

(2) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited, New Delhi for the year 1971-72.

(ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1971-72 along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in library. See No. LT-5016/73.]

ANNUAL REPORT OF INDIAN STANDARDS INSTITUTION, NEW DELHI FOR 1971-72

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ZIAUR RAHMAN ANSARI): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Standards Institution, New Delhi, for the year 1971-72.

[Placed in library. See No. LT-5017/75.]

12.59 HRS.

**COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS
TWENTY-SEVENTH REPORT**

SHRI AMARNATH VIDYALANKAR (Chandigarh): I beg to present the twenty-seventh Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

13. HRS.

**TAXATION LAWS (AMENDMENT)
BILL***

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Income-tax Act, 1961, the Wealth-tax Act, 1957, the Gift-tax Act, 1958 and the Companies (Profits) Surtax Act, 1964.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Income-tax Act, 1961, the Wealth-tax Act, 1957, the Gift-tax Act, 1958 and the Companies (Profits) Surtax Act, 1964."

The motion was adopted

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN: I introduce the Bill.

13.01 HRS.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) *Re* NEGLIGENCE OF DOCTORS IN A.I.I.M.S. TOWARDS A MEMBER CAUSING LOSS OF VISION IN AN EYE

SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhra): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have to bring to your kind notice and to the notice of the House the most serious thing that has happened to one of our colleagues, Mr. K. Gopal, who, last week, I regret to say, lost his right eye due to the sheer negligence of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences where he had gone to seek succour and treatment.

To cut a long story short, Mr. Gopal who was sitting in the House on the 4th of last month felt that he was losing his vision and was advised thereafter by Dr. Caroli of the Willingdon Hospital to contact, Dr. Agarwal of the Dr. Rajendra Prasad Ophthalmic Clinic of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. It took him almost two days to get an appointment. Having got the appointment he went and met the doctor, and the good doctor, instead of looking at his eye to find out what was bothering him and what was troubling him, said 'I have to look at it after my juniors have examined it.'

So, for 4 hours or 5 hours Mr. Gopal lingered around while one junior doctor after another came up to him some not even knowing how to use the instruments that were provided to them, and at the same time not coming up with any sort of explanation as to why Mr. Gopal was not seeing well with his right eye. Finally, after exasperation, Mr. Gopal asked to see Dr. Agarwal again, who then told him that he was suffering from retinal detachment. I am not a doctor and I don't know very much about this. But even I know that if you are suffering from a retinal detachment, the one thing that you have to do is to get into bed and stop all movement. This is extremely necessary if you have retinal detachment. There was no medicine even to dilate the pupil of the eye. They should have told him that he should not move, that he should take it easy. On the contrary, the doctor told him, he needed surgery. He was told to go and get some certificate from the CGHS, or whatever procedure they have invented. Instead of attending to the patient which they ought to have done, they asked him to fulfil certain formalities. Mr. Gopal got disgusted with the entire procedure and thereafter went to Madras that night itself. The doctor had not warned him that he should

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†Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

[Shri Piloo Mody]

not undertake the journey. He went to Madras to see his eye specialist. It is in Madras that the eye specialist informed him: What are you doing over here? Why have you come here, when you should have hospitalised yourself? Unfortunately, the specialist was going abroad and could not attend to him and he recommended that he may go back to Delhi. He came to the Irwin Hospital, where he was very well looked after but unfortunately it was too late.

Sir, the fact of the matter is that on the day he went to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences he had about fifty per cent of his sight, but by the time he reached the Irwin Hospital, he had hardly any sight or vision left in his right eye. The sum total of it is, an operation was performed on his right eye, and today you see Mr. Gopal sitting here minus one eye.

The Government has spent something like Rs. 5 crores on this impressive building complex, to house the All India Institute of Medical Sciences; the Ophthalmic Clinic bears the name of our first President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad. This is the sort of treatment, this is the sort of reception that one gets.

Sir, I have no hesitation in saying that the severest and the most drastic action should be taken against the persons concerned. Mr. Gopal himself says in his letter: 'I am not claiming any privilege as an M.P. but as an ordinary citizen of our country who should be cared for properly by persons like Dr. Agarwal'. Sir, Government has been spending lakhs and lakhs of rupees on manning all these institutions, and I wish persons with a sense of responsibility are made to head these institutions. One can see a striking difference between the AIIMS and a hospital like Irwin Hospital. The former has got massive buildings but no responsible men to look after, whereas the latter has got men of talent with a sense of responsibility. I would like very much that under Rule 372 you call upon the Minister to make a statement and thereafter to promise an enquiry to our full and complete satisfaction.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Chirayinkil): Sir, I just want to add a word. I just happened to talk to some of my friends and they had the same story to tell. One of my friends told me that his mother lost her eye due to the negligence of the same doctor. This thing has been repeating for the last few years. The doctors are spending more time to fight each other for their own power to establish and neglect the patients. A thorough enquiry into the whole affair and the functions of the Institute should be made. I fully agree with the sentiments expressed by Mr. Piloo Mody.

