[Mr. Chairman.]

a good man; he was an institution in Banaras. Judged by any standard of human achievement his life has been a productive one. He was one who fought for the renovation of our culture. He believed in concord with the past as well as freedom from the past. I have no doubt that his writings will be read by us for many many decades to come. They are useful and they emphasise what may be regarded as the true spirit of our culture and are intended to further human solidarity on the plane of mind and spirit.

I would like you to stand for a minute in his memory.

(Hon. Members then stood in silence for one minute.)

THE RAJGHAT SAMADHI (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1958

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have got one hour for this Bill and I hope that the Members who take part in the discussion will be careful and see that it is completed by one hour otherwise by the time you exceed that one hour you will have to trespass into the lunch hour.

THE MINISTER OF WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SHRI K. C. REDDY): Sir, I beg to move:

> "That the Bill to amend the Rajghat Samadhi Act, 1951, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

This Bill is a very simple one and I do not think any elaborate remark on my part is necessary in order to justify the same. The Act was passed in 1951 mainly for the constitution of a Committee to look after the preservation, maintenance and the administration of what has come to be known as the Rajghat Samadhi. At the time the Act was passed this Rajghat Samadhi was within the jurisdiction of the New Delhi Municipal Committee. Since then, as the House is aware, the Delhi Corporation Act has been passed and that is the reason why one of the amendments has become necessary.

Section 4 of the Act relates to the composition of the Committee. It says that the President of the Municipal Committee within the local limits of whose jurisdiction the Samadhi is situated shall be *ex-officio* member of the Committee. One of the amendments sought to be made is that instead of the President of the New Delhi Municipal Committee, the Mayor of the Corporation shall be *ex-officio* member of the Committee.

Then, at the time when the Act was passed in 1951, there was only one House of Parliament and the Act provided for two members of Parliament to be nominated by the Speaker. Since then, as we know, we have two Houses of Parliament and it is very necessary that both Houses of Parliament should be represented on this Committee. According to the convention that has grown up, on all statutory committees the proportion of representation of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha is in the ratio of 2 : 1 and it has been considered desirable that instead of two nominated members on this Committee, provision be made for three members, two from the Lok Sabha and one from Rajya Sabha to be elected from among the members of the respective Houses. The Rajya Sabha Secretariat drew our attention to this necessity and also suggested that we should take early steps to introduce an amendment to this effect.

Then, Sir, while the Act of 1951 provided that the nominated members of the Committee would continue to be members during the pleasure of the Government no stipulation had been made as to the term of membership of the persons nominated by the Speaker. The Committee on Subordinate Legislation in its first report to the Lok Sabha in 1957 said that it is very necessary to specifically state as to what would be the tenure of membership of these members of Parlia-

ment and it has been considered desirable that their membership of the Committee should be made coterminous with their membership of the two Houses.

Sir, it is for introducing these three simple amendments that this Bill has been brought forward and, as I said in the beginning, no elaborate speech on my part is necessary and I hope that it will get the approval of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to amend the Rajghat Samadhi Act, 1951, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

SHRI PERATH NARAYANAN NAIR (Kerala): Mr. Chairman, as the hon. Minister has explained, the scope of the Bill is very limited. The composition of the Committee set up under the principal Act is sought to be modified and enlarged. Instead of the President of the New Delhi Municipal Committee, now that the Delhi Corporation has come into being, the Mayor will be the *ex-officio* member and instead of two members of the Lok Sabha nominated by the Speaker, hereafter, in the Committee, there will be three members elected from both Houses and the number of non-official members in the Committee to be nominated by the Central Government has also been increased to four. In the result instead of a nine-member Committee we will have an eleven-member Committee.

