

SALARY, ALLOWANCES AND PENSION OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1988

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The Joint Committee on Salary and Allowances of Members of Parliament has been making recommendations from time to time for increasing the allowances and facilities of the Members of Parliament. After examining these recommendations carefully and in order to enable the Members to discharge their duties efficiently and diligently, the Government propose to accept some of these recommendations and even acceptance of these recommendations would involve the expenditure to the tune of Rs. 4 crores approximately per annum. It has not been possible to accept other recommendations in view of the financial stringency. This bill provides to implement some of the recommendations and other recommendations which the Government have accepted would be given effect to separately through amendment of the relevant rules. I want to assure the Members that as soon as this Bill is passed and it gets the assent of the president, the Committee concerned will meet and what is to be done to the rules will be done so that when you come back, you can get it. I would like to inform the House in brief some of the facilities which are being given effect to through the provisions of this Bill

Section 3 of the Act entitles a M.P. to a salary of Rs. 1000/- per month. It is proposed to raise it to Rs. 1500/- per month. Under the same section a Member is now entitled to a Daily Allowance @ Rs. 75/- per day. It is now being raised to Rs. 150/- per day.

At present a Member is not entitled

to road mileage allowance for the journey by road performed by the spouse. The Bill seeks to entitle an MP to the road mileage allowance for the journey or part thereof performed by road by the spouse of the member unaccompanied by the Member.

Under Section 6 and 6B of the Act, Members of Parliament, their spouses and companions are provided with a free first class rail pass. It is proposed to provide them with a rail pass for air conditioned two tier in lieu of the pass for ordinary first class.

Under Section 6A of the Act, the companion of a member can travel in the lowest class of steamer (without diet) while accompanying the Member. It is proposed to allow the spouse or companion to travel by the highest class of steamer (without diet) free of charge while accompanying the member at any time between island and the mainland. It is also proposed to allow the Members to travel by air either with the spouse or companion from their usual place of residence in the island to the nearest airport of the mainland.

Considering that the rail/road journey from Ladakh is very inconvenient and time consuming, it is proposed to entitle the Member who has his usual place of residence in Ladakh to the air fare for each single journey by air performed by him accompanied either by spouse or a companion from any air port in Ladakh to the airport in Delhi and back at any time

It is also proposed to make a provision for an Office Expense Allowance. @ Rs. 1000/- per mensem.

Section 8A of the Act provides for payment of pension to ex-Members of Parliament. It is proposed that in case a Member of Parliament dies in harness a pension of Rs. 500/- per month may be paid to the spouse or the dependent, if any of such Member for the period of five years from the date of his death. Section 8B

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of the Act entitles a Member of Parliament to a repayable advance upto Rs. 20,000/- for purchase of conveyance. It is proposed to raise the maximum limit of advance to Rs. 50,000/-.

I would now revert to those facilities which the Government have accepted and would be given effect to by necessary amendments in the relevant rules. These are:

(i) Members of Parliament are at present entitled to constituency allowance at the rate of Rs. 1250 per month. It is being enhanced to Rs. 3000/- per month.

(ii) Members at present are entitled to a concession of free water and electricity upto Rs. 300/- per month. There has been a demand to calculate it annually. This would now be computed as Rs. 3600/- per annum.

(iii) In view of the increase in taxi charges etc., the Government has accepted the demand to increase road mileage allowance from Rs. 2 per k.m. to Rs. 3 per k.m.

(iv) In case the Member chooses to travel by circuitous route, the existing rule provides that he would be entitled to a sum of Rs. 120/- in addition to the normal air fare. It is proposed to increase this sum to Rs. 250/- for each such journey.

This Bill is simple and all the Parties have been asking for it. In fact, the Committee on Salary and Allowances of MPs has representatives of many parties on it. They had, in fact, asked for more. I am sorry the Government has not been able to meet what the Members felt was due. They wanted more. Almost all sections of the House wanted more. But the Government did not find it possible to do so. I am sure that they will understand our reasons and pass this Bill unanimously. Now

the other things have to be done through the Rules. As soon as the Bill gets the assent of the President, through rules, that will be done. Whatever administrative action is to be taken, it will be done. And this Bill as you know, is applicable from April last.

