

12.56½ hrs.

# **TWO-MEMBER CONSTITUENCIES (ABOLITION) BILL\***

**The Minister of Law (Shri A. K. Sen):** Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the abolition of two-member parliamentary and assembly constituencies and for the creation of single member constituencies in their place.

**Mr. Speaker:** The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the abolition of two-member parliamentary and assembly constituencies and for the creation of single member constituencies in their place."

*The motion was adopted.*

**Shri A. K. Sen:** Sir, I introduce the Bill.

12.56½ hrs.

# **SPECIFIC RELIEF BILL\***

**The Minister of Law (Shri A. K. Sen):** Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to define and amend the law relating to certain kinds of specific relief.

**Mr. Speaker:** The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to define and amend the law relating to certain kinds of specific relief."

*The motion was adopted.*

**Shri A. K. Sen:** Sir, I introduce the Bill.

12.56½ hrs.

# **LIMITATION BILL\***

**The Minister of Law (Shri A. K. Sen):** Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to consolidate and amend the Law for the limitation of

suits and other proceedings, and for purposes connected therewith.

**Mr. Speaker:** The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to consolidate and amend the Law for the limitation of suits and other proceedings and for purposes connected therewith."

*The motion was adopted.*

**Shri A. K. Sen:** Sir, I introduce the Bill.

12.57 hrs.

# **BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**

**Shri Muhammed Elias (Howrah):** Sir, a few days before you were kind enough to announce that you would allow half-an-hour discussion on the increase in fares by the Howrah Amta Light Railway. I submitted my request but it has not come in today's business. It is an important matter and it will cause great hardship to the people there.

**Mr. Speaker:** The difficulty is this. There is so much of other work today. We have one discussion at 5 PM today; it is about the children of the political sufferers. I hope he does not want to elbow that out. At 2.30 we take up Private Members' Bills. I am afraid this will have to stand over till the next session. So far as the fares are concerned, I will certainly see that an opportunity is allowed for discussion next time.

12.58 hrs.

# **CHILDREN BILL—contd.**

**Mr. Speaker:** The House will now proceed with the further consideration of the following motion moved by Dr. K. L. Shrimali on the 22nd December, 1960, namely:—

"That the Bill to provide for the care, protection, maintenance,

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welfare, training, education and rehabilitation of neglected or delinquent children and for the trial of delinquent children in the Union Territories, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Four hours have been taken out of five hours and only one hour remains.

**Shri Naushir Bharucha** (East Khandesh): It may be extended till 2.30.

**Mr. Speaker:** Very well, Shri Kalika Singh was in possession of the House. After him, I will call the hon. Minister.

**Shri Kalika Singh** (Azamgarh): Sir, I was dealing yesterday with the constitutionality of the provisions regarding the total prohibition of begging by children as it might clash with article 25 of the Constitution of India which reads as follows:

"Subject to public order, morality and health and to the other provisions of this Part, all persons are equally entitled to freedom of conscience and the right freely to profess, practise and propagate religion."

13 hrs.

This Bill has been modelled on the Children's Act of 1948 passed by the British Parliament. In Britain there is no question of allowing begging as a matter of profession or as a matter of religion. Therefore, that mistake might have crept into our Bill because of the fact that it is based on the Children Act, 1948 of Britain. Here in India, not only begging but in certain circumstances even poverty is glorified by religion. It is one of the duties conferred by Hindu law on certain sects and communities including Buddhist bhikshus irrespective of any age limit to take to begging for their livelihood. They cannot earn money or earn their livelihood in any other way except by begging. Therefore, that point may be considered,

whether we might not be legislating something which might be considered later as *ultra vires* of the Constitution. 13.01 hrs.

[**SHRI MULCHAND DUBE** in the Chair]

I now come to the broad aspect of this Bill. This Bill deals with neglected and delinquent children. It is the neglected child who becomes a delinquent child later on, and it is the delinquent child who becomes an adult criminal. So I welcome this legislative measure in the sense that it might help in reducing crimes throughout India, because at the very initial stage we are trying to grapple with the problem of crimes. If a neglected child is put under the care of a child welfare board or if a delinquent child is put in a special school, that might reform him in such a way that he might not become a criminal at all. Therefore, a situation may arise later on when we may not have any crime if this Act comes into operation and is made effective. That is why I said that we have to provide adequate finance so that the Ministry concerned might be able to make the Children Act effective.

