital, out of 412, only 6 are present, in the Hindu Rao Hospital—nil and in the Willingdon Hospital about 75 per cent are absent.

The main demands raised by the Delhi Nurses' Association are:—

- (1) Reconsideration of the recommendations made by the Third Pay Commission in respect of pay scales of different categories of nursing personnel.
- (2) Increase in uniform and washing allowance to Rs. 30 and Rs 15 per month respectively.
- (3) Grant of house rent allowance to unmarried nurses not residing in the nurses hostel.
- (4) Declaration of ten per cent of the existing strength of the staff nurses as selection grade posts under the rules.

There are four categories of nursing personnel, namely, matron, assistant matron (sister tutor), nursing sister (public health nurse) and staff nurse. All these categories are, at present, drawing a washing allowance of Rs. 4.50 per month and a uniform allowance per annum of Rs. 150 in respect of matron and Rs. 100 in respect of the other categories.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Khadilkar, if you want to make a statement, you

[Mr. Speaker]

should have intimated to me in the morning so that this unnecessary fuss could have been avoided. This comes under this item. And the Members have raised certain points.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR: Sir, this is an important matter. This involves the health of the people. Otherwise I would have stopped reading this.

MR. SPEAKER: I quite appreciate that. But, I must make it clear here so that it will not be followed in future.

After this had been disposed of, you should have written to me, by sending a copy in advance, so that I know that the Minister is making his statement in a normal way later on. But, in between, you are making this statement. This will not be quoted as a precedent in future. May I take it like that?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: You treat it as his statement.

MR. SPEAKER: However, since you have started making a statement. I myself was surprised at that. (*Interruptions*)....

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): Sir, if I want to make a statement, will you allow me?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Banerjee will you please sit down?

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: The Minister has said that. Will you intervene in the matter?

MR. SPEAKER: I do not say that I will intervene. I feel that if the statement is ready—the typed script—that means he has done it after listening to you. Now he has already had it. The procedure is to make a statement on intimation to the Speaker. If this is done, this unnecessary mess created now could have been avoided. Now, you see some Members are wanting to speak. And you suddenly get up to make a statement. This is a drama. This is

wrong. I hope it will not be quoted as a precedent in future. Whenever the Minister wants to make a statement let him say so. I shall give him the time either the same day or the next day for making that statement.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: May I request you to remove the word 'drama'? This is not a drama.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Sir, this is not a drama. This is a question involving life and death for all of us.

MR. SPEAKER: I did not mean that. I just said that he should not suddenly get up to make a statement.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: I also met you in your chamber.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Vajpayee, when I say 'drama' why do you understand it like that? Suddenly you raised the question and the statement springs up suddenly from the Minister. I do not think this is anything less than a drama. I am mentioning now that it will not be quoted as a precedent in future. Now, Mr. Khadilkar, you go on.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR: Sir, I share your view with regard to the procedure.

MR. SPEAKER: You are my elder.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR: I am sorry. I could not intimate to you earlier. In fact, I have informed the Table Office about this.

MR. SPEAKER: Much of the fuss could have been avoided if I had got the information from you much earlier that you would be making a statement. Now, you go on with your statement.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR: Taking these into consideration, the total monthly emoluments received by these four categories at the initial stage of their respective pay scales are

Rs. 892.45, Rs. 512.85, Rs. 472.10 and Rs. 378.75. The Pay Commission in their recommendations has specifically indicated that the uniform allowance in respect of matron would be Rs. 200 per year, while in respect of the rest Rs. 150 per year

श्री सतपाल कपूर (पटियाला) : इसको टैबिल पर रखवा दीजिए ।

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: We have requested him to make a statement.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: This is not a personal question.