The question was proposed.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): Shri N. E. Balaram.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI (Maharashtra): What about telephones?

SHRI N. E. BALARAM (Kerala): Sir, I do not have a copy of the Bill. I was just listening to the speech made by the Minister.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): Copies are available in the Lobby.

SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Anyway, since I do not have time to give any amendments to this, I am totally opposing this. If I had sufficient time to give amendment, I could have given the... (Interruptions)

Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, of course, it is surprising to find that the Minister has introduced such a Bill increasing the allowances and other facilities. I never expected that it would be such an extent. (Interruptions)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): Please allow him to speak.

SHRI N. E. BALARAM: You have got a different opinion, you can say that I can only give my opinion. Some time back... (Interruptions) Some time back, Sir, there was a talk. Once the hon. Minister also told me that there was some thinking going on to increase the allowances and some other facilities of the Members of Parliament. I thought that it would be an increase in daily al-

allowance of something like Rs. 25 or Rs. 50. That was my impression. It was only my impression because I did not ask him as to how much increase would it be. After hearing the Minister—I did not go through the Bill—I think that a Member of Parliament will get something like Rs. 6000 per month.

AN HON. MEMBER: MLAs are getting more.

SHRI N. E. BALARAM: I do not know. I am only... (Interruptions)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. MANUMANTHAPPA): Allow him to speak.

SHRI N. E. BALARAM: I do not know anything about the MLAs. Our MLAs are not getting that much I know. (Interruptions).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): Mr. Balaram, do not answer their interruptions.

SHRI N. E. BALARAM: I do not know why they are so...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): You address the Chair.

SHRI N. E. BALARAM: I do not know what is the hurry in introducing this Bill. Why should it be rushed through? Even the copies of the Bill are not available. What is the hurry? I do not know. This should have been sent to us earlier and they should have given us some time to think about it. What is the necessity of incurring of an expenditure of Rs. 4 crores? (Interruptions).

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): You give the money to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO (Jammu and Kashmir): He will give it to the party.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): In Kerala the MLAs are given Rs. 3 lakhs as house building advance.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): Please let him speak. At least by this time he would have completed. (Interruptions).

SHRI N. E. BALARAM: What I am saying is that this Parliament has no moral right to pass such a Bill. That is my point. Legally you are entitled, you have got the majority I know. I also know in what mood you are. You want to pass it. But I am totally opposed to it morally, Sir. what I am saying is... (Interruptions)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): Silence, please. Mr. Sukul, please allow him to speak.

SHRI N. E. BALARAM: You do not want me to complete?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): Please Mr. Balaram, you address the Chair.

SHRI N. E. BALARAM: I am addressing only you, Sir. I am not even looking that side.

I am not politicising the issue but I am saying that in large areas of our country, in many villages of our country we are not able to give drinking water because we do not have money. (Interruptions). You may be thinking differently. But I come from a different source. We cannot get even drinking water (Interruptions).

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA (Uttar Pradesh): They can have Pepsicola.

SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Sir, we have cut down expenditure on primary education. We have cut down

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expenditure by 20 per cent on primary education. We were not able to implement the so-called black-board scheme because we do not have the money. This is our financial position. These are primary things for ordinary people and we are all politicians. A majority of Members on that side, they are all youngsters. They were not in the freedom struggle. They do not know why we fought for the freedom of the country. But I was in jail in 1934. At that time my impression about free India was not this. I tell you frankly, my conscience does not allow me to support such a Bill, because we were all talking different things to our people. Nobody was joining the Congress at that time. I was a Congressman. Nobody was prepared to join the Congress at that time. We, as young boys, were going round and campaigning for the Congress of that time. I ask when we are having so many financial difficulties, why do you increase this much. If you want, you have some small increase, I have no objection. You have an increase of Rs. 25 or Rs. 100 or whatever you want in the allowances, or give one, two, three, four or five free air flights, I have no objection, but not an increase of this magnitude. What is this? From Rs. 2250 that I am getting—I don't know what is the exact amount, but this is what I am getting—it is increased to Rs. 6000/-... (Interruptions). I am giving it to my party, you know; I am giving whatever I get to my party and I take only the minimum from my party. But that is not the point that I am pleading. My point is that this Bill should not be taken up now. I have to bring a number of amendments after studying it but they want to take it and pass it now. I don't know why some Members are in a hurry. They do not want a discussion; they do not want to listen to the views of the opposition; they only want money and money and money