There is another thing which, I am afraid, the Ministry has not considered. The Bill as it is might be going beyond the scope of the Children Act, 1948 of Britain. The Act deals only with neglected children. In that Act also there is provision for children's homes, observation homes and other things. But there is no provision for children's courts in that Act. There is no sort of punishment or any such thing as has been provided here for the delinquent children. Such provisions are absent in the Children Act, 1948, of Britain. I think they were not provided for a very good reason. When a child is punished he is not in that respect different from an adult. It is the subject of the Home Ministry. Security or something connected with it comes under the Penal Code or the Criminal Procedure Code. It is for the Home Ministry to introduce a Bill dealing with that matter. In

[Shri Kalika Singh]

England that is exactly the position. In the Children Act they have no provision, as I said, for children's courts. In England they have the juvenile courts. They are under the Home Ministry.

One big omission or commission which appears in this Bill is, if a child commits an offence he is to be put in the special school or in some observation home where he will be reformed. The child may commit any offence including murder or homicide, and for that also he will be put in a special school for being reformed. In England that situation has been avoided. There it has been provided that if a child—he may be below 16 or 18—commits the crime of homicide the juvenile courts will have no jurisdiction over that case and it will be the ordinary courts of criminal law that will punish him. Therefore, in our over-zeal for reform, I think we have excluded the children from something from which they should not be excluded.

This over-zeal is there in one or two other cases also. In the jail establishments of U.P. I have found that every criminal has an expenditure of about Rs. 386 or something like that for his maintenance, for his clothing and other things, whereas the *per capita* income in the agricultural areas of the State is only Rs. 186. That means an ordinary person outside the jail has only Rs. 186 for his maintenance whereas the same person if he gets into the jail will have an expenditure of Rs. 386. Therefore, it may lead to an increase in criminal cases. The flow will be from outside the jail to inside the jail for economic reasons.

Therefore, here also we should not provide more money than is absolutely necessary for the child welfare boards because otherwise they will provide all sorts of amenities inside these children homes which are not available outside. The children outside who are hardly

getting Rs. 20 or Rs 25 per year on a *per capita* basis may by becoming neglected children get into the children homes and thereby derive double or even treble the amenities that ordinary children were getting outside. I would, therefore, request the Ministry to keep this point also under consideration and see that the children who are put in these homes do not get any amenity that is not available to the ordinary children who are outside the observation homes.

**Mr. Chairman:** The hon. Minister.

**Dr. M. S. Aney (Nagpur):** Sir, yesterday I was promised that I will have my opportunity today. That is what the Deputy-Speaker told me.

**Mr. Chairman:** He may speak the clause-by-clause consideration.

**The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrimali):** Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the first place, I should like to thank the hon. Members for having given a warm welcome to this Bill. There are one or two points about which they had expressed apprehension. In the very beginning I should like to remove those misapprehensions.

It was said by several hon. Members that the Bill as has been proposed is perfect, but what is the guarantee that the Government will implement the provisions. The first stage is the preparation of the necessary legislation. The second stage will come with regard to the implementation, and there is no reason why hon. Members should have any apprehension about this matter. We have already made a provision in the Budget and we are going to set up all the necessary institutions in order that this Bill might be properly implemented. I think hon. Members were perfectly right when they said that the human material is the most important factor in the implementation of this Bill. That is perfectly true, and Government are fully aware of it.

Another question that was raised was, what the Government are going to do with regard to the training of personnel. I believe that hon. Members are aware that at present there are a number of schools on social work, working at the post-graduate level, which are training a large number of people—social workers, child psychologists, probation officers, labour officers and so on. All kinds of training are being given at the schools of social work. The schools maintain very good standard, and I think these schools should be able to provide all the necessary training for the various kinds of officers and workers who would be needed for the implementation of this Bill.

**Shri Yadav Narayan Jadhav** (Malegaon): Will these institutions be only in the Union territory or in other States also?

**Dr. K. L. Shrimali:** At present, we are taking up the Union territories only. Even now, in the Union territory of Delhi, in the Delhi University, we have a school of social work which is training a large number of people. A suggestion was made by some hon. Members that this Bill should not be confined to the Union territories only, but that its scope must be widened so that other States may also have similar legislation. As far as the Government of India are concerned, the scope is naturally limited, and we can legislate only for the Union territories in this regard, but after this Bill has been passed, we shall draw the attention of the State Governments to this Bill and wherever legislation already exists we shall request them to revise the legislation and wherever no legislation exists we would request them to introduce similar legislation. I can give that assurance to hon. Members.

