

Information and Broadcasting Ministry.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is:

'That the Bill to amend the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration.'

The motion was adopted.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill. The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 22 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 22 were added to the Bill.

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

SHRI AJIT PANJA: Madam, I move:

"That the Bill be passed."

The question was put, and the motion was adopted.

VALEDICTORY REMARKS ON THE CONCLUSION OF THE SESSION

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Before I adjourn the House, I would like a little more indulgence of hon. Members. Everybody has taken his time. Now, I think, it is for me to take a little bit of time and give a little time to our Minister of Parliamentary Affairs also. He hardly ever speaks. His presence is only felt by his sitting over there.

Hon. Members, the current winter session of the House is about to come to an end in a few moments from now. Before I adjourn the House, I would like to thank all Members on behalf of the Vice-Chairmen and on my own behalf for the kind co-operation extended to us by all sec-

tions of the House for the smooth and orderly conduct of the proceeding.

Hon. Members, I think, compared to the happenings in the last few sessions, we had a smooth sailing in this session excepting a few ripples here and there. And this reminds me an Urdu couplet:

चला जाता हूँ यों हंस्ता खेलता

मोजे हवादिस से,

अगर आसानीयाँ हों जिन्दगी दुश्वर
हो जाय ।

I think the few ripples made our session a little lively. If I may say, occupying the Chair once again I did not have much difficulty in getting the co-operation of the Members of the House and the Secretariat. Consequently, we were able to discuss a number of matters confronting the nation and the people in a comparatively dispassionate and calm atmosphere. During this session comprising 22 sittings spread over 156 hours, there were four Short Duration Discussions on difficulties faced by the farming community, the Bofors deal, the performance of the Indian contingent in the Seoul Olympic Games and the functioning of Air India and Indian Airlines. The rise of prices of essential commodities was discussed through a Calling Attention. The Sarkaria Commission Report on Centre-State relations and the National Housing Policy were also discussed threadbare by Members. Members had the opportunity to ventilate public grievances through more than 200 Special Mentions and, I suppose, equal number of associations and dissociations. Members sought clarifications on the 14 policy statements made by the Ministers in the House. The House cleared 10 Bills including two Constitution Amendment Bills. This morning we took a very significant and momentous decision to lower the voting age from 21 to 18 years by passing the Sixty-first Amendment to the Constitution. Someone has said that history is not

full of Parliament but Parliament is full of history. When today we adopted the Bill, we certainly took a happy and historic decision enthusiastically and unanimously to ring in the New Year, as it were. I have no doubt that the country generally and the youth particularly will hail this decision.

I once again thank all hon. Members, leaders of various parties and groups for the cooperation extended by them in conducting the proceedings of the House. I would fail in my duty if I do not thank the Secretariat of the Rajya Sabha and the Watch and Ward Staff for their cooperation in running the House. I join the hon. Chairman in wishing you all and members of your families a happy Christmas, a bright and prosperous New Year and a cheerful Pongal.

Before I adjourn the House, I would ask the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, Mr. Jacob, to speak.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): Madam Deputy Chairman, before you adjourn the House *sine die*, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Chairman, you and through you the panel of Vice-Chairmen, who whole-heartedly cooperated in making this session a very fruitful and a successful one in an atmosphere of friendly spirit. The Session has gone very well and we are all quite happy about it. You particularly, I must say, must be thanked specially for taking a greater burden of running the House this time and we are all very happy in the manner in which you successfully

conducted this House. The Member of both sides took a lot of interest in this Session and spoke on various subjects and I must thank all of them individually. I must thank the Leaders of Opposition groups particularly for extending full cooperation for running the House.

I would also like to thank the Rajya Sabha Secretariat and the Secretary-General who were able to spend a quite large amount of time for the successful conduct of the House. I shall be failing in my duty if I do not express my heart-felt thanks to the Leader of the House Mr. P. Shiv Shankar. When I came to this House this Session, I actually had a very smooth and successful running of the House. I also thank my senior colleague, Shri H. K. L. Bhagat and also my colleague Shri Radha Krishan Malaviya, for their cooperation and sharing of burden with me. I also thank the Watch and Ward staff and other staff of the Rajya Sabha. I must thank above all the press who covered the Rajya Sabha proceedings very meticulously and successfully this time.

I thank you all once again. I wish you a very very happy Christmas and a bright New Year. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, you were sandwiched between one above and one below, but still you worked very hard and we thank you specially and the Leader of the House. And with all the best wishes for the inter-session, the House is adjourned *sine die*.

The House then adjourned *sine die* at thirty four minutes past seven of the clock.