

THE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE (DEVELOPMENT AND WAREHOUSING) CORPORATIONS (AMENDMENT) RULES, 1962

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (3) of section 52 of the Agricultural Produce (Development and Warehousing) Corporations Act, 1956, a copy of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Department of Food) Notification G.S.R. No. 253, dated the 20th February, 1962, publishing the Agricultural Produce (Development and Warehousing) Corporations (Amendment) Rules, 1962. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3/62].

12 NOON

ANNOUNCEMENT RE RESIGNATION BY A MEMBER

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have to inform Members that Shri M. C. Chagla, a Member representing the State of Maharashtra, has resigned his seat in the Rajya Sabha with effect from the 17th April, 1962.

MOTION RE ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (HAFIZ MOHAMMAD IBRAHIM): Sir, I beg to move:

"That Shrimati Violet Alva be chosen as the Deputy Chairman of this House."

SHRI R. S. DOOGAR (West Bengal): Sir, I beg to second the Motion.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, I want to speak on this Motion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Later on, Let me first put the question from the Chair.

The question was proposed.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, it is clear from the fact that there is no amendment to the Motion that our attitude is not one of needless contest.

But it is a matter of deep regret that in the matter of selection by the ruling party of an incumbent to this high office . . .

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, when there is no amendment, is it proper for any Member to say something against the Motion?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: It is proper.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN: No.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I also regret that Mr. Akbar Ali Khan does not know the rules as yet.

It is a matter of deep regret, as I said, that we Members of the Opposition should not have been consulted over this matter before this selection or nomination was made by the ruling party, and it is because the ruling party knew that their candidate would be elected. We have no personal quarrel with the candidate concerned; in fact we have got very great regard for her. Sir, what I would like to say in this connection, since we have the chance to say something in regard to this office, is that this high office has to be filled by one who is fearless in his or her approach and who knows how to raise the dignity of this office by fearlessness, impartiality and, above all, by progressive responses to the promptings of public life. Soon, Sir, we shall be following the convention of this House, the convention of the incumbent of this office sitting on this side of the House, and I hope it will be realized by the hon. incumbent of this office that in order to make democracy a success in the country, it is important not merely to turn to the Government or to listen to the Government very much but, above all, to take into account the anxieties and thoughts of the Opposition. That is very very important, Sir, because there may be a tendency in our parliamentary institutions, the Congress returned with such inordinate majorities—out of all proportion to the electoral backing in the country—to develop authoritarian trends and

to subvert and weaken parliamentary institutions from within. It shall be the task—if I may say so— of the Deputy Chairman in this House to uphold the high standards of parliamentary democracy and to administer our Rules of Business in such a manner that everyone feels that there sits in the Chair one who is impartial and fearless and is conscious of the high office she is occupying.

These observations I have to make, Sir, because . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: That will do.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: No, Sir; I have to say all this because we find that in the matter of the very selection itself the Government has behaved in an utterly callous, irresponsible, undemocratic and authoritarian manner. If we had not contested in this House, it is because of our deep concern and regard for the nomination they have made and also because of the fact that we do not want to introduce needless controversy. But that shows the greatness of our side and the generosity of the Opposition in contrast with the attitude of the Government side.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That will do.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, I welcome this proposal and I hope that the dignity of this key office will be maintained.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

“That Shrimati Violet Alva be chosen as the Deputy Chairman of this House.”

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I declare that Shrimati Violet Alva has been chosen as the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

On behalf of all sections of this House I should like to extend my warmest felicitations to Shrimati Violet Alva. She has been a Member of

this House for many years, and we know her as an independent Member and later as a Deputy Minister. I have no doubt her genial and friendly disposition will make a fervent appeal to all Members to give their co-operation to her. Her services to the country have been varied. She was an ardent fighter for freedom, an eminent advocate and a keen student of national and international affairs, and I have no doubt, sitting by the side of the stormy petrel there, she will be able to tame him. I am echoing the feelings of every Member here when I wish her a very successful term as Deputy Chairman. (Cheers)

HAFIZ MOHAMMAD IBRAHIM: May I say a few words, Sir?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No more; on behalf of all sections I have said.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA (Mysore): Mr. Chairman, Sir, . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think you better come here and speak.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, venerable and gracious you have always been. I am deeply moved by the words you have said. I am also deeply moved by the words that came from my neighbour, Shri Bhupesh Gupta, I propose to sit with him for a long time and I shall hear him better still. Sir, the sentiments expressed, I am very grateful for.

The motion is moved and carried. Maybe as my neighbour has said the reasons were wrong, but he agrees the decision was right. The House, Sir, has unanimously conferred on one of its Members the highest honour that the House can under the Constitution. Many of the qualities, Sir, that you have said about me, I have yet to discover. But you, Sir, are an institution in yourself, and today, Sir, when I accept this responsibility, great and illustrious names come before my mind, names like Vithalbhaji Patel, Mavalankar and Ananthasayanam Ayyangar. It is a difficult job and I want to assure all sections of this

House this morning that, if I lay any hope to be a success as the Deputy Chairman, I must lay aside all that is personal, all that is of party and of course all that savours of political predilections. None on this side need have any fear on that count, Sir.

I take the mantle of this responsibility without any adequate training, without any apprenticeship or study.