Some hon. Members also raised the question with regard to the discouragement which this Bill will bring about to the voluntary agencies. In this connection, I would

like to assure the House that Government will take full advantage of the voluntary agencies. In fact, in all this work, the more the voluntary agencies, the better would be the results. In our country there is plenty of goodwill and spirit of social service, and I have no doubt that the necessary assistance from the voluntary agencies would be available. But if the voluntary agencies do not come forward, the Government will have to set up their own institutions. I hope that in this matter both the Government and the voluntary agencies will work as full partners.

One hon. Member—I think it was Shrimati Jayaben Shah—raised the question with regard to the age of girls, and she suggested that the age should be increased to 21. There is already a difference between the limits we have placed on the age of boys and girls. The age we have fixed is 18 for girls and 16 for boys. If we further increase this age-limit, it would mean that we are keeping these girls dependent for a longer time. It will be one of the functions of these institutions to see that after a certain period the children settle down in society as normal citizens. One of the important functions of the after-care organisations is that after the children have gone out of these institutions they must take care that these children are rehabilitated. They will give all kinds of guidance and assistance to the children. But if you keep those boys and girls in the homes or in the institutions for a longer period than is necessary, then it would mean that they would never settle down as normal citizens. Therefore, it is our duty to keep them for a certain period and after they have received the necessary training in education they must go back to the society and they must be reclaimed by the society and they must function as normal citizens. We have purposely increased the age-limit as far as girls are concerned and I am not in favour of increasing it any further, because that would defeat the whole purpose of the Bill and

[Dr. K. L. Shrimali]

would make the girls more and more dependent.

One hon. Member—I think it was Shri Radha Raman—said that the whole Bill is vitiated by the language which we have used. He referred towards such as “courts”, “Criminal Procedure Code” and so on, which we have used to meet the ordinary processes of law. In this matter also, if we can come to a stage when all this work could be done by voluntary agencies, when no courts will be necessary, that would be an ideal and happy society, as Shri D. C. Sharma stated. Then there would be no necessity for courts.

**Shri D. C. Sharma (Gurdaspur):** That will be in *Satyuga*!

**Dr. K. L. Shrimali:** Let us hope that that stage will come, but in the imperfect society in which we are living today, I think there is no other way except to take recourse to the normal law. The only thing that we should do in the case of children is that we must take the sting out and every effort has been made in this Bill to ensure that the children who are tried in the courts for various kinds of delinquencies and offences do not get any stigma. Various efforts have been made in this Bill; for example, it has been laid down that no publicity will be given to the cases that are tried. If hon. Members would look into the Bill, they will find that all the necessary measures have been taken so that the children do not get any stigma.

In this matter again, very much depends on the society in which we have to function, I should certainly welcome the day when all these children's courts could be abolished and all the work could be done by voluntary agencies and child welfare institutions. In fact, my hon. friend Dr. Sushila Nayar said they should not make any distinction between the machinery which tries the delinquents and the machinery which takes care of the neglected children.

**Shri Kalika Singh:** The provision regarding the determination of the age of the children does not follow the procedure of the courts there.

**Dr. K. L. Shrimali:** I have explained the reason why we have kept this provision here. In our country I think it is necessary to give greater protection to girls up to a certain limit and therefore we have to increase that age. Similarly, the age-limit for boys also has, to some extent, been increased.

**Shri Kalika Singh:** My question was, how to determine the age. Some expert ought to be there to determine the exact age, whether it is below or above that limit. But here, the provision is that the boards will determine it and that will become final, and it will not be questioned. I think that might create some hardship. When a boy of 20 years is caught, and when his age is determined as 17 and is put in the observation home, he has got no other remedy.

**Dr. K. L. Shrimali:** The child welfare board is not going to be a board consisting of children. It will consist of mature people who have experience of psychology and who understand children, and who are able to treat these children. I do not, therefore, think that there is any justification for the apprehension which the hon. Member is having.

