

STATEMENT OF DECISIONS OF GOVERNMENT ON CERTAIN RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS COMMISSION IN THEIR REPORT ON 'FINANCE, ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT'

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : Madam, I beg to lay on the Table a statement of decisions of Government on certain recommendations of the Administrative Reforms Commission in their Report on 'Finance, Accounts and Audit'. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1284/69.]

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned till 2 P. M.

The House adjourned for lunch at ten minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at two of the clock, **THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN)** in the Chair.

THE WEST BENGAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (ABOLITION) BILL, 1969—Contd

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN): Mr. Bhupesh Gupta.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): Mr. Vice Chairman, we are resuming the debate on the Bill to abolish the West Bengal Legislative Council. . . .

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN) : You have already spoken for half an hour.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: With interruptions. If you minus that time, deduct the time spent on interruptions. . . .

SHRI SUNDAR SINGH BHANDARI (Rajasthan): You will take 40 minutes even then.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I will be extremely brief because we are giving a burial to it and we need some obituary words. It is only a funeral speech for the West Bengal Legislative Council. And I am glad that I am participating in the funeral ceremony of an institution which is contrary to our concept of parliamentary democracy and which, in fact, works against it. (Interruptions.) Do not disturb

me. Then I will take more time. I would ask my friend in Bihar also to do the same thing, to abolish it there. But here certain principles arise. The principle is this. There is no point in having a Second Chamber now because we have somewhat a going parliamentary democracy in the sense that the Lower House is elected on the basis of adult franchise and it can carry on its work. And as you see, from here we have to wait in many respects on the pleasure of the other House. Bills have to be passed. We are called upon to endorse them—not that we are called upon to endorse them, we are called upon to consider them. But our Ministerial friends do not make up their minds and that is why nothing can be changed here. How many Bills have we amended and sent to the Lok Sabha in 16 years? I think one or two instances of minor amendments could be recalled. Otherwise, we have not been able to amend any Bill out of hundreds of Bills that pass through this House. Now, what does it show? Either we are redundant or we are absolutely useless people.

SHRI P. C. MITRA (Bihar): Whatever we had to say we have said in the Joint Committee in which the Rajya Sabha is also represented.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : My friend is pleased with a consolation prize. I am saying that you are pleased with it because of the travelling allowance. I am not saying it. You were on the Joint Committee. But even after the Joint Committee, they amend and you endorse, in fact. That is what I am saying.

(Interruptions)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN) : Order, please.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I am asking you. Personally, I would say, well, the Rajya Sabha is becoming more and more an anachronistic institution in our parliamentary democracy. Now, you see. The Lok Sabha has undergone a change and this change is to be reflected in the Rajya Sabha. It will take at least eight years, that is to say, four biennial elections. Now, this time we have got from West Bengal, out of five, four on the Opposition side. You have been finished there practically. If West Bengal is to be reflected in the Rajya Sabha, then we have to wait a little, for another two years or so. Now, it is not possible under the present set-up, and we have to wait for the biennial election.