Now, I do not feel I need go into the points that have been raised over the provisions of this Bill, whether it is desirable that seven members out of eleven on this Committee must be nominated, whether this elective principle which has been adopted in this Bill for representation of Parliament on this Committee is a continuing principle applicable to all other cases and in all circumstances or whether it is necessary that the name of this Samadhi must be changed from Rajghat Samadhi to Gandhi Samadhi. Now, Sir, it is rather sad to contemplate that eleven years after the passing away of the great leader we are still debating in this Parliament and outside whether his *samadhi* must be called Rajghat Samadhi or Gandhi Samadhi. The living memory of that great leader has yet to be given concrete shape and form and the commemoration monument has yet to take shape. I am aware that the hon. Prime Minister has explained to the other House and also to the nation the circumstances which have led to this delay. The question of a memorial to the Father of the Nation in the capital city has aroused widespread interest and there have been different opinions as to the form this monument must take, whether it must be some huge ornate structure or whether it will be just sufficient to have some symbolic representation of his great ideal. All that is there. Designs had to be invited; experts had to be consulted; and inevitably it meant delay but it is now eleven years after the passing away of the leader; in fact, it is well nigh 12 years which according to Harshdharma represents a *purushandhara*. We of this generation have a special responsibility to see the commemoration of the memorial in our times. I say this because we in this generation have living memories of that great leader. It is a great memory which does not require to be repeated here; it transcends all party considerations. It is true that some of us who began our life in the fight for the nation under his banner find that his ideology has not been satisfying in some vital respects. We have not been able to accept his ideology in all its implications. It is true also that some of those people who take the name of Gandhiji ostentatiously on their lips do so out of purely mundane considerations. But that apart, his memory is cherished by everybody in India, not only in India but outside also—the memory of the great leader who gave self-respect to the people of India, the memory of the great leader who put fight into the blood of the whole

[Shri Perath Narayanan Nair.]

people fighting for the freedom of the country and in that process put fright into the minds and hearts of the imperialists and colonialists. Now, it is up to us of this generation to see that this living memory is given some shape. That living memory is already passing into historical memory; that ought not to be. Now that a design has been agreed upon, now that estimates have been approved of, I think we must give the go-by to that sort of, what I consider to be, a leisurely attitude in regard to this. People from all parts of the world come here and it is up to us to see that we give some fitting shape to the memory. Of course, whether we have a big huge structure or whether green grass with smiling flowers in the cool morning breeze is considered sufficient to perpetuate his memory—of course lesser mortals would require something more visual—that memory must be brought home to the rising generations. So, my point is that we must hurry it up.

I have only two other points to make in regard to this. I have been to the Rajghat Samadhi and mention has already been made that there are certain cracks in the cement structure there. The surrounding areas are being put to all sorts of uses by all sorts of people. It requires to be looked into. Also there are some platforms there and there is some grass and all that. The whole thing requires to be kept more neatly and tidily. It has also been brought to the notice of the Government about some real grievances which some of these people who have been appointed to look after the Samadhi feel in the matter of their dress, emoluments and other things. And also in regard to the selection of those people, to whom we entrust the responsibility of looking after the whole Samadhi and taking visitors round or pilgrims round and all that, there has to be some little more consideration shown. That is all what I have to say. I support this Bill.

श्री देवकीनन्दन नारायण (मुम्बई) : आदरणीय सभापति जी, जो विधेयक सदन के सामने पेश हुआ है, उसका मैं अन्तःकरण से स्वागत करता हूं । स्वागत करते हुए मुझे इस प्रश्न के सम्बन्ध में दो चार बातें कहनी हैं ।

अभी मेरे भाई ने कहा कि ११ वर्ष हो गये और अभी तक हम राष्ट्रपिता की समाधि पर जो स्मारक बनाना चाहते हैं, उसका कोई निर्णय नहीं कर सके । ११ वर्ष में इस काम के लिये कई समितियां कायम हुईं और कई समितियां समाप्त हुईं, फिर भी कोई खास निर्णय नहीं लिया जा सका । मुझे याद है कि गत वर्ष जब इस विषय में मैंने एक प्रश्न सदन में पूछा था, तो हमारे आदरणीय प्राइम मिनिस्टर साहब ने कहा था कि इस तरह से स्मारक नहीं हो सकता है, मैं तो अब इस नतीजे पर आया हूं कि जैसा है, वैसा ही रखा जाये या उसको उससे भी और सादा बनाया जाये और इस प्रश्न को अब यों ही छोड़ दिया जाये । उसके बाद हमने सुना कि कुछ नक्शे मंगाये गये, इनाम दिया गया और अब वह स्मारक समिति कुछ अन्तिम निर्णय पर आ चुकी है । पता नहीं कि वह मॉडल कैसा होगा, क्योंकि हमें अभी तक वह देखने को नहीं मिला है ।