**Shri Kalika Singh:** Some medical experts should be there.

**Dr. K. L. Shrimali:** All these things will be taken care of when the board is being constituted under the rules.

Another hon. Member raised the question that this Bill, while being good, is very cumbersome and that there is a lot of overlapping. In fact he went to the extent of saying why there was any need for having all kinds of institutions—observation homes, special schools, after-care organisations, etc. If the children are

to be taken care of properly. then all these institutions are necessary. The child must stay in the observation home for some time. If he is a delinquent he should be sent to the children's court. The Joint Committee, after very careful deliberation, decided—and decided rightly—that there should be a separate machinery so far as the neglected children are concerned.

There are special schools and after-care organisations. All these institutions are essential. In fact, they are working in most of the countries where children are taken care of. Therefore, there is no overlapping and all the institutions mentioned in the Bill are necessary.

It was Shri Prakash Var Shastri, I think, who said that there was no punishment for special offences in respect of children. I would draw his attention to Chapter VI where special measures are proposed against those people who exploit the children or who indulge in acts of cruelty.

Several Lady Members said that there should be more of women members in the boards and courts and various other offices which deal with children. I am in agreement with them. When we have said that there should be at least one woman in the board or court, it is not the intention that there should be only one woman. The intention is, it will be our effort to have as many women as possible on these boards and courts, but considering the fact that the necessary personnel may not be available in our country, we have made this provision that at least one member should be a woman. This should not be misconstrued as saying we will keep only one woman member. In fact, we welcome having more women on these boards. By saying there should be at least one woman, we are only emphasising the necessity of having women on these boards. I agree with hon. Members that women can always do better work when they are dealing with children.

The hon. Member who spoke last and also some others have raised a constitutional question that since we are bringing these neglected children who go about begging to these institutions, we are infringing article 25 (1), which ensures freedom of conscience. I will read that article. It says:

“(1) Subject to public order, morality and health and to the other provisions of this Part, all persons are equally entitled to freedom of conscience and the right freely to profess, practise and propagate religion.”

This right of freely profession, practicing and propagating religion is subject to certain conditions, viz., public order, morality and health. We know what a great nuisance begging is. It is not our intention to infringe the religious rights of people. I do not know of any religious institution which would expect children to go about begging. An hon. Member said that in Buddhism, they have this practice. My submission is this article does not give any unfettered right; it is subject to certain conditions like public order, morality and health. We have to take that into account. This right is also subject to sub-clause (2) which says:

“(2) Nothing in this article shall affect the operation of any existing law or prevent the State from making any law—

- (a) regulating or restricting any economic, financial, political or other secular activity which may be associated with religious practice;
- (b) providing for social welfare and reform....”

**Shri Kalika Singh:** These words are not there in the Bill.

**Dr. K. L. Shrimali:** Not necessary; the Constitution is already there. Moreover the definition of begging is practically the same as in sub-section (4) of section 3 and 63A of the Indian Penal Code and the new section which

[Dr. K. L. Shrimali]

was inserted last year by Act 52 1959. Therefore, I do not think this provision in this Bill in any way offends the provisions of the Constitution.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty raised the point that the probation officer's duties have not been defined. In this connection, I would draw her attention to clause 53 (2) of the Bill. Dr. Sushila Nayar made it very clear that everybody knows what a probation officer is and what his duties are. As the House is aware, a large number of things have been left to the rules.

Dr. Sushila Nayar suggested that lawyers are not prevented from coming into the court. I may draw her attention to clause 28 (3) of the Bill. It will be seen that ordinarily no legal practitioner will be allowed inside the court and it is only under special circumstances that a legal practitioner may appear before the court with the specific permission of the court. That provision has been made.

These are some of the main points which were raised in connection with this debate and I think I have dealt with most of the major points. The Bill was generally welcomed by all sections. I can assure the House that as soon as this Bill is passed, we will take the necessary measures to implement the provisions of this Bill.

**Mr. Chairman:** The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the care, protection, maintenance, welfare, training, education and rehabilitation of neglected or delinquent children and for the trial of delinquent children in the Union Territories, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted.*

**Mr. Chairman:** There are no amendments to the clauses.

**Dr. K. L. Shrimali:** No, Sir.

**Mr. Chairman:** The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 60 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clauses 2 to 60 were added to the Bill.*

*Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.*

**Dr. K. L. Shrimali:** I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

**Mr. Chairman:** Motion moved:

"That the Bill be passed"

**Dr. M. S. Aney:** Sir, I rise to support the motion which the hon. Minister has just placed before the House. I congratulate him on having brought this Bill to this House, which is a very good Bill and which is one of those Bills which was really wanted. The function of the Government of India to establish a social welfare State would have been incomplete had there been no legislation of the kind which is being contemplated and which is being enacted to day in the form of this Bill.