All right, take the whole thing; take away the whole treasury, but I am not for it, and I oppose it.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, I rise not to oppose the Bill. I understand the sentiments and the stand of Mr. Balaram. They are making the supreme sacrifice; they give their entire salary to their party. To that extent they may not gain; but their party gains.

I am not apologetic about this Bill for various reasons. I know we will be criticised; some papers may write that Members who are making laws for others, have increased their own salaries and allowances. This is a usual thing. But I have seen in a number of countries the facilities and the amenities available to the Members of Parliament. Even in the third-world countries, less fortunate than India, where Members of Parliament are treated well; they get respectable salaries and facilities—more facilities than salaries. In the U.S. Congress, I have seen, every Congressman has a full-fledged office with as many as 12 staff members, sometimes 18...

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY (Uttar Pradesh): In case of a Senator, it is 35.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: But here we do not have even a P.A. and none to answer our calls. We have to maintain our establishment at home and here, and that is the predicament. I myself had to put an answering machine to answer my calls. Therefore, we are in a disadvantageous position. As one friend said, some State Assembly MLAs are getting much more salaries. Salaries of Government servants and others are being increased periodically, according to the price index there is increase in dearness allowance. But we are not demanding all that. Still, an occasional revision is justified. There is no reason to be apologetic about it. And also, one more reason is there. In earlier

says, politics used to be a part-time occupation for many people, the elitist class, the business people, the nawabs, but today, after reservations and all that so many common people are coming into politics. They are full-time politicians without any other source of income. They have to live honourably, and if you cannot give facilities to them to live honourably, they will be pawns in the hands of various lobbies who are very eager to cultivate the Members of Parliament. If you want to avoid that contingency, give them reasonable and respectable salary. It is not high. I do not call it a lucrative salary by any comparison. If you take the salary of a Bank Clerk or an office Superintendent or an officer, it is nothing, but because we are apologetic because we are passing a Bill in our favour, that is the only embarrassment we have; otherwise there is nothing wrong. In fact, I take exception to the list of facilities he is giving. One facility which he should consider is increasing the number of telephone calls. This is what pinches us most. Nowadays, if you want to get in touch with your constituency, with your State, one STD call means 100 or 150 local calls. The ceiling is exhausted in three or four months. Therefore, you should seriously consider increasing the number of telephone calls to a higher figure. There should be a steep increase in that. This is a facility.

There is another anomaly also. There are other people. For example, freedom fighters. They get pension as freedom fighters for the sacrifices they have made and all that. That is not deducted when they get pension as former Members of Parliament. But what about Government servants like Mr. Sukul or somebody else? This Bill does not provide for the same facility in the case of such people. After all, somebody had served the Government for 20—25 years. He gets pension for the services rendered by

him. If that person, after having served as a Member of Parliament, gets pension later, it should not be deducted, as in the case of the freedom fighters. The Minister should consider this aspect. This will help us in attracting more and more people, with administrative experience, to Parliament.

Having supported to this extent, I would also like to say something which is unpleasant. When we increase our salary etc., we should also question our conscience whether we are doing full justice to the post to which we are elected. I would, particularly, point out to the lack of attendance, poor attendance, in the House; lack of quorum. Many momentous Bills are passed without a quorum in the House. This is very unfair. When we demand facilities, we should also discharge our duties. Even today, when we are passing this Bill in relation to the Members' salary etc., there is not even one-fourth of the strength here. We are passing a Bill in favour of the other 180 Members who do not care and who may be sleeping somewhere or enjoying somewhere. Therefore, I would suggest that at least in the case of the daily allowance, which you are increasing from Rs. 75 to Rs. 150, you should provide that a Member will be paid DA only on the basis of daily signature. Just you think of it. It is so unjust; it is so immoral to get DA without attending the House.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO:
Mr. Upendra, there is such a provision in the case of the Kashmir Assembly. Members get DA only on the days when they attend.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA:
Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, members sign once in fifteen days and get DA for all the days. If a Government servant submits a false DA claim, you punish him, you chargesheet him, you remove him. But in the case of a Member of Parliament, you condone that. On what basis can you justify this payment when a Member has not attended

