

consult us before fixing the agenda for the week because it is necessary that he should also look to our convenience. Of course the final decision rests with him but he can consult us before he makes this announcement. I would therefore ask him to consider this suggestion of mine.

ALLOTMENT OF TIME FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE CENTRAL SALES TAX (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL, 1958

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have to inform Members that under rule 162 (2) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I have allotted one hour and thirty minutes for the completion of all stages involved in the consideration and return of the Central Sales Tax (Second Amendment) Bill, 1958, by the Rajya Sabha, including the consideration and passing of amendments, if any, to the Bill.

THE ARMED FORCES (ASSAM AND MANIPUR) SPECIAL POWERS BILL, 1958—continued

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI B. N. DATAR): Sir, the amendments to clause 6 have to be put to vote.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

10. "That at page 2, lines 37-38, for the words 'No prosecution, suit or other legal proceeding shall be instituted, except with the previous sanction of Central Government' the words 'Prosecution, suit or legal proceeding may be instituted with previous notice in writing to the Central Government' be substituted."

The motion was negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

11. "That at page 2, the existing clause 6 be renumbered as sub-

Clause (1) of clause 6 and after the clause as so re-numbered, the following be inserted, namely:

'(2) Any person against whom any such prosecution, suit or legal proceeding has been instituted involving allegations of excessive use of force or gross abuse of powers or gross misconduct shall be withdrawn from the operations in the disturbed area during the pendency of such proceedings.'

The motion was negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 6 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 6 was added to the Bill.

Clause 7 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1 and the Enacting Formula were added to the Bill.

Long Title

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, I move:

12. "That at the end of the Long Title, after the word 'Manipur' the words 'for dealing with violent activities of hostile elements' be added."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Long Title and the amendment are before the House.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, in this amendment I have given the right name to this particular Bill. They should not fight shy of it; they should accept it.

SHRI B. N. DATAR: I am not accepting it, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

12. "That at the end of the Long Title, after the word 'Manipur' the words 'for dealing with violent activities of hostile elements' be added."

The motion was negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Title was added to the Bill.

SHRI B. N. DATAR: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

THE WORKING JOURNALISTS (FIXATION OF RATES OF WAGES) BILL, 1958

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND
EMPLOYMENT AND PLANNING
(SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA): Sir, I beg
to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the fixation of rates of wages in respect of working journalists and for matters connected therewith, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Sir, the Bill now before the House originated as an ordinance which was promulgated on the 14th June this year. The Working Journalists (Fixation of Rates of Wages) Bill, 1958, was introduced, considered and passed in the Lok Sabha in the course of this session. As amended in the Lok Sabha, it is now placed for consideration by this House.

I shall of course take up and explain the provisions of this Bill but before doing so I think I should deal with one or two questions which have arisen with regard to the approach adopted by Government in this connection. One question is, why was it found necessary to have recourse to special legislation in this case and the second is, why had we to bring in an ordinance? Why did we not wait for this session of Parliament?

Regarding the first question—why we had to introduce a special law for this subject—my answer is two-

fold. In view of the history of this case Government felt that it was incumbent on it to adopt the speediest course possible for the settlement of this long-drawn-out business. It was also felt that the existing laws, good as they are, Industrial Disputes Act, etc. would not have served the purpose which was in view in this case. The second reason was that we thought we should take the utmost care that the procedures we now adopt would not be exposed as much as possible or would be exposed as little as possible to risks of attack on technical and legal grounds. I said that this matter had a history; it is a very long history. There are many episodes in it, the most outstanding being the appointment of a Press Commission in October 1952.

Among the terms of reference of this Commission there is special reference to the working journalists. The Press Commission was brought into being to undertake a comprehensive enquiry into the state of the press and at the same time it was asked to enquire particularly into the method of recruitment, training, scales of remuneration, benefits and other conditions of employment of working journalists. The Press Commission submitted its report on the 14th July, 1954. In pursuance of the recommendations of the Commission, which dealt with wages and other matters concerning the conditions of work of the working journalists, an Act was passed. Section 8 of the Working Journalists (Conditions of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1955, which was passed in December 1955, visualises the appointment of a Wage Board and invests the Government with power to constitute a Wage Board. A Wage Board was set up in May, 1956. The decisions of this Wage Board were published on the 11th May, 1957. Then, it was felt that this matter which had taken long enough time already had come to a close and that the working journalists could look forward to the implementation of the decisions of