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed him to make a statement.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : अध्यक्ष जी, वे काग्रेस के मैम्बर किम तरह से व्यवहार कर रहे हैं । यह कोई मेरा अपना मामला नहीं है, सारे दलों का मामला है । अस्पतालों में नहीं नहीं है, मरीज भर रहे हैं और ये लोग स्टेटमेंट तक सुनने को तैयार नहीं हैं ।

श्री सतपाल कपूर : मैं यह तजवीज दे रहा था कि हम को टैबिल पर रखवा दीजिये । लम्बे बयान में क्या मामला हल हो जायेगा—मानने का हल डूँढिये ।

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER. Are you not interested in the health of the people?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR: The messing allowance has been merged, but no specific motion has been made regarding the washing allowance. Thus, excluding the washing allowance, these categories of persons would be eligible to draw at the initial stage of their proposed new scales Rs. 758.65, Rs. 605.50, Rs. 504.80 and Rs. 473.00. In respect of the matron, an additional amount of Rs. 150 would be available on account of promotion from the next lower rank since there is no direct recruitment to the post of matron. Thus, even excluding the washing allowance, the net increases as per the recommendations of the Pay Commission would

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be Rs. 20.70, Rs. 97.35, Rs. 37.20 and Rs. 100.75.

The scales of pay recommended for the nursing sister and staff nurse by the Pay Commission are Rs. 455—700 and Rs. 425—640 respectively. One of the points mentioned by the nurses, when they met me yesterday, was that they should be given the same pay scale as that of a senior stenographer. It will be appreciated that the duties are not comparable and that any demand by the nurses should be based on the rationale of the work being done by them. We in the Health Ministry have made some recommendations, which, we consider, would be more advantageous to the nursing personnel. In the light of what has been stated by the Nurses Association in their Memorandum given to me, particularly, with reference to the question of selection grade posts, I have asked my Ministry to consider the matter and re-examine if additional recommendations should be made to the implementation cell regarding the uniform allowance and the selection grade posts with reference to the promotion opportunities.

The question of washing allowance has been considered by me and I am given to understand that this not being a part of the Pay Commission's recommendations, could be decided separately without waiting for the overall decision on the pay scales. I felt that the washing allowance, as now given, is inadequate considering the high cost of washing. I am, therefore trying to prevail upon my colleagues in the Finance Ministry to agree to an increase of washing allowance from Rs. 4.50 to a reasonable amount.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: What is the reasonable amount?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR: Rs. 10 or so, I am pleading with them and I am making a recommendation. The Members would appreciate that in respect of the pay scales and matters specifically recommended . . .

MR. SPEAKER: If it is going to be settled, I welcome.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR: Sir, we, in the Ministry of Health, can at best try to persuade the Implementation Cell to consider the demands favourably. As already mentioned, we have already sent our recommendations and we are reviewing any further changes that are necessary. The decision on the Pay Commission's recommendations cannot be taken in isolation and it is necessary to wait for an overall decision by the Government. In the circumstances, I have no option but to indicate to the Members that the strike of the Delhi Nurses' Association is ill-conceived and is only creating difficulties for the sick patients in the Hospitals. I hope that with your help and goodwill, I would be able to persuade the nurses to call off the strike.

I am taking some measures to run the hospital services on a skeleton basis with the help and cooperation of doctors and other willing people. We have, somehow, carried on till now.

SHRI PILOO MODY: You call this 'carrying on'?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR: Carrying on the service.

It is most unfortunate that the Delhi Nurses Association should have precipitated a crisis in our hospitals by resorting to what I may call a lightning strike without proper notice and without giving me time to consider their demands. I returned to Delhi on the 15th and it was only yesterday that I met a deputation of the nurses and I promised them every sympathetic consideration, particularly in matters of washing allowances and uniform allowances. Obviously, it was not possible for me to make any commitment then and there as was demanded by the representatives of the Delhi Nurses Association. Initially they had also agreed that we would meet again after a week and then come to some final decision about the

whole affair. This would have allowed me sufficient time to go into the details of the various demands and make the necessary consultation with the other concerned Ministries. But in total disregard of the convenience of the patients, some of whom are in a serious condition, they chose to take this decision which I very much deplore. I do not think that anybody has a right to paralyse the working of our hospitals and endanger the lives of patients simply because some demands of the nursing personnel have not been met on the spot. I still hope that the striking nurses will see reason and resile from this illegal course that they have followed. As I told them when I met them yesterday and as I am telling the House now, I feel personally convinced that some of their demands are very reasonable and I would try my utmost to meet them, but I must say at the same time that all illegal action, if persisted in, will be met with firmness.