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the House? Let us put it in the rules. If you can say that a Member is doing his duty sitting in his constituency, if you can justify the payment on the ground that he is discharging his duties sitting in his constituency, it is a different thing. But we are paying the DA for attending the House. Therefore, I suggest, I put it on record, that no Member should be paid DA without attending the House.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO:
I associate myself with this.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA:
Let us be very candid about it. Let us have some morality in this. With these words, I support the Bill. I hope the Minister will take note of what I said and incorporate it in the rules.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY:
More air flights also.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA:
I do not want to plead for any other facility.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI (Maharashtra): What about walk-out?

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA:
If I walk out of the House, I am prepared to forego DA for that day. You can put it in the rules.

SHRI ASHIS SEN (West Bengal):
Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, it is unfortunate that a Bill is being discussed without its being circulated giving us no time to apply our mind.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): It has been brought forward after consultation and after reaching a consensus. Chairman has allowed it. (Interruptions). For the information of the hon. Members, I would like to point that Chairman has allowed it. A consensus has been arrived at after consultation and discussion. You cannot question the decision of the Chairman.

SHRI ASHIS SEN: How can we talk on the subject unless we get a copy of the Bill before? Only then you get an opportunity to go deep into it. The primary question is, we are public servants, not salary-earners. Naturally, conceptually, we are materially different from a salary-earner employed in an institution. Salary-earners and public men serving the community and the country are completely two different categories. We need not equate that. Secondly, when Government is not in a position to provide funds for 1,75,000 closed-down factories, when funds are not available and lakhs and lakhs of workers are being thrown out of employment, when adequate funds are not available for rehabilitation of the people affected by floods and drought, I do not know what your morality is in making an expenditure of Rs. 4 crores for the emoluments of Members of Parliament. I am not going into the details of these factors, whether the salary or the allowance is to be increased, whether I should be provided with a staff of 15 to 20 members. I concur with what Mr. Upendra and Mr. Balaram have said that there is no morality in making this expenditure on the Members of Parliament. So, on behalf of my party I oppose this Bill. I think it should not be passed.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I have great respect and regard for hon. Shri Balaram. He is a very senior and seasoned political leader, very senior Member of this House. His progressive views are very well-known. But I want to say only this. Firstly, he thought that in some conversation I gave him the impression as if we were giving facilities like postage or some such things. Now it is a very simple question. When we are giving you some office allowance of Rs. 1000 per month for maintaining your office, it is supposed to be meant for such facilities. Well, we could have said, all right, Rs. 200 for postage stamps. Then you would have to bring the records and proofs. All these facilities are for office mainten-

ance and the amount that is being given is meant for those constituency facilities. Well, Shri Balaram is a Rajya Sabha Member, he may not have a constituency like the Lok Sabha Member has, but still he has a constituency of people and this amount is for the purpose of enabling a Member to discharge his duties. He can have a F.A., he can have somebody. So, all this that is being given is to enable the Member to discharge his duties.

