

to attend the Rajya Sabha Session starting on 29th April, 1968. I request I may be granted leave of absence from this forthcoming Session . . . ”

Is it the pleasure of the House that permission be granted to Shri S. S. Vasan for remaining absent from all meetings of the House during the current session?

(No hon. Member dissented)

Permission to remain absent is granted.

DIRECTION RE. REFERENCES IN THE HOUSE TO THE SECRETARIAT AND ITS OFFICERS

MR. CHAIRMAN: I was unhappy to see in yesterday's proceedings certain references made by one of the Members to the Secretariats of the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha. It is a well known convention that ordinarily no reference to the Secretariat of a House of Parliament or its officers is made on the floor of the House. If any Member has any grievance against any particular officer or anything done in the Secretariat, the proper course for that Member is to approach the Presiding Officer in his Chamber. Members should remember that Officers of the Secretariat perform a very difficult and sometimes delicate job, because they have to deal with Members belonging to all parties and groups and it is expected of them that they will discharge their duties without fear or favour. In any case, a Member, if he has any complaint, must invariably seek his remedy in the Presiding Officer's Chamber, as the Presiding Officer is responsible for all actions of the Secretariat.

[THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair]

THE APPROPRIATION (NO.2) BILL 1968—Continued

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY (Mysore): Madam Deputy Chairman, speaking on the Appropriation Bill for the year 1968-69 I feel called upon to talk about the food problem of the

country. Madam, there seems to be an all round jubilation because of the maximum production of nearly 95 million tonnes of foodgrains that we have achieved during the year. My point is that even if we have achieved that production of 95 million tonnes we still fall short of the total food requirements of the country. I base my estimates on the figures of 1964-65. That was another peak yield year when we produced 88.7 million tonnes of food and on the top of it we imported 7.8 million tonnes totalling thereby 96.5 million tonnes. That was the food consumed in 1964-65 because there was no grain left at the end of the year. For 1965-66 no grain was left in any granary of Government and all the pipe lines were said to have been empty by the year 1965-66 which means that we had consumed during 1964-65 96.5 million tonnes of food. Madam, subsequently there has been an increase in population of 2.5 per cent as everybody knows; that is to say, our food consumption must also have been increased by another two million tonnes. So during 1965-66 we must have required 98.5 million tonnes for feeding the entire nation but we have done with much less because of the failure of the crops during 1965-66 which only goes to show that the country has gone through the agency of hunger to the extent of the shortfall in the total availability of foodgrains in the year 1965-66. Unfortunately the next year was also a year of failure, a year of drought and once again we had to suffer the agency of hunger. The nation suffered valiantly and well and to the weaker sections of the population on whom the burden of this hunger fell I pay my glorious compliments. Anyway we have come out of that stage. My point is that during 1966-67 we should have required another 2.5 million tonnes of food because of the increase in population which comes to 101 million tonnes in all. But we have had very much less than that including the grain which we imported. In 1967-68 another 2.5 million tonnes was required bringing