

11.13 hrs.

**NORTH-EASTERN COUNCIL BILL\***

MR. SPEAKER : We go to the next item.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. C PANT) . Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the setting up of a Council for the north-eastern areas of India to be called the North-Eastern Council and for matters connected therewith.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : I rise on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : This is only for leave, not for passing.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : You have to take into account the actual motion moved by Shri K. C Pant . (Interruptions) I want your clear ruling. Under your discretionary powers you can do this.

MR. SPEAKER : When I have suspended the rules there is no question.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : You are going to suspend it now ; you have not yet suspended.

MR. SPEAKER : That was disposed earlier.

This will come later on

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : I am quoting from your Directions. It is not my Directions. Kindly hear me.

MR. SPEAKER : It is the same thing which you raised earlier. Whenever there is suspension of the rules, all the Directions are suspended.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Under what rule ? Direction No. 19B says . . .

MR. SPEAKER : The Directions are connected with the rules. I am so sorry.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : In the order paper it is written :

"That this House do suspend the proviso to rule 66 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in its application to the motions . . ."

MR. SPEAKER : We have not yet taken it up.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : The Directions are not included there

MR. SPEAKER : When I told you that I suspend the rules, Directions cannot intervene

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Under what rule ?

MR. SPEAKER : Whenever we suspend the rules, we also suspend the Directions. The Directions are subservient to the rules. When the rule is suspended, the Directions are also suspended

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Under what rule, I would like to know. I have been here for the last 17 years. Sometimes we quote the directions . . .

MR. SPEAKER : The Directions are the Directions of the Speaker, the rule is a rule. When I suspend a rule, do you think I keep the Directions ?

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Anyhow, let it be noted.

MR. SPEAKER : I quite sympathise with him.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : I sympathise with the Speaker who drafted the Directions. My sympathies are more with the Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the setting up of a Council for the north-eastern areas of India to be called the North-Eastern

\* Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 22.12.71,

Council and for matters connected therewith."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI K. C. PANT : I introduce the Bill.

11.17 hrs.

#### DFLHI SIKH GURDWARAS BILL

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE) : I beg to move\* :

"That the Bill to provide for the proper management of the Sikh Gurdwaras and Gurdwara property in Delhi and for matters connected therewith, be taken into consideration."

In the last session of the House, when I was moving the Delhi Sikh Gurdwaras Management Bill, 1971, I had told the House of the circumstances which necessitated the passing of legislation for taking control of the management of the Gurdwaras in the Union territory of Delhi. At that time I had assured the House that it was a temporary measure and it was Government's intention to bring as early as practically feasible a permanent measure which would enable the Sikh residents of Delhi to take part in an election as a result of which a Committee which could control the management of Sikh Gurdwaras in Delhi would be constituted. It is in fulfilment of that assurance that Government have come to the House with the present comprehensive Bill providing for full representation of elected representatives of the Sikh community in Delhi.

A long-term solution for the proper management of the Sikh Gurdwaras in Delhi had been under the consideration of the Government for some time. The Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Board was requested to formulate proposals for a comprehensive legislation which would enable the Sikh community of Delhi to have elected representative for the management of the affairs of the Gurdwaras

It appears that the Board had invited suggestions about the proposed legislation

through various newspapers and at various congregations. The Board also received draft Bills from certain organisations including the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee, Amritsar and from various individuals including Shrimati Nirlep Kaur, former Member of Parliament. The Board also held discussions with prominent Sikh members of Parliament, including Members belonging to the Akali Party and various other prominent citizens belonging to the Sikh Community. The Confederation of all the registered Singh Sabhas of Delhi numbering about 130 and purporting to represent about 90 to 95 per cent of the Sikh population of Delhi was also consulted by the Board. It will be thus seen that the proposals for legislation have been formulated by the Board after consulting all shades of opinion amongst the Sikh community in Delhi.

The legislative proposals received from the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Board were referred to the Metropolitan Council in pursuance of Section 22 of the Delhi Administration Act, 1966. The Metropolitan Council discussed these proposals and the recommendations made by the Metropolitan Council and the Delhi Administration have been duly considered.

As I stated earlier, it is not the intention of Government to interfere in the least in the religious or spiritual functions performed in any Gurdwara or in the practice of any religious rites by the Sikh community in these Gurdwaras. A positive provision in that behalf has been made in clause 35 of the present enactment.

Speaking broadly about the provisions now placed before the House for its consideration, the most important provision is with regard to holding elections in Delhi on the basis of several wards who will elect representatives of the Sikh community from each ward. It also provides for a certain number of people to be co-opted by the elected members of the Management Committee in the manner proposed in clause 4 (b).

The life of the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee will be four years. The committee will elect its President and four other office-bearers from amongst its members. These five office-bearers along with ten other members to be elected by the

\*Moved with the recommendation of the President.