Secondly, he has said all this but the fact of the matter is that I had spoken to all the leaders of almost all the parties, including the party of Mr. Bolaram yesterday. All of them had agreed that the Bill should be passed. I do not know how in one breath he says now that he does not want more and in the same breath he says, well, I can understand if you could have given more air journeys. Then, I might say that everybody had agreed that this Bill be passed today. I spoke to all of them and the Chairman also took the consensus. If you ask me frankly, yesterday I spoke to all the parties, including the leader of Shri Balaram, I spoke to the leader of the CPM. They all said that the Bill should be passed. Now when we want to give the facilities which you deserve, you say all these things. In certain countries they get better facilities. A question has been put to me by several people as to how your MPs live on this meagre salary. The question was put to me when I was invited on Janavani. When there is a unanimous feeling here and there, in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, that these facilities need to be augmented that is why this Bill was brought. The Committee on Salaries and Allowances, on which representatives of a number of Opposition parties are also there, have demanded more. Government has done less. We are being blamed for doing less than expected, because we thought we are public people, elected people, we should not make a very big jump. But something much more was demanded unanimously by the Committee on Salaries and Allowances which consists

of ruling party as well as a number of Opposition parties' representatives. More than that, various Members belonging to different parties, including the Opposition parties—some of whom are sitting here—came to me, they met me and a memorandum was also given to me that this should be hastened up and that this was being delayed.

Last time we wanted to bring this Bill. The Opposition Members, for other reasons, were absent. Now I did not want to bring the Bill in their absence. Some of them said: "We had asked for it—increasing the facilities etc.—you should have passed it in our absence". But then you would have said that we had passed it in your absence.

So what the Government has brought is not up to their expectations. I cannot say, I am told that in certain States, the MLAs get no less, or perhaps better. But I would say that what is being given to the MPs in this—I am myself an MP, I know how much I have to run in my constituency; I am a Minister also, but that is a different thing. I have been an MP and as an MP also I had to do my duties. Mr. Upendra said that they should be allowed more telephone calls and all that. I can understand your necessity. I can understand your requirement, I can understand the pressure on your time and your needs and so on and so forth. I am sorry, it is not possible for the Government to meet all that on the reason that it would be said that too much is being done. It will be open to criticism. Even some are saying that we will be criticised. All right, criticism will be there, may be there, but the fact of the matter is that I know that all sections of the House and all parties wanted more than what the Government has brought. It is a fact. No party can deny that. Even his party. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI ASHIS SEN: Sir, he is making a statement in the absence of our leader.....

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: I had talked to your leader also. Therefore I am saying it. I appreciate Shri Upendra for being straight forward and saying what he did, though he felt we are...

SHRI N. E. BALARAM: I never came and approached you like this. I am leader of my party. I want to deny it. Please tell the facts.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: I appreciate your spirit. Kindly bear with me. I am only appreciating you. I can understand your feelings.

Now, he said: "Here are youngsters who do not know the freedom struggle". But there are so many here on these benches who know the freedom struggle. They were in jail when you were in jail. Don't think that this party does not consist of such people. You were also in our party when you went to jail, don't forget that. You were with us, in our party, when you went to jail. But I do not want to enter into any political controversy. There are people sitting here who went to jail even in 1942, when some people did not go to jail. But I do not want to go into that question. I myself came in public life at the age of 13. For the last 52 years, I am in public life and have been an activist in public life. Not only me, there are several I know who are sitting here. Don't think that we do not understand the aspirations of the people and only you understand the aspirations of the people. If we had not understood the aspirations of the people, then for these 40 years we would not have been where we are.

Therefore I appreciate, as I said, Shri Upendra for being straightforward and saying, when we want to take it, all of us want to take it. What is the use of making a technicality—having it, at the same time saying "we do not want it". Last time also it happened. Last time also I had contacted all the parties. When we had the previous enhancement, I took a meeting of the

parties, including the CPI(M), and everybody decided, "yes, we will have it". But when it came up, our friend there who did not get extension, I do not remember his name, he got up and opposed it. His party had agreed to it, but he had opposed it.

In the Lok Sabha it has been supported unanimously by all the parties though Indrajit Gupta made some reference to air journeys and certain other things and some other persons made some other observations. But we all want it, and yet some of us want to say that we do not want it, and we want to shed tears. I do not say that your tears are crocodile tears. I believe your tears are genuine. Mr. Balaram's tears are very genuine. I believe in them.

SHRI N. E. BALARAM: I strongly object to this statement.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: I say, your tears are very genuine.

SHRI N. E. BALARAM: He is speaking in a sarcastic way. I boycott the House. (*Interruptions*).

