

REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS BILL

AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY : Sir, I lay on the Table of the House the Registration of Births and Deaths Bill, 1968, as passed by Rajya Sabha.

12.22 hrs.

ARREST OF MEMBERS

MR. SPEAKER : I have to inform the House that I have received the following communication, dated the 2nd March, 1968, from the Magistrate First Class, Delhi :—

"I have the honour to inform you that I have found it my duty, in the exercise of my powers under section 188 of the Indian Penal Code to direct that Shri Shashi Bhushan, Member, Lok Sabha, be detained for violation of the prohibitory order issued under Section 144, Criminal Procedure Code. Shri Shashi Bhushan was accordingly taken into custody at 3.45 p.m. on the 2nd March 1968 and is at present lodged in the Central Jail Tehar, New Delhi."

SHRI S.M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : About this particular arrest, now the strike has been called off..

MR. SPEAKER : No, we are not discussing it now.

I have to inform the House that I have received four identical communications dated the 4th March 1968 from the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, New Delhi, as follows :—

"I have the honour to inform you that I have found it my duty, in the exercise of my powers under section 64 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, to direct that Sarvashri Ram Swaroop Vidyarthi, M.L. Sondhi, Narain Swaroop Sharma and Jagan Nath Rao Joshi, Members, Lok Sabha, be arrested under Section 188 IPC for defiance of the prohibitory orders under section 144 Cr.P.C. in force, by taking out a procession at Vijay Chowk in the jurisdiction of Police Station, Parliament Street, New Delhi against Kutch Award.

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Sarvashri Ram Swaroop Vidyarthi, M. L. Sondhi, Narain Swaroop Sharma and Jagan Nath Rao Joshi, Members, Lok Sabha, were accordingly arrested at 10.10 a.m. on this day, the 4th March, 1968 and are being produced before the judicial Magistrate at Parliament Street Courts for trial today."

12.23½ hrs.

STATEMENT RE. REDUCTION IN BANK RATE

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI DESAI) : Sir, hon. Members must have seen the announcement by the Reserve Bank on Saturday, 2nd March 1968 that the Bank rate has been reduced from 6 per cent to 5 per cent. This decision was taken in consultation with me. I should like to take this opportunity of giving the background in which this decision has been taken.

Hon'ble Members are aware of the various measures which the Reserve Bank has taken from time to time in the recent past to provide selective liberalisation of credit facilities for exports and other priority sectors of the economy. The task of promoting a climate conducive to a general economic recovery is the most urgent one facing us today. The Bank rate, which is a flexible instrument of monetary policy, has to be set at a level which is appropriate to the economic conditions prevailing at a given, time. This is an instrument which has not been used by us for the last three years, the last change in the Bank rate having been made in February 1965. At a time when our concern is to ensure that credit does not become a bottleneck to the process of economic recovery expected to be initiated by the larger increase in agricultural production and a somewhat better outlook of exports, we should be ready to use this instrument flexibly.

Along with the reduction in the Bank rate, the Reserve Bank has also reduced the ceiling on scheduled bank advances from 10 per cent to 9.5 per cent. A new ceiling of 6 per cent is prescribed for credit for all exports. The maximum rates prescribed by the Reserve Bank for the

[Shri Morarji Desai]

very short term bank deposits and minimum rates for one-year deposits and savings deposits have been reduced. It has also been decided to reduce the rate of interest on 91 days' Treasury bills from $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent to 3 per cent. We expect that the structure of interest rates will soon get adjusted to the new Bank rate in a manner conducive to the flow of adequate credit into desired directions.

The cooperative sector obtains at present refinance facilities from the Reserve Bank at preferential rates which are $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent to 2 per cent below the Bank rate. They would continue to enjoy this margin of preference in relation to the new Bank rate.

It is my earnest hope that productive effort in general will be encouraged by these measures. In the last analysis, it is only by greater production that we can curb inflationary pressures or meet the threat of such pressures emerging again in the economy. The Reserve Bank will no doubt continue to employ selective credit controls to the extent necessary to ensure that the credit resources are not used for unproductive purposes.

12.25 hrs.

RE. STATEMENT ON KUCHCHATIVU

MR. SPEAKER: The Prime Minister will make a statement about Ceylon which I had asked her to do on Friday. She is perhaps making it in the Rajya Sabha. The moment she comes here at 12.30 or so, she will do it.

SHRI S.M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): Why first in the Rajya Sabha?

MR. SPEAKER: She had questions to answer there and we were busy here. It is only a matter of two or three minutes only; it is not a question of a day. Meanwhile, I have allowed Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee to raise under rule 377 a matter.

12.25½ hrs.

RE. AWARD OF KUTCH TRIBUNAL

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (बलरामपुर): नियम 377 के अन्तर्गत मैं प्रक्रिया के एक महत्वपूर्ण विषय की ओर आपका ध्यान खींचना चाहता हूँ।

प्रश्न यह है कि क्या सरकार इस सदन और संसद् की स्वीकृति के बिना कच्छ निर्णय को लागू करने के लिए पाकिस्तान के साथ बातचीत करने का अधिकार रखती है? यह सरकार इस सदन के प्रति उत्तरदायी है या नहीं? या जेनेवा में बुलाये गये एक टाइम टेबुल के अनुसार सारी लोकतंत्रीय मान्यताओं को और संसद् की प्रक्रियाओं को ताक पर रखने के लिए उतारू है; अभी तक संसद् को कच्छ के निर्णय पर चर्चा करने का पूरा मौका नहीं मिला है। दूसरे सदन में तो अभी तक इस विषय पर चर्चा ही नहीं हुई है। इस सदन में अविश्वास प्रस्ताव पर चर्चा होते समय कच्छ के निर्णय का हवाला दिया गया था। लेकिन अविश्वास के प्रस्ताव के गिरने का अर्थ यह नहीं निकाला जा सकता कि इस सदन ने या संसद् ने सरकार को कच्छ निर्णय को लागू करने की छूट दे दी है। सचमुच में सरकार को स्वयं एक निश्चित प्रस्ताव लाना चाहिये था और कच्छ के निर्णय पर विचार करने के लिए सदन को अपना स्पष्ट मत प्रकट करने के लिए कहना चाहिये था।

अध्यक्ष महोदय, अभी आपने हमें सूचना दी है कि सदन के चार सम्मानित सदस्य भारत पाक वार्ता आरम्भ करने के विरोध में शांतिपूर्ण प्रदर्शन करने के आरोप में गिरफ्तार किये गये हैं। अब अगर बाहर दफा 144 लगा कर सरकार जनमत का गला घोटेंगी और संसद् को भी पूरी बहस का मौका नहीं दिया जाएगा तो यह लोकतंत्र के लिए अच्छा नहीं होगा।

कुछ माननीय सदस्य: शोम, शोम।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी: हमारी मांग थी कि अगर सरकार इस निर्णय को लागू करना चाहती है तो फिर संविधान में संशोधन करे। अगर संविधान में संशोधन करने के हमारे सुझाव से सहमत नहीं है तो उसके बारे में सुप्रीम कोर्ट की राय ले। लेकिन सरकार संविधान में संशोधन करने