My main object in rising to speak is not merely to offer compliments to the hon. Minister. I am almost in whole-sale agreement with the provisions of this Bill. I want to tell one little story from *Mahabharata*, which occurred to me yesterday as the discussion was going on. I thought it was a very good story which the House should know. We take pride in the fact that the question of delinquent children is something which is an entirely new one which the modern civilisation was faced with and that we have thought of its effects on society and decided that something should be done to repair or to remove those defects. But there is the story of Rishi Ani—Mandavya in *Mahabharata*, and it is as follows. At that time Rishi Mandavya was a young boy, a

small boy. When he was only five years old, he found an insect moving about. He took up a little stick of *darb* and put it in the head of the little insect. It died; that is all; the thing was over. Then, after some years, Mandavya became a saint and he was declared a *rishi*. After he died, he was taken to the other world and Yama told him "you have killed an insect with a little stick, of *darb* you have committed mischief and, therefore, you will be taken back to the world again." He was taken back to the world with some kind of screw in his head, which was troubling him for the whole of his life. In that life, he became a *rishi* again and he called Yama and said "Don't you know that you have punished me for an offence which was not an offence at that time? Five years old I was and you, being the main God entrusted with the duty of dispensing justice, do not know the elementary rule that those who are so young that they cannot understand even the nature of the offence cannot be punished."

Since then immunity from offences for children has come into existence. It is mentioned in Mahabharata. Unfortunately, I have not that book with me; otherwise, I would have quoted it. Rishi Mandavya was the first man to have enacted immunity from offences for children when they have committed certain offences when they are young and when they are ignorant.

So, from the ancient days the law of the land in the matter of criminology gave immunity from offences to children if they were young at the time of the commission of the offence and the people then thought that it should go into the code of the society itself. It is that code that is being repeated in the form of this law.

I am glad that we are trying to follow the modern legislation, keeping before us the old traditions of looking at which is really criminal and which is really not criminal. If we

carry on the administration of this country with this sense of duty and punish only those who are criminal, and not punish those who are not criminals, and approach others with a view to reform them, I think we shall soon be able to bring into existence a society which is the precursor to a welfare State which we want to create. This is one point which I want to make.

As regards other small points, I am glad that clauses 22, 23, 24 and 25 have made salutary provisions and children are immune from severe punishments and so on. So, those points have been covered.

There is one point which I do not understand quite clearly, and that is the definition of "begging" in clause 2

(b) (i), which says:

"begging" means—

(i) soliciting or receiving alms in a public place or entering on any private premises for the purpose of soliciting or receiving alms....or otherwise;

"otherwise", in my opinion, is too big a word which may cover anything in this world. So, it is not at all safe to use that word. I will ask my hon. friend, while making the rules, to clearly state what this word "otherwise" is intended to cover. Otherwise, it may bring in those cases which my another hon. friend has made a reference to in the course of his speech; that is to say, it might bring in even those boys or those persons who, by an article of faith in their religion, are required to make formal or ceremonial begging. There is another thing which I do not understand, and that relates to "neglected child", in clause 2 (k) (iv), which says:

"lives in a brothel or with a prostitute or frequently goes to any place used for the purpose of prostitution, or is found to asso-



[Dr. M. S. Aney]

ciate with any prostitute or any other person who leads an immoral, drunken or depraved life;"

Here three adjectives have been used, namely, immoral, drunken or depraved. One can understand a drunken life or an immoral life. But what is a depraved life? What is the distinction between the two? The hon. mover of this Bill or the framer of this Bill should make the distinction quite clear. I do not understand this. I think in using the language in statutes we should know precisely what each word means. So, if it really means something different and important, that may be made clear in the rules when they are framed.

While making these two suggestions, I am glad that a law of this kind has been passed today, and I wish that we should soon be able to improve upon it. After all, this is only the skeleton of the law. Here also we have to see what kind of mechanism we provide in order to see that the neglected children and delinquent children are properly treated by the society so that they may later on take to normal life. This skeleton has to be filled with flesh and blood. You have to find out proper kind of men and women to carry on this work.