(At this stage the hon. Member left the chamber).

SHRI ASHIS SEN: The hon. Minister is deviating from the line. The hon. Minister is making insinuations. He is making several statements which are not correct. The question does not arise. (*Interruptions*).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): You had your say. Please sit down.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: When all the problems will be solved, it is difficult to say.

Mr. Upendra made one point. He said that the D.A. should be paid only to a person who would attend the House.

SHRI ASHIS SEN: The hon. Minister is making incorrect statements and insinuations. We walk out in protest.

(At this stage some hon. Members left the chamber).

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: I am also not happy with the attendance. I want more attendance. As the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs I feel that the attendance should be more, and people should attend it. I had raised this question in a formal meeting of the Leaders of the Opposition and, perhaps, if I am not wrong in a meeting with the Chief Whips also. This matter we can discuss in a meeting of leaders and see what should be done, whether what you say should be accepted or not accepted. My earlier impression was that when it was discussed with leaders of the Opposition the consensus was no, the consensus was against your proposal.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: I suggested that.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: You may not have been there. I cannot now recollect who was there and who was not there. Probably you were not in Parliament, and you came later. May be I am wrong.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: I was there, and I suggested that.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: Yes, you are right. Perhaps you suggested this. I correct myself. You are right. You suggested this, and others did not accept it. We can again sit together and discuss this again. I will be the happiest man if we have more attendance.

With these words, I request that this Bill may be passed.

श्री अरविन्द गणेश कुलकर्णी : टेलीफोन का बोलो । वह पहले करो, नहीं तो दिल्ली में एम्बार्डमेंसी की मीटिंग मत करना । इतने टेलीफोन-कॉल मेरे घर से हो गए हैं । कहां से पैसा दूँ ?

श्री एच० के० एल० भगत : अभी जितना मिल रहा है, वह ले लीजिए ।

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: What happened to the telephone, Sir?

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: His telephone is working well.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: You send me about Rs. 15,000 for two, three days.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): You made your point. Let him think over.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO: My point is, I also received only a few days back an additional bill for Rs. 15,000 for telephone calls.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): He is convinced about it. He will consider. Please sit down.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO: I must say, Mr. Vice-Chairman, though I have got my telephone STD-barred

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: The financial benefit would be nullified unless he does that thing also. We are worried more about facilities than this money.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO: My telephone is SD-barred, and still I get a bill for Rs. 15,500. This is a serious thing. He must consider it.

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY (Assam): Sir, I also want to raise one point.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): You please wait.

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: I want to plead the case of

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): I have told you, you can speak on the third reading. Please sit down.

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: I hope, Sir, you will give time.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): You will get your time.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: What about facilities, Sir?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): You cannot force him.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Let him say that he will consider or something.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Salary, Allowances and Pensions of Members of Parliament Act, 1954, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration"

The motion was adopted.

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

"That clauses 2 to 10 stand part of the Bill."

The motion as adopted.

Clauses 2 to 10 were added to the Bill.

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

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be passed"

The question was proposed.

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Sir, some of the MPs do not have spouses. So, instead of spouses they may bring with them their father, their mother or their brother. So instead of 'spouse' a suitable word should be substituted so that these relations can be accommodated.

My second point is that there should be a provision for ex-Members also in this Bill. Railway passes for ex-MPs should also be given. Ex-MPs have got commitments and they too have to come to Delhi off and on. So it is better if Railway passes are given to them also. If pension is enhanced, it will benefit all ex-MPs.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: So, you are worried for future.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: Sir, I find it very difficult to say no to ladies, but at this stage I can only offer my personal sympathies to her and to others. Nothing more.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: What about telephone?

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: I express my sympathies for telephones too. I cannot make any other commitment. I will request the House to pass the Bill unanimously.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Clarification on the statement Regarding PEPSICO

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): We will now take up reply.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): First of all I am very grateful to the members for expressing their views on the Statement-I made.

The hon. Members had sought clarification on the statement made by me in the Rajya Sabha on 3rd November regarding clearance given to the pro-