

(v) Eighteen Notifications (G.S.R. Nos. 34 to 51), dated the 29th December, 1967.

(vi) Four Notifications (G.S.R. Nos. 52 to 55), dated the 4th January, 1968.

(vii) Six Notifications (G.S.R. Nos. 56 to 61), dated the 5th January, 1968.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-202/68 for (v) to (vii).]

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STATEMENT RE THE DELHI
MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
(AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE,
1968

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN): I beg to lay on the Table a statement explaining the circumstances which necessitated immediate legislation by the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Ordinance, 1968.

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THIRTEENTH REPORT OF THE
PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE
(1967-68)

SHRI M. C. SHAH (Gujarat): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Thirteenth Report of the Public Accounts Committee (1967-68) on Appropriation Accounts (Posts and Telegraphs), 1965-66 and Audit Report (Posts and Telegraphs), 1967.

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MESSAGE FROM THE LOK SABHA
THE CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL,
1967

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

"I am directed to inform Rajya Sabha that Lok Sabha, at its sitting held on the 13th February, 1968, has adopted the following motion further extending the time for presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee of the Houses on the

Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 1967 (Amendment of article 368) by Shri Nath Pai, M. P.

MOTION

"That the time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India, be further extended up to the first day of the next session."

CLARIFICATION RE STARRED
QUESTION NO 34

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD): Sir, I have not made any statement in the House to which Mr. Rajnarain referred, that I said that Mr. Chagla was not the Chairman of the I.C.C.R. after he resigned from the Education Ministry. He was the Chairman for some time. We requested him to continue as Chairman. Later on he resigned. Therefore there is no such impression which I have given to the House saying that he was not the Chairman. I am surprised at that statement.

श्री राजनारायण (उत्तर प्रदेश) :
मन्त्री जी ने जो स्पष्टीकरण दिया है, उससे एक मवाल पैदा होता है। मन्त्री जी ने पहले यह कहा था कि एजुकेशन मिनिस्टर ही उसके चेयरमैन होते थे। तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि किस रूल के तहत मैं एजुकेशन मिनिस्टर जब नहीं रहे श्री चागला साहब, फिर भी वे उसके चेयरमैन थे। मैं यह बात आपके जरिये मन्त्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूँ।

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA (Orissa): Sir, this is leading to confusion. The proper course would be to see the record tomorrow morning.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH (West Bengal): On a point of order. The hon. Minister is saying that it is an autonomous Corporation but the Minister himself is the Chairman. Then how can he mislead the House and how can they absolve themselves of responsibility? Is the Minister party to it?

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: I think the hon. Member knows that there are autonomous bodies in this country where the Ministers are Chairmen. He should consult the rules and then speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next item.

THE PRESS AND REGISTRATION
OF BOOKS (AMENDMENT) BILL,
1967—continued.

[THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.]

SHRI A. D. MANI (Madhya Pradesh): Madam Deputy Chairman, when the House adjourned yesterday, I had started making a reference to the office of the Press Registrar. I am now taking this opportunity to make a few observations on the need or otherwise of continuing the office of the Press Registrar. I would like to draw the attention of the Minister to page 397 of the Report of the Press Commission. In paragraph 1040, on page 397, the Press Commission observes as follows:—

“We consider that the whole administration of the Press and Registration of Books Act requires to be overhauled. In the course of our work we found that, apart from the differences in practice in different States, there is a general laxity in the checking of the filing and the registration of books and periodicals. It has been a matter of great difficulty to us to get the files of copies for scrutiny of the contents and even to verify whether a paper is currently published or not.”

Then it goes on to say:—

“It should be the business of the registrar to have a complete register of all the newspapers and periodicals, news agencies and advertising agencies in the State. It should be made obligatory on them to register themselves under the Act and if they fail to do so, they

should be ineligible to carry on the business.”

Further it says:—

“The declarations to be made by them should include a statement on the lines indicated in Appendix XXIII of the capital structure and the staff proposed to be employed in the venture and the Registrar should have authority to call for any additional factual information.”

Madam it will be seen from this paragraph that what the Press Commission had in mind when it suggested the creation of the office of the Press Registrar was to have a bureau of statistics about the press in India. We never imagined at that time that the Press Registrar would come to be clothed with powers which we never wanted him to exercise at that time. At present, the Press Registrar is a person who determines the newsprint quota of newspapers. With due respect to the hon. Minister of Information and Broadcasting, and the Prime Minister, anybody may say that the managers or editors of newspapers are not afraid of them. But they are afraid of the Press Registrar, because he is the man who determines whether a newspaper in going to have twenty tonnes more or twenty tonnes less. I would suggest that the hon. Minister of Information and Broadcasting make an *in cognito* visit to Udyog Bhavan and find for himself the queue of newspaper magnates standing in line to have a *darshan* of the Press Registrar.

Madam, I would like to mention here that in Brazil, some years ago, the right of a State to control the distribution of newsprint was used by the State concerned to extinguish a newspaper. At present we have a broad-minded Government but we do not know what future is in store for this country. For example, if a Government comes into existence which is not sworn to democratic values, it may well happen that the office of the Press Registrar will be misused to