

MESSAGE FROM THE LOK SABHA

The Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1975

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report to the House the following message received from the Lok Sabha signed by the Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha :

"In accordance with the provisions of Rule 96 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to enclose herewith the Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1975, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 5th August, 1975."

Sir, I lay the Bill on the Table.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. B. RAJU) : The House stands adjourned till 2.30 P.M.

The House then adjourned for lunch at one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at thirty-two minutes past two of the clock, The Vice-Chairman, Shrimati Purabi Mukhopadhyay, in the Chair.

BILL, 1974—Contd.

THE PARLIAMENT (PREVENTION OF DISQUALIFICATION) AMENDMENT

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN (Delhi) : Madam, I rise to support the Bill. The present position of declaring an office to be an office of profit is rather anomalous. There should be no discrimination. I must say the suggestion which I made yesterday regarding the office of profit in respect of people belonging to various universities was a very innocent one, but I am sorry to note that my very eminent educationist friends have expressed their displeasure in very subtle language. Still I stand by what I said. It is really surprising that a person who was nominated on the Committee of Delhi Transport Corporation and getting Rs. 20 as the fee for attending the meeting had to resign because that was declared to be an office

of profit and yet other people continue to be in the House. Besides, I am unable to understand, while the office of Vice-Chancellor is considered to be an office of profit, the post of Pro-Vice-Chancellor is not considered to be an office of profit. These are some of the anomalies which have to be removed. If the Pro-Vice-Chancellor can be a Member of the House, there should be no bar on the Vice-Chancellor being a Member of the House. Madam, I feel the public sector undertakings have to play a very important role in the economy of this country, particularly in view of the changed circumstances. When we are at threshold of a new era, an era of new hope and self-reliance, surely it is necessary we should take advantage of the experience and knowledge of Members of Parliament and we should closely associate them with the working of public sector undertakings whether owned or financed by the Government of India or by any State Government. Members of Parliament, with all their responsibility and with their experience of the mood of the nation and of the thinking of the Government, will be in a better position to make a valuable contribution in advising, directing and guiding the public sector undertakings and their managing boards. Our public sector undertakings are definitely looking up and are making profits, and naturally this is the most opportune time for the Members of Parliament to be closely associated with them and their working. Another advantage is that the Parliamentary Committees which very often examine the working of the public sector undertakings will also find their work easier and more purposeful if Members of Parliament are associated in the top management, I mean, in the board of directors or in the managing committees. Besides, Members of Parliament will also have the experience of the working of these undertakings. as today it is very easy to criticise the working of the public sector undertakings without really knowing their working difficulties.

In this connection, I would like to say that the public sector undertakings unfortunately do not have all the advantages