I can only say one word in conclusion. Shri Vajpayee and Shri Banerjee promised. . . .

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: We are not leaders of their Association.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR: You promised that you would prevail on them to see that the strike is withdrawn.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Let him say that nobody will be victimised. Let him give that assurance.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Let him say that there will be no victimisation if they withdrew the strike.

श्री कृष्ण चन्द्र बाबू (खजोलाबाद): अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है। माननीय प्रवक्ता महोदय, दिल्ली में अमर टकसी ने टेक्सी टकरा जायी है तो उसके लिए कालिन्दा अटेशन मंत्र हो जाता है। मेरा व्यवस्था का प्रश्न यह है कि उत्तर प्रदेश में जहाँ पर 9 करोड़

बनता रहती है, बिजली के इंजीनियर स्ट्राइक करने जा रहे हैं। यह एक बड़ा सर्वकार प्रश्न है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : नर्सों के साथ इंजीनियरों का क्या सम्बन्ध है ?

श्री कृष्ण चन्द्र पाण्डे : वहाँ पर इस समय राष्ट्रपति शासन है इस लिए यह संसद् ही उनके लिए जिम्मेदार है।

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order. There is no point of order.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: He has assigned us a certain responsibility. But he does not assure us that there will be no victimisation. Let him give this assurance.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: That is very important. How can we advise the nurses to go back to the hospitals if they are not assured that there will be no victimisation?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR: If they are prepared to resume work immediately and start serving the patients, I will consider it sympathetically.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Consider?

MR. SPEAKER: He is a noble man. We hope he will not victimise them.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : उन्हें कबल डाक्टरों की तकनीकों का पना है, नर्सों की तकनीकों का पना नहीं है। मिसेज झाडिनकर एक डाक्टर हैं।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मुझे पता है आपका कितना इंट्रेट है नर्सों में।

12.35 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE—contd.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN- TARY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH): Most of the hon. Mem- bers referred only to one point which has been elaborately dealt with by my colleague. Regarding the reports

of the University Grants Commission and the Union Public Service Com- mission, I think official motions have been admitted. It is only a question of finding time. All the other points will be duly conveyed to the Minis- ters concerned.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (ग्वालियर): मुझे एक बात कहनी है कि इंडियन कॉमिल प्राफ एग्जीक्यूटिव रिसर्च के लिए गजेन्द्रगडकर कमेटी बनी थी तो उनकी रिपोर्ट मेंबर को मिलनी है या नहीं ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : क्या सारी बातें प्रश्नी कही है।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : वह रिपोर्ट कहा गई ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : पना कर्ंगा कहा गई ?

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : पब्लिकेशन काउन्टर पर रिपोर्ट नहीं है। मैम्बर को प्रश्नी तक नहीं दी गई है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : प्राप एन्ट्रस्ट मत कीजिए। I will see to it.

13.37 hrs.

TAXATION LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO SELECT COMMITTEE

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE (Betul): I beg to move:

"That this House do appoint Shri S. M. Banerjee to the Select Com- mittee on the Bill further to amend the Income-tax Act, 1961, the Wealth-tax Act, 1957, the Gift-tax Act, 1958 and the Companies (Pro- fits) Surtax Act, 1964, in the vacancy caused by the death of Shri K. Baladhandasyutham."

SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhra): I certainly object to this. He never pays any income-tax or wealth-tax and certainly not any gift-tax.

MR. SPEAKER: Has he anything to say?