श्री व्यंकट कृष्ण ढगे (मुम्बई) : मेरे खयाल से उसकी नुमाइश हुई थी ।

श्री देवकीनन्दन नारायण : मुझे वह देखने को नहीं मिला । मैं मन्त्री महोदय से प्रार्थना करूंगा कि उसका मॉडल दोनों सदनों के लोगों को दिखाया जाये और हो सके तो उसको सेण्ट्रल हाल में रखा जाये । जहां तक मेरा ख्याल है, मैं समझता हूं कि समाधि पर यह स्मारक इस स्वरूप का होना चाहिये जिसमें कि महात्मा जी की सादगी, महात्मा जी की पवित्रता और महात्मा जी के आदर्श व्यक्त हों, ऐसा न हो जिसमें कि हमारी शान-शौकत का गुमान दिखाई दे । मुझे पता नहीं है कि मन्त्री महोदय ने पढ़ा या नहीं

पढ़ा, कुछ दिन हुए इसी विषय में श्रीयुत बालजी देसाई का, जो कि महात्मा गांधी के एक पुराने सेक्रेटरी थे, एक पत्र हिन्दुस्तान टाइम्स में निकला था । श्री देसाई कई वर्ष तक महात्मा जी के साथ रहे, महात्मा जी के सेक्रेटरी का काम करते रहे, आश्रमवासी रहे और महात्मा जी के विचारों के सम्बन्ध में उन्होंने अनेक किताबें लिखी हैं । उन्होंने इस समाधि पर जो स्मारक या मैमोरियल होने वाला है, उसके सम्बन्ध में अपने कुछ विचार प्रकट किये हैं । उन्होंने शायद आपका मॉडल देखा है और उस मॉडल के विषय में उन्होंने यह कहा है कि यह मॉडल बहुत ही भद्दा (ugly) है---मैं शायद उनका ही शब्द कह रहा हूं---और उस मॉडल से यह दिखाई देता है कि हम न जाने क्या बना रहे हैं और उससे महात्मा जी का न जाने क्या विचार और क्या दर्शन देखने वालों को व्यक्त करने को है । हालांकि मैंने उस मॉडल को देखा नहीं है और उस सम्बन्ध में कह नहीं सकता हूं, परन्तु मैं यह बात ज़रूर कहूंगा और प्रार्थना करूंगा कि जब बालजी देसाई जैसे महात्मा गांधी के साथी किसी विचार को प्रकट करते हैं, तो मन्त्री महोदय को यह ज़रूर सोचना चाहिये और देखना चाहिये कि उसमें कहां तक सच्चाई है ।

यह विषय ऐसा है, जिसका कि सम्बन्ध इस देश के कोटि-कोटि लोगों के अन्तःकरण से है, भावनाओं से है और समाधि के चित्र में या स्मारक में ऐसी भावनाएं व्यक्त होनी चाहियें जो कि सब को प्रिय हों, उसमें ऐसी भावनायें प्रकट नहीं होनी चाहियें जिनसे कि किसी के अन्तःकरण को धक्का पहुंचे। जैसा कि मैंने कहा, महात्मा जी सादगी की मूर्ति थे । हिन्दुस्तान के ग़रीब से ग़रीब और दुखी से दुखी मनुष्य के वे सब से ऊंचे और सब से बड़े प्रतिनिधि थे । जहां तक इतिहास की मुझे याद है या जो थोड़ा बहुत इतिहास में जानता हूं, उसकी बिना पर मैं कह सकता हूं कि आज तक यदि किसी ने हिन्दुस्तान के ग़रीब से ग़रीब और दुखी से दुखी मनुष्य के साथ तादात्म्य प्राप्त कर लिया था, तो वह महात्मा जी थे, यदि किसी ने complete identification with the lowest and the lowliest प्राप्त किया था, तो वह महात्मा जी ने प्राप्त किया था । इस कारण से मैं यह अपेक्षा करूंगा कि समाधि का स्मारक ऐसा हो जिसमें कि हिन्दुस्तान के दरिद्र नारायण के एकमेव प्रतिनिधि की मूर्त्ति व्यक्त हो और दरिद्र नारायण का उसमें दर्शन हो, ऐसा नहीं हो जिसमें कि हमारे धनवानों का पैसा व्यक्त हो या धनवानों की शान-शौकत व्यक्त हो । कहने का मेरा मतलब यह है ।