SHRI K. GOPAL (Karur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I feel rather embarrassed and delicate to rise and speak on a matter which directly concerns me. Nevertheless I feel it my duty to bring it to the notice of the hon. Members and the House to avoid recurrence of this kind of thing. After all I have lost one of my eyes. But if only people who are supposed to be responsible realise their responsibility, I am sure, this would not have happened. To add to what my friend Mr. Piloo Mody has said, I went to AIIMS at about 9.10 AM and was there upto 1.40 p.m. On my insistence Dr. Aggarwal came to see me and he said it is a case of retinal detachment. He sounded so very casual. Then I asked, "What is the remedy and how long will it take?" He said, "A month or six weeks." Then I said, "I do not mind." Then he said, "You will have to get a letter from the CGHS and then only you will be admitted." As I happened to be covered under CGHS, I had to complete all these formalities. If I had money, I could go straight and get myself treated privately. I am not claiming any privileges as an M.P., but as an ordinary citizen of this country I feel I should have been met with better treatment. Only when I reached Madras I knew the seriousness of retinal detachment. Honestly, I did not know earlier. From All India Institute of Medical Sciences I came to Parliament House and booked my seat for Madras. When my doctor friend suggested to me, I rushed back to Delhi. My only request is that a thorough enquiry should be made into this matter so that others are not affected in a similar manner.

SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN (Kangra): Sir, so far as Dr. Aggarwal is concerned, the Minister should assure the House that he will be suspended immediately. We will not tolerate the doctors behaving in such a fashion. On behalf of my colleagues, I request you to direct the Minister to immediately suspend Dr. Aggarwal and order an enquiry in which the Members of Parliament should be associated.

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Akola): I feel Sir, it is not enough whatever action we may now take against Dr. Aggarwal. The most important thing is what are we going to do with his eye. Even now some treatment in Vienna or somewhere else may be available to restore the vision. The Health Ministry should see to it if some grafting of eye can be done. Experts should be consulted. We should not leave the matter here. It is an important matter as one of our colleagues has lost his eye without any fault of his own. Is the Minister going to promise us this or not?

DR. KARNI SINGH (Bikaner): I have also had experience very similar to this, and I feel that I must place it before the House. We are extremely sorry about our

hon. colleague Shri K. R. Gopal's eye problem. But only about six weeks ago, my nephew was admitted to the Willingdon Hospital, and the negligence there was so much that a 26-year old boy was allowed to lie there with a burst pancreas for 24 hours, and nothing was done, and he died after 24 hours, and his father is a Member of Parliament. Exactly the same thing happened in that case, and he has died leaving behind four children. It is a serious and terrible situation, and it is a general problem that Government will have to consider.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): Many Members laughed in this House when I said that we never wanted to go to a hospital because immediately after we went to a hospital, there was going to be a by-election. I said it in humour. But now we find that one of the youngest Members, Shri K. R. Gopal, has lost one eye, and Dr. Aggarwal could not tell him that retinal detachment is a thing where the patient should not move at all, and he should remain almost mummified, so to say, and he should not be allowed even to move this side or that side, Sir, this crime is too much.

I would only like to add that a similar thing had happened before. Shri Teja Singh Swatantra lost his life on my lap the other day in the lobby. I would never have raised this matter, but for the fact that aminophillin injection was given to him, which should not have been given. Sir, I am an asthmatic patient, and I may die at any moment because I am suffering from cardiac asthma, and I do not bother about it, but aminophillin injection being given to a heart patient was something which was unimaginable. I had lost my two brothers because of cardiac asthma, but he died like my father on my lap. I had not uttered a word about it before, and my leader was too meek and submissive to raise it in the House. But the question is how many MPs are going to lose their lives in this manner: Dr. Lohia lost his life, and Shri Uma Charan Patanik lost his life. Anybody who goes to a hospital may lose something, and if I go to hospital I may lose my limb. Therefore, I would request you to see that the doctors have all regard for the Members and I would request you to come to our rescue. I never go to a hospital because of this, and I have never believed in the CGHS at all.

MR. SPEAKER: When I saw this notice under rule 377 this morning and also the letter along with it, personally speaking, I was also very much shocked at the events and the facts as described in the letter of Shri K. R. Gopal to the hon. Minister Shri Khadilkar. I was particularly very much sad at the third paragraph where he says:

"Some examinations were done by some doctors who included some junior doctors who treated me as a piece of experiment and not with the real intention of diagnosing the ailment."