Many people think there are not sufficient funds in the Third Plan to implement this programme. I say that if people really understand the importance of this thing and consider this as one of the most noble charities that should be made, there will be no dearth of funds for the running of these institutions. For the betterment of these institutions for the sake of children the society has to play a major part. Unless the society takes to a thing of this kind there can be no Social legislation like this. So, society must be prepared to shoulder this responsibility. I am sure all these

Marwaries and other businessmen, who build big *dharmasalas* and those kinds of institutions with a view to help the society will appreciate the spirit of humanism which is there in the Bill and there will be no difficulty in getting proper and sufficient funds to it.

At the same time, I also appeal to the hon. Minister to see that he persuades his colleague to get something more for this in the Third Plan. Why should he not do that for a noble cause like this? I thank you once again and conclude my speech.

**Dr. K. L. Shrimali:** I am grateful to the hon. Member, Dr Aney, for having given us the beautiful story, a story from Mahabharat which, I think, symbolises the true spirit in which this Bill has been drafted. I am in full agreement with him that most of the crimes or offences which children commit, if they are properly diagnosed, if the whole case study is made properly, it will be found that they are not offences or crimes in the real sense of the term. Several hon. Members who have intimate study of children told us that when a child becomes a victim of certain circumstances he indulges in crimes. When he is emotionally mal-adjusted, when he does not get a sense of security, when he does not receive affections from his parents, he becomes aggressive and he indulges in all kinds of anti-social activities, because he has been denied love and a sense of security.

Most of the children's crimes are due to these two factors, namely, lack of security and lack of adequate affection at home. If these things can be made up in our building of good homes and in creating a better social environment, I am certain that most of the offences of children will be removed from society. Every effort has been made to ensure that this problem is treated in a humane way and that the child is not treated as an ordinary criminal. In fact, it is for this

reason that even if a child commits the highest crime which can be conceived of in society, he will not go to an ordinary court but will go to a children's court. That provision has been made only because of this and that, I think, is the most progressive measures as far as I see. In no country does this provision exist, not even in Sweden from where examples were given by hon. Members. They make a difference between serious and ordinary crimes. When a child has committed a serious crime, he is sent to ordinary courts. Otherwise he is treated by child welfare boards. Therefore I think we have gone a step forward in this direction. I would assure hon. Dr. Aney that we would keep the moral, which he has placed before us, continuously in front of us. It is that spirit in which this Bill will be implemented.

He raised a question with regard to the definition of begging. We have listed all these things, namely, singing, dancing fortune-telling, performing tricks or selling articles. Where was the need to have the word 'otherwise' when we have listed all these activities, he asked. It is necessary because these people who exploit children are very ingenious. They can always find out all kinds of methods and means in order to evade this law. In fact, one hon. Member gave the instance of putting up of national flags. That is one way in which they try to squeeze money from people. That is not listed here. It is not possible to list all kinds of possible activities in which children may indulge or may be asked to indulge by people who exploit them. Therefore this word 'otherwise' is necessary.

**Dr. M. S. Aney:** Do I understand that the hon. Minister feels that the word is to be interpreted as, what is known in law, *ejusdem generis*, namely, things of the same kind or nature? Then he can say so.

**Dr. K. L. Shrimali:** That is the purpose. He also raised the question as to why there should be the word

'depraved'. I think we understand all these words, namely, 'immoral' drunken or depraved life'. When people lose all noble instincts, when they become perverted, they are not only immoral but they also become depraved. When they lose all the good aspects or values of human life, they become depraved and I think it is right that children should not be associated with such people. It is with that view that this has been kept and I do hope that the law will take proper account of the type of persons who are depraved, drunken and immoral.

With these words I would like to thank the House again for having given such good support to this measure. We have introduced two important measures. One is for providing compulsory education for children and the other is this Children Bill for neglected and delinquent children. Both these measures in my opinion are a big step forward.

**Mr. Chairman:** The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

13.45 hrs.

#### TELEGRAPH LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL

**The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan):**  
Sir, I move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and the Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933, be taken into consideration."

This is a short measure in order to make the law applicable to television. A certain doubt was raised in the mind whether television is included in the Act as it exists. We did feel that it did, but as a matter of act out of caution so that there may be no doubt about it we have introduced this Amendment Bill. We have taken advantage of this Amendment Bill to amend section 7 also to make it more clear.