

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have to inform Members that a letter has been received from Shri Suryakantbhai Acharya stating that he would be unable to attend the House due to his ill health. He has, therefore, requested for grant of leave of absence for the entire sitting of the House for the current 213th session of the Rajya Sabha.

Does he have the permission of the House to remain absent from the House during the current session?

(No. hon. Member dissented)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Permission to remain absent is granted.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION

Approving proclamation issued by President on 3rd January, 2008 in relation to State of Nagaland-contd.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, we shall take up further discussion on Statutory Resolution. Shri Rishang Keishing. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RISHANG KEISHING (Manipur): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, this proclamation has restored peace in the area. ...*(Interruptions)*... Peaceful elections will be conducted ...*(Interruptions)*... People are free to campaign in the elections. A good job has been done. ...*(Interruptions)*... I strongly support this Resolution. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, I put the Statutory Resolution moved by Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal to vote. The question is:

"That this House approves the Proclamation issued by the President on the 3rd January, 2008 under article 356 of the Constitution in relation to the State of Nagaland."

The motion was adopted.

GOVERNMENT BILL

The Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 2007.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up The Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 2007. Shri Oscar Fernandes to move the Bill.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): Sir, I move:—

"That the Bill further to amend the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, be taken into consideration."

The question was proposed.

...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We cannot help it. ...*(Interruptions)*... श्री ललित किशोर चतुर्वेदी ..*(व्यवधान)*... वृंदा जी, आप इस पर बोलना चाहती हैं ...*(व्यवधान)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I can't hear anything. ...*(Interruptions)*... Nobody is interested in participating in the Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*... I can't help. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is not possible. ...*(Interruptions)*... You cannot take the House for granted. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Pillai,