

[Shri Muthiah]

political, social, economic and educational, and eradicate the evils of casteism, communalism, regionalism and linguism." (6)

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Amendment No. 8 in the name of Shri Muhammad Ismail is the same as No. 4 which has already been moved. Dr. Mahadeva Prasad is not here.

This Resolution and the amendments are before the House. We will resume this discussion on the next day.

श्री मधु लिमये : चूंकि यह प्रस्ताव घगले खव में प्रायेगा, इसलिये यह प्रस्ताव और वरमीमें उस समय फिर से परिचालित की जायें, क्योंकि माननीय सदस्यों के पास उस समय वे नहीं रहेंगी ।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Home Minister.

16.5 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: POSTPONEMENT
 OF GENERAL ELECTIONS IN
 ORISSA

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Nanda): Sir.

Following the introduction of President's rule in Orissa on the 25th February, 1961, the mid term elections to the Orissa Legislative Assembly took place in June, 1961 and the date appointed for the first meeting of the Orissa Legislative Assembly was 21st August, 1961. Therefore, in normal course the Orissa Assembly would continue up to the 20th August, 1966.

The General Election to a legislative assembly which does not synchronise with the country-wide general elections always presents a number of problems and difficulties. In the present case as the present term of the Orissa Legislative Assembly is going

to expire on the 20th August, 1966, the interval of time between that date and the country-wide general elections of February—March 1967 is small being only about six months. It is to be considered whether for this small interval we should face the problems and difficulties which I may presently mention. In the first place, there is the question of duplication of expenditure to be incurred by the Government as well as the candidates and the political parties, first for the general election to the legislative assembly and then again for the general elections to Parliament. In the second place, we should not overlook the heavy burden that will fall upon the administrative machinery if a general election is to be held for the Orissa Assembly in 1966 and then a few months thereafter for the Lok Sabha in the early part of 1967. In the third place, we should bear in mind the inconvenience of the electorate also.

For all these reasons some of the political parties functioning in Orissa, such as the Praja Socialist Party and the Bhartiya Jana Sangh are opposed to the holding of a separate general election for the Orissa Assembly. The Swatantra Party, have, however, passed a resolution early in August 1965 urging the holding of the general election for the Orissa Assembly in March—April 1966. This, it will be noted, was before the hostilities with Pakistan and the commencement of Chinese intrusions.

Finally, there is the emergency. And because of that even the by-elections to the Lok Sabha and the State Legislative Assemblies have been postponed. We feel it would not be desirable to dissipate our time, energy and money on a separate general election which would give rise to sharp political divisions inevitable in a general election.

Upon all these considerations, we feel that in the wider interests of the nation, it would be desirable to postpone the separate general election for the Orissa Legislative Assembly till

the country-wide general elections early in 1967. This would, of course, require legislation by Parliament under the proviso of Article 172(1) of the Constitution for extending the term of the present Assembly.

Shri N. Dandekar (Gonda): Mr. Speaker, Sir I request your indulgence today to give us a little time to express our dismay at this decision. I would like to say at once that I am not satisfied, our party is not satisfied, that there are any justifiable reasons for not holding the Orissa elections in 1966. I am astonished that the expenditure involved or the administrative inconvenience are to be considered as adequate reasons for denying to the public the right to throw out the present corrupt and inefficient government in Orissa. This decision that has been taken by the Government will have the effect of continuing a government which they know, which the people of Orissa know, which the Government of Orissa also know, and which everybody in the country knows, is a government that is both corrupt and inefficient. I do not want to produce any further evidence of it than that of the conference of dissident Congressmen held in Orissa at the end of November where they have taken precisely the same view. I think, Sir, postponing the Orissa election in this light-hearted fashion, urging administrative inconvenience, urging expenditure, urging popular desire, which was in fact wholly opposed to the postponement of elections, is entirely malafide. I would beg of the Government to think this thing over again, reverse the decision and hold the elections next year. I think it is the right of the public of Orissa, even the right of the public of India as a whole, that these elections should not be postponed. I must, therefore, record the strongest protest against this decision.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy (Kendrapara): Sir, I want to say only one word. I welcome this decision. At the same time, I would suggest that

for the intervening period let there be President's Rule so that the discredited Ministry does not continue in office.

17 hrs.

श्री किसान पटनायक (सम्बलपुर) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं इस घोषणा का विरोध करता हूँ। तीन ही दिन पहले आप को भी मालूम हुआ होगा कि उड़ीसा में इतनी घराजकता हो गई है कि बच्चों की बिक्री हो रही है। अगर इस प्रकार की सरकार, भुखमरी की सरकार की मियाद को बढ़ाया जाता है, तो न जाने 1967 में उड़ीसा की क्या हालत हो जायेगी। इन सब दृष्टियों से इस सरकार को खत्म किया जाना चाहिये। मैं आपको यह प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि अगर पहले चुनाव होते हैं तो कांग्रेस सरकार वहाँ खत्म हो जायेगी, इसमें कोई शक नहीं है।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We shall now take up short notice questions. The Defence Minister has got some engagement; so, I will take up the question regarding conscription to the armed forces first. **Shri Kamath.**

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hos- hangabad): It has already been circulated.

The Minister of Defence (Shri Y. B. Chavan): The answer has already been placed on the Table of the House.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: No, you may read out the answer, though I do not have to read out the question.

Shri Kapur Singh (Ludhiana): May I ask, Sir, why that question has been called earlier?