

Sir, it would be my endeavour to cut down redtapism. I firmly believe in doing so. As you know, formulation of any policy or enactment of any new law or regulations takes a lot of time. In the meanwhile, what do we do? Why should we not implement, in a faster manner, the existing laws and regulations made by Parliament? This would be my endeavour. I would certainly try to do it.

I have taken note of the suggestion made by Shri Balanandan about the other two Ordinances. All I can say is that his suggestion would be conveyed to the proper quarters.

As regards the point made by you, Sir, concerning backwardness, I would like to point out that it has been done on the basis of a Committee's report which has been notified already in the Gazette. It is laid down as to which are the backward districts in each State. As I said in the beginning, if any review is required, if any other suggestions are made, whether in regard to the system of selection, the system of identification, of backward districts, or, in regard to the list of backward areas, we will consider. We have an open mind on this. As the Finance Minister has committed himself to in the other House, we have an open mind in regard to making changes.

Just one final thing, Sir. Just as in the case of a new Member making his maiden speech, this is the maiden Bill which I am moving. I take this opportunity to thank all the hon. Members for their co-operation.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): Very well done.

I shall now put the Motion for consideration to vote. The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Income-Tax Act, 1961, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): We shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2 to 4 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Tide were added to the Bill.

SHRI R. K. KUMAR: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be returned."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

RESIGNATION BY MEMBER

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): Hon. Members: I have to inform the House that the hon. Chairman has received a letter from Shri Somappa R. Bommai, Member representing the State of Orissa, resigning his seat in the Rajya Sabha. The hon. Chairman has accepted his resignation with effect from 2nd April, 1998.

VALEDICTORY REMARKS

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): I have to make some concluding remarks.

The session commenced on Wednesday, the 25th March, 1998, and we have had six sittings spread over more than 32 hours.

During the session, there was a detailed discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

Twenty-five Reports of various Parliamentary Committees were presented or laid on the Table of the House.

During the session we have returned seven Government Bills.

Two Resolutions regarding Railway Convention Committee's recommendations were adopted.

There were two Statements by Ministers, which occasioned seeking of a number of clarifications by Members.

One reference was made in the House on the severe tornado that swept through several villages of Midnapore and Bala-sore districts of West Bengal nad Orissa on the 24th March, 1998.

There were sixteen Special Mentions on Matters of Public Importance.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Leader of the House, the Leader of the Opposition, Leaders of various parties/groups and all the hon. Members for the kind co-operation extended by them in conducting the proceedings of the House. I do so on behalf of hon. Chairman, Deputy Chairman, the

Panel of Vice-Chairmen and on my own behalf.

Before we adjourn, hon. Members, I would like to extend to all of you my greetings and good wishes for the forthcoming festivals and other auspicious occasions ahead.

(The National Song was then played.)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): The House is adjourned *sine die*.

The House then adjourned *sine die* at eight minutes past five of the clock.