I must also very much appreciate that Shri K. R. Gopal has not taken up his position as an M.P., and he writes:

"I am writing this to you to inquire . . ."
---as Shri Pilo Mody himself has just described---

" . . . into this irresponsible behaviour of Dr. Aggarwal who is the head of the department. I am not claiming my privilege as an M.P. but as an ordinary citizen of our country."

But, personally speaking, this negligence has not only harmed Shri K. R. Gopal but a million people whom he represents in his constituency, because they have partly been deprived of his services which they should normally have had.

I appreciate that he has claimed only the rights of an ordinary citizen, but this handicap will deprive him of the full service that he has to render to his people and his constituency.

SHRI SHYAM SUNDER MOHAPATRA (Balasore): Some compensation should be given to him.

MR. SPEAKER: I am very sorry to learn from other friends also that this neglect is shown. We had heard so many stories about this.

If even at the level, of the MPs and other representatives of people, they have the same grievance, God help us what about people in general.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA (Begu-sarai): In other hospitals also.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Madhu Limaye must be remembering that in the last Lok Sabha we had a lot of discussion about two hospitals. The son of an MP had died and the fear was so much that whenever an MP fell sick, he was always hesitant to go to a hospital.

I saw a certain road sign in Japan. There they do not say 'Do not drive above 40'. But in the hill areas they put up the road sign like this: 'There is yet to be seen a man who drove about 40 and survived'. Similarly, that 'there is yet to be seen an MP who went to a hospital and survived'—I think that should not be the case. They do not claim any prior right over those of other citizens. But at least they are in charge of certain functions and duties entrusted to them under the Constitution under the election law and they must perform them.

I very much like the suggestion that in order to enable him to do full justice to his constituency and people, the Government should do something to restore his eye-sight.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. KISKU): Mr. Speaker I am very sorry to say that this matter came to my attention only about an hour ago when I was in the Rajya Sabha. Shri Gopal is a personal friend of mine. I am very much thick and thin with him, and I have no words to express my sympathy and regret for the injury that has happened to him.

Shri Khadilkar is not here today. He is coming back tomorrow from the WHO conference. I can tell you that I will convey to him the feelings and agony that have been expressed by members...

श्री विमूढ मिश्र : (मोतीहारी) प्राइम मिनिस्टर तो हैं । प्राइम मिनिस्टर से कहिए ।

SHI A. K. KISKU: However, may I say that I have taken note of all the points, all the issues, that have been raised by the members not only in this particular case, but also in other cases? About this particular case, I can say that Government will take a very serious view of the whole thing, but just at this moment, I hope the House will realise that in such a short time, it is not possible for me...

SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN: He can make a statement tomorrow (*Interruptions*).

SHRI JAGANNATHRAO JOSHI: (Shajapur): The matter is too serious. Why should he wait for Shri Khadilkar?

SHRI A. K. KISKU: I am only asking for some time to go into this, and I will make a statement as soon as I can.

SHRI PILOO MODY: To say that Mr. Khadilkar is not here is to say that the Government of India has gone to the WHO (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: May I assure you that on your behalf I will be in touch with them? I will personally speak to the Prime Minister and will also have a discussion with the Minister, to enquire where lies the whole difficulty—what is the real problem. Something must be done. It is not only on behalf of MPs but of all citizens.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Alipore): We want to make suggestions about the medical arrangements available here.

MR. SPEAKER: I will call a meeting of the General Purposes Committee and discuss it with you. Now, Mr. Samar Guha.

(ii) *Re. AGREEMENT BETWEEN GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, THE CHOYGAL OF SIKKIM AND POLITICAL PARTIES OF SIKKIM*

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contai): Today, we have had very good news to congratulate the people of Sikkim on their achieving the right of self-determination and having a document signed by the Chogyal of Sikkim and the representatives of the Sikkim National Party, the Sikkim National Congress, the Janata Congress and also the Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs of the Government of India. In that document, they have agreed to set up a democratic policy in the country according to the genius and heritage of Sikkim.

MR. SPEAKER: What is it that you want?

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: They have been assured that there will be an elected legislature on the basis of adult franchise, an independent judiciary and an executive. They have been assured the right of self-determination. The most important part of the agreement is that they have, in that document, agreed to have a very close link with the Government of India whereby the Government of India will provide the head of the administration to ensure democratisation, good administration, communal harmony and, what is most important, a rapid economic and social development.

This is the report that has come to us. I have drawn your attention to this matter and have also requested that there should be some discussion—and you have also agreed—on this subject.

MR. SPEAKER: About Sikkim?

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: This is a very important matter. The document has been signed on behalf of the Government of India also. The Government of India is a party to it. So, I request the Minister—the Minister of External Affairs is present here—through you, to make a statement about what has happened and also the role of the Government of India therein. (*Interruptions*). The Minister is there: let him say.

MR. SPEAKER: I will send it to him. He will make a statement at the proper time.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): Before this session concludes.

MR. SPEAKER: Let us hope.