The Chair, Sir, is the symbol of democracy. I shall need the understanding and co-operation of every hon. Member in this House. In return I shall give to the full measure the self-same understanding and co-operation irrespective of the affiliations of political parties. Maybe Members will now and then bow to the ruling of the Deputy Chairman and maybe they will criticise the Deputy Chairman outside. But I want to assure them that there will be no cause for them to retain any rancour in their hearts, for nothing will be done on personal or political prejudices. I want to assure the House once again and every Member on this side that such considerations will not prevail from the Chair.

Sir, we have great tasks ahead of us and therefore we must continue to maintain a high sense of decorum and dignity to which we must add a high moral tone because subjects, some times very delicate, come on the floor, and it is only with mutual self-respect that we shall have to conduct ourselves. Whether it is the Chair or it is the hon. Members, there must be perfect mutual respect and there must be consideration, understanding and co-operation.

Sir, I want to reiterate that irrespective of the various political affiliations I shall ever try to be impartial from the Chair. Sir, hon'ble Members, distinguished men and women in their own fields of activities, must observe the procedures that are laid down or that we have laid down unto ourselves. We are fashioning a new nation based on our own

genius in parliamentary practice. We have constantly to set an example to those many democratic institutions we are now building up, even to the level of the village.

You will forgive me, Sir, for the few remarks I will now make. In the history of Indian Parliament no woman has yet been duly elected to the Chair. Sir, it is this House that has raised the status of Indian womanhood and, Sir, to this newer height now Indian womanhood rises, not as a weaker sex but as the fair and the very firm. From the Chair, whatever the deliberation, there will be an impartial approach and there will be no weakness on that account.

I am grateful to you, Sir, once again for the words you have said, to the Leader of the House who proposed my name, to the hon. Member who seconded, to the hon. Member who spoke, and to the hon. Member who expressed his fears that this side was not consulted—I have assured them enough—and to the rest who cheered. Thank you very much. (Cheers).

SHRI R. S. DOOGAR: Sir, with your permission, I think, I have a word to say by way of explanation. Before the party selected Mrs. Alva I had consulted, not exactly consulted, but I had conveyed the selection of the Party to Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, Shri Ganga Sharan Sinha and Shri Dahyabhai Patel. I thought, Sir, I owed an explanation to this House.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: We must make it clear. That was not consultation. When I pointed out that we had not been consulted, the hon. Member telephoned Mr. Satyanarayan Sinha and told me again on the telephone that he had been advised to tell me about their selection. Would you call it consultation?

SHRI R. S. DOOGAR: I also asked for their co-operation and I thought they would co-operate and give us their support.

SHRI GANGA SHARAN SINHA (Bihar): Since my name has been mentioned, on a point of information, I would like to say that this information was conveyed on phone, but not before the Congress Party had selected her. After the selection we were informed and not consulted. It is not true to say that we were consulted. It is entirely wrong. When the selection had been made, when it had appeared in the Press, after that we were informed on the telephone. It was not consultation.

THE DRUGS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1961

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (DR. SUSHILA NAYAR): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Drugs Act, 1940, be taken into consideration."

Sir, in moving this Bill I wish to state that it is a very minor amendment. It merely seeks to bring within the purview of the Drugs (Control) Act cosmetics along with drugs. The reasons for this are that a number of reports have appeared in the Press and a number of cases were reported where people, who had been using some of these cosmetics for long periods, had suffered as a result thereof. A survey was, therefore, carried out and this survey produced some interesting results confirming the reports.

It was reported first in the *Hindustan Standard* of 21st October, 1959 by Dr. Rangalal Sen of Calcutta that certain azo and other synthetic dyes, which were used in the manufacture of lipsticks in the country, produced many serious and obstinate types of skin diseases and indolent ulcers on the lips of women who frequently used them. Enquiries were addressed to the State Governments to ascertain the position obtaining in the cosmetics industry in the States. Replies received from the State authorities have revealed that manufacture in the majority of the concerns is conducted

under very unhygienic conditions, without any technical staff, and without any control over either the quality of the raw materials or the finished products. It was also reported that the same colours that were used in textiles were also used sometimes in cosmetics particularly by small-scale manufacturers in the line of cosmetics production.

The Madhya Pradesh authorities reported that due to adverse effect of cosmetics and lipsticks, 11 cases of dermatitis (8 of contact dermatitis and 3 of toxic etiology) had been registered in the skin out-patient department of the Victoria Hospital, Jabalpur, in the course of the first eight months in 1960. Enquiries made at the Irwin Hospital have also revealed that there have been several cases of contact dermatitis and cheilitis reported and treated at the Irwin Hospital as a result of using cosmetics. The Gujarat authorities reported about a certain hair-dye containing lead salts which has also had toxic effects on human beings.

It is, therefore, necessary to bring the cosmetics within the purview of the Drugs (Control) Act so that the Government can have some control and inspect and enforce certain standards according to the provisions of the Drugs (Control) Act so far as cosmetics are concerned. Sir, I hope, therefore, that this Bill will be welcomed by all sections and I move it for their consideration.

The question was proposed.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Addressing Shri Vimalkumar): You have not given the names of the Members of the proposed committee.

SHRI V. M. CHORDIA (Madhya Pradesh): I am giving that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: When?

SHRI V. M. CHORDIA: Just now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before it is moved you must have the names.