

think there is anybody here who wants to take undue advantage of the failure of the mechanism of the voting apparatus.

श्री शिव नारायण (बांसी) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, हम ने शपथ ली है और हम आपकी आज्ञा का पालन करेंगे। लेकिन मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि मैं वोट देने गया था, मेरे साथ श्री लाल बहादूर शास्त्री जी थे और चीफ क्लिप हमारे साथ थे। हम लोगों ने कोई घंटों नहीं सुनी। यहाँ आप की मशीन भी तौं फेल हो गई थी . .

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I have heard enough. I think I should decide now.

Shri P. G. Sen (Purnea): On a point of order. Can you ask us to go and vote for the Estimates Committee, the Public Accounts Committee and the Committee on Public Undertakings and then, simultaneously, can you ask us to rush here and again vote in respect of the Bill? (Interruption).

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I think I will be listened to now!

Dr. Melkote (Hyderabad): Exactly at 1 O'clock, I was downstairs, but even here I did not hear the ringing of the bell.

Mr. Speaker: What has happened may be very unfortunate, but the facts are to be accepted, whatever the consequences. I am not prepared to sacrifice the traditions of Parliament. It was enquired from me in the beginning, and I put it to the Law Minister how long he was likely to take for his speech. It was 12.35 then. He said he would take about 20 minutes. Every hon. Member knew that a division would be taking place. I then said that it would be just about 1 O'clock.

Shri Daji: What about the bell?

Mr. Speaker: Now, the main issue that is being raised is that the bell did not ring. I accept that, but that is

not a point on which a division can be questioned. It has been held so many times that there cannot be a point of order because the bell did not ring. That is very clear in the rules.

Shri Rameshwar Sahu (Rasara): May I add....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Second—has been held by some of my predecessors several times that the fact that the bell did not ring is no ground for upsetting the division. It is for the Whips to muster their strength and bring the Members here. (Interruption). Order, order. I am very sorry I cannot interfere in the division that has taken place and that has to be accepted by the House, whatever it is.

13.30 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (EIGHTEENTH AMENDMENT) BILL

The Minister of Law (Shri A. K. Sen): Sir, I am happy to say that the Government does not propose to proceed with the Constitution (Eighteenth Amendment) Bill and therefore you will excuse me, Sir, and the Government for not moving the motion for consideration of the Bill.

May I say a few words in explanation, because it is a matter which has hardly any precedent, particularly on such an important matter? It is true that this Bill has raised a rather strong controversy about either the intention of the Government or the scope of the Bill and it has often been suggested that the Government propose to ride roughshod over the Constitution. It is impossible to concede to that position and the Government never propose to do anything of the sort. In deference to the wishes of many within our party and also of hon. Members on the other side,—it is hardly a matter on which any of us would like to make it an issue. In any event, meeting the emergency would be the privilege of

[Shri A. K. Sen]

the entire House and at the appropriate time, we shall consider what necessary steps possible may have to be devised, in consultation with all the representatives of the various groups and parties here for the purpose of seeing if, during the working of the emergency, any further safeguard would be necessary for the protection of officers carrying out their duties.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshangabad): On a point of order. Sir. Under Rule 110, the Minister has to ask for leave to withdraw the Bill.

Mr. Speaker: It is not withdrawn; he does not proceed with it.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: But it has been introduced.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, but at this time, he does not want to proceed with the Bill.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Rule 110 says:

"The member in charge of a Bill may at any stage of the Bill move for leave to withdraw the Bill....."

Mr. Speaker: If he has to withdraw it, then alone he may ask for leave.

13.34 hrs.

[SHRI SONAVANE in the Chair]

OIL AND NATURAL GAS COMMISSION (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals (Shri Humayun Kabir): I beg to move*:

"That the Bill further to amend the Oil and Natural Gas Commission Act, 1959, be taken into consideration."

This is a very simple Bill, and I do not wish to make a long speech on it. The Oil and Natural Gas Commission is carrying on valuable national work in exploring and producing petroleum and natural gas from the resources of the country. Formerly land for this purpose used to be acquired under part 7 of the Land Acquisition Act. After the amendment of the Land Acquisition Act carried out in 1962 and the rules made thereunder, land acquisition for the purpose of companies has become extremely difficult, cumbersome and a long drawn out process. This has interfered with the work of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission and therefore, I have moved that the land for the Commission may be acquired under any of the sections of the Land Acquisition Act, because it is for a public purpose. This will expedite very much the work of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission.

I move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

Mr. Chairman: Motion moved.

"That the Bill further to amend the Oil and Natural Gas Commission Act, 1959, be taken into consideration."

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): Sir, while initiating the debate, the hon. Minister has not said anything about those provisions of the Land Acquisition Act wherein it is laid down that if land is acquired from a peasant, he should be paid compensation at the market value plus 5 per cent. I would like to know whether the Minister can give us an idea as to the total land required for the purpose of the Commission and whether that land will be acquired by the State Government and given to the Central Government for this Commission and what would be the rate of compensation to be given to the peasants.

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.