

RAJYA SABHA

*Saturday, the 18th March, 1972 the 8th
Phalguna mi (Saka)*

The House met at eleven of the clock,
MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

PROCLAMATIONS UNDER ARTICLE 356 OF THE CONSTITUTION

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI OM MEHTA) : Sir, on behalf of Shri K.C. Pant, I beg to lay on the Table, under clause (3) of article 356 of the Constitution, a copy (in English and Hindi) each of the following papers :—

(i) Proclamation (GSR. No 102(E)) issued by the President on March 17, 1972 revoking the Proclamation made by him on June 15, 1971, under article 356 of the Constitution, in relation to the State of Punjab. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-1450/72].

(ii) Proclamation (GSR. No. 103(E)), issued by the President on March 17, 1972, revoking the Proclamation made by him on May 13, 1971, under article 356 of the Constitution, in relation to the State of Gujarat. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-1455/72].

ANNOUNCEMENT *RE* GOVERNMENT BUSINESS FOR THE WEEK COM- MENCING 20th MARCH, 1972

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI OM MEHTA) : With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government

Business in this House during the week commencing 20th March, 1972 will consist of:—

(1) Reply to the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

(2) Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.

(3) General Discussion on the Budget (Railways) for 1972-73.

(4) Consideration and return of the Appropriation (Railways) Vote on Account Bill, 1972, as passed by Lok Sabha.

(5) General discussion on the General Budget for 1972-73.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal) : Sir, I know that financial business is important and has got to be gone through. There was indication that the two Bills would be taken up during this session and we were given to understand that they would be taken up in the course of this session. We came to understand it unofficially. And I think the Minister himself said that he would consider the Bill to amend article 314 of the Constitution to abolish the privileges of the ICS and their special rights, that has been pending. As you know, in the other House, the Government voted for the private Member's Bill but it could not be passed. Then Government came to the conclusion that in principle the Bill was acceptable and they would like to have it passed. And Government is under obligation to sponsor that Bill. But I find there nothing about it, there is no reference to it.

Secondly, in the last session the Government was under obligation to bring forward the Bill to curb the monopoly press, de-linking the press from the industrial houses and bringing about the diffusion of ownership. Meanwhile, the press barons and others had met the Government and lobbied. Now, I find that there is no mention of the Bill. The Bill has been sabotaged or is about to be sabotaged. A rival work-

[Shri Bhupesh Gupta] ing journalists union has been started against the Indian Federation of Working Journalists—a rival union. And I ara surprised that Shri Jagjivan Ram is going to attend that rival journalists union. Sir, on the one hand, they do not bring forward the Bill which they have promised; they have sabotaged it. On the other hand, the Government authorities are themselves breaking the journalists movement. You did not go. I congratulate you. You were supposed to have gone to one of these things. And I am very glad—I heard you had not gone there. I am not questioning your opinion, you may have any opinion. But it was proper on your part not to have gone there. When there is a long-standing reputed journalists organisation called the Indian Federation of Working Journalists, suddenly we find that there is an attempt to sabotage the press law by the newspaper industry and we find that a rival union has been brought about. I would appeal, through you, Sir, to Shri Jagjivan Ram not to get associated with this kind of blackleg rival union. What about these two Bills?

Finally, Sir, Shri Moinul Haque Choudhury's matter should be discussed in the House on a short duration discussion notice which I have given. I requested you by writing a letter. The matter is too serious. Shri Moinul Haque Choudhury told a lie to the House and it was based on his own document, confession. He asked me where I got it from. Anyone can pay Rs. 10 and get from the Income-tax authorities a copy of the statement. Mr. Choudhury in his statement mentioned that the 1967 election fund was collected from the public. Then he said 'friends and relatives both. But before, he never used the word deliberately.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do not discuss the merits.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : In all fairness, till the discussion in the House is over, Mr. Choudhury should not undertake

any ministerial job. He should really resign. If he does not resign, he should not undertake any ministerial job till his conduct has been discussed in the House and thrashed out by the House. I charge Mr. Choudhury of either evasion of tax or misappropriation of Congress funds. I would like the hon'ble Minister to tell us whether we can discuss their conduct sometime.

SHRI OM MEHTA : The first point Mr. Bhupesh Gupta raised is about the abolition of privileges of the I.C.S. Officer, about that we are already committed. I assured Mr. Bhupesh Gupta that in this session we will be introducing the Bill. About the second Bill, we have brought it to the notice of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. We wiH inform the House as soon as we have heard from the ministry.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : The Bill is ready, we believe....

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is all.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, we require your help always. Without your help we cannot get on. What about the third one?

SHRI OM MEHTA : About the third one, he has given notice to you. Sir. And it is for you to decide what sort of motion it is, whether it is to be admitted or not.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Whatever form.

SHRI OM MEHTA : We can say nothing at this stage. How can we say ?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : We can provide time. You should take it seriously.

SHRI OM MEHTA : The Prime Minister is replying to the debate on the President's Address. . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : What about my suggestion that Mr. Moinul Haque Choudhury should not be allowed to discharge any government duty.

SHRI OM MEHTA : How can I say anything about that?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : And about Mr. Jagjivan Ram accepting the invitation. You have not mentioned anything.

SHRI OM MEHTA : You have given notice.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : He is going to preside over the meeting of the rival union. Mr. Jagjivan Ram should follow your example, Sir. I do not know whether it is true or not.

SHRI OM MEHTA : I will bring it to his notice.

I. THE APPROPRIATION BILL, 1972

II. THE APPROPRIATION (No. 2) BILL, 1972

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH) : ' Sir, with your permission I would like to move both the Bills. Both are the same.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If the House has no objection he may move the Bills together. (*No hon. Member dissented.*) Yes, you may move both together.

SHRI K. R. GANESH : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1971-72, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

I also move :

"That the Bill to provide for the authorisation of appropriation of moneys out of the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the amounts spent on certain services during the financial year ended on the 31st day of March, 1970 in excess of the amounts granted for these services and for that year, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do you wish to say anything?

SHRI K. R. GANESH : No. I wanted to save the time of the House.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI OM MEHTA) : Let them make their points. He will reply.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : We have not read the Bill. Therefore, let him clarify.

The questions were proposed.

SHRI KALYAN ROY (West Bengal) : Sir, a war was fought and we fought against the Pakistan Army. Pakistan did not have the equipment or the finance to fight it. The question remains as to actually who equipped and financed Pakistan to fight the war. Everybody knows that the finance of Pakistan at that particular time, their foreign exchange position was in an extremely critical condition. The foreign exchange came from American banks. It is actually they who equipped them. They financed Pakistan and fought the War in proxy. It is the old policy of the United States of making Asian fight the Asians. I have a criticism against this Government. When they were conscious on the political front and taking up the political challenge from the United States why are they compromising and conceding on the economic front now? We are allowing American penetration into our economy. You cannot win the political war if you do not