आज हम से यह कहा जाता है कि हम महात्मा जी को भूलते जा रहे हैं; हो सकता है। मैं उस विषय में यहां जाना नहीं चाहता, परन्तु जब हम महात्मा जी के प्रति आदर-भाव रखते हैं और उनको राष्ट्रपिता कहते हैं, तो राष्ट्र पिता के माने मैं यह समझता हूं कि इस राष्ट्र को आज जो कुछ प्राप्त है वह उस पिता के कारण है । इस राष्ट्र के वे सच्चे पिता थे, जो कुछ राष्ट्र के पास आज भलमनसाहत है, राष्ट्र-भाव है या जो कुछ सद्गुण हैं वह उनकी देन है । उन्होंने हमें सिर्फ स्वतन्त्रता ही नहीं दी, उन्होंने स्वतन्त्रता प्राप्त करने के तरीकों से लेकर स्वातन्त्र्य बनाये रखने के तरीकों तक हमारा मार्ग दर्शन किया । वह सच्चे मानों में, हर एक अर्थ में हमारे पिता हैं, सिर्फ जन्म देने वाले पिता ही नहीं, क्योंकि जन्म देने वाले पिता तो बहुत हैं परन्तु वह हमको जो आत्म बल का सबक दे गये हैं, वह आज के लिये ही नहीं वरन् सैकड़ों वर्षों तक हमारा रास्ता साफ करता रहेगा। वे हमारे लिये एक आदर्श-भूत रहेंगे । इसलिये यदि इस भावना को हम जीवित रखना चाहते हैं, यदि यह भावना हमारी सच्ची है, तो उनका जो कोई स्मारक हो वह ऐसा हो कि वह हमसे बोलता रहे, वह स्मारक देखने वालों से, दर्शन के लिये वहां जाने वालों से कहता रहे कि भाई, तेरा हिन्दुस्तान ऐसा है, हिन्दुस्तान की भलाई

[श्री देवकीनन्दन नारायण]

का रास्ता यह है और दुनिया की भलाई का रास्ता यह है। महात्मा गांधी सिर्फ हिन्दुस्तान के नहीं थे। मनुष्य कहीं न कहीं पैदा होता है और उसे वहीं अपनी सेवा और अपनी तपश्चर्या करनी होती है। हिन्दुस्तान में वे रहे और हिन्दुस्तान से बाहर जाने की उन्होंने कभी इच्छा नहीं की। वे यह कहते रहे कि यदि मैं हिन्दुस्तान की सेवा कर सका तो वह मनुष्य मात्र की सेवा होगी और यहां का प्रकाश सारी दुनिया में पहुंच जायेगा। और यही आखिर को हुआ। आज सारी दुनिया महात्मा गांधी को मानती है, सारी दुनिया शान्ति की भूखी है। महात्मा गांधी के मार्ग के सिवाय और किसी रास्ते से दुनिया को शान्ति प्राप्त होने वाली नहीं है, यह सारी दुनिया ने मान लिया है। ऐसी हालत में महात्मा गांधी सिर्फ राष्ट्रपिता ही नहीं हैं, वे सारी दुनिया के गुरु की हैसियत भी प्राप्त कर चुके हैं। इसलिये मैं प्रार्थना करूंगा कि वह स्मारक शान्ति-दूत का हो।

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not a memorial meeting. We are discussing a Bill.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: There is a controversy going on outside.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have nothing to do with that.

श्री देवकीनन्दन नारायण : तो मैं प्रार्थना करूंगा कि उनकी समाधि पर स्मारक ऐसा बने, जो हिन्दुस्तान के लिये तो आदर्शभूत हो ही, लेकिन सारी दुनिया के लिये, यहां आने वाले यात्रियों के लिये भी आदर्शभूत हो और मैं आशा करता हूं कि हमारे मन्त्री महोदय और हमारे आदरणीय पंडित जवाहरलाल जी इस ओर ध्यान देंगे।

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY (Mysore): Sir, this Act was passed in 1951. It would have been better if the hon. Minister who moved this Bill for our consideration had stated about the working of this Committee, the decisions taken by the Committee, the progress achieved so far, etc., and then we would have been able to know whether this Committee had done any commendable work or whether the work of this Committee was very slow. Judging from the criticisms levelled against this Committee or against the Government, we can understand that much progress has not been made, and some of the Members who have preceded me have already stated that nearly eleven to twelve years have passed and no fitting memorial has so far been erected to the memory of Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of our Nation.

Sir, we have today in India another great structure, the Taj Mahal, which reflects the great love that Shah Jahan had for his wife. Similarly, the structure or the memorial that is going to be put up for Mahatma Gandhi should be fitting, it should convey the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi, and it should convey the principles for which he stood, that is, truth and non-violence. It should be simple, it should not be gorgeous, so that we will be doing some justice to the great soul.

Coming to this Bill, Sir, some alterations have been made with regard to the constitution of this Committee. The representation that was given to Parliament has been increased from two to three, two for the Lok Sabha and one for the Rajya Sabha. The relevant sub-clause, sub-clause (d) states:

> "three members of Parliament of whom two shall be elected from among themselves by members of the House of the People and one from among themselves by members of the Council of States."

The amending Bill gives power to this House to elect one member on this Committee.

In this connection I would like to state, Sir, that whenever a representative is elected from the Council of States, many a time it so happens that the ruling party is represented on such committees. Particularly on committees of this nature where the question of the ruling party or the Opposition does not arise, it would be better if two Members are allowed to be elected from the Rajya Sabha, so that one from the ruling party and one from the opposition are represented.

SHRI AWADESHWAR PRASAD SINHA (Bihar): The election is always by single transferable vote.

DR. R. B. GOUR (Andhra Pradesh): And proportional representation also.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: All elections to committees are by proportional representation and preferential system of voting.

DR. W. S. BARLINGAY (Bombay): The ruling party is fairer to the Opposition than to itself.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is a new Member and he does not know it.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: I would be very glad if they are so generous but at certain times I am not seeing it.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA (Bihar): One clarification from the hon. Member. He seems to be very solicitous about Gandhiji, his teachings and other things. Does he want that those who repudiate Gandhiji and Gandhism should also be on that Committee?

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: I must point out with regret that the so-called 'chelas' of Gandhiji today have forgotten what Gandhiji has taught them.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA (Uttar Pradesh): I think the sublimity of the occasion does not require that sort of statement to have been made.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It came from that side first.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: Regarding the non-official element that is to be nominated by the Government under this Bill, the number is going to be increased from three to four. I would suggest that instead of four non-officials being nominated by the Central Government, the number could as well be reduced to two, and representation of Parliament may be increased to five, so that three Members from the Lok Sabha and two from the Rajya Sabha may be elected to this Committee—and the Chairman is going to be nominated by the Central Government.

Sir, if the Government makes these slight alterations which I have suggested in the Bill, I think it would be acceptable to all the Members of this House. I would therefore earnestly request the Minister concerned to give his thought to this matter.

Thank you, Sir.

SHRI N. R. MALKANI (Nominated): Sir, originally I had no intention of speaking on this Bill, but after hearing my friends here I was tempted to add a few words.

Sir, I was in a sense closely connected with the Gandhi Smarak Nidhi as a Deputy Director for about three years, and in that connection, I think in about 1953 or 1954, a small Committee was appointed consisting of Kakasaheb Kalelkar, Devdasji and myself, to prepare a kind of a plan. Though we were laymen, we were still keen about it and we actually went to the Central P.W.D. about a dozen times calling on the Executive Engineers or Superintending Engineers. Naturally we gave more than two months to this work and we actually prepared two or three plans out of which one was selected and it was also approved. Then, suddenly, somehow a change took place and votes were taken and we lost our plan

[Shri N. R. Malkani.]

by one vote. When two designs were shown in the Central P.W.D.—the two designs and models were actually put on the floor—votes were taken and we lost by one vote. But whether we lost or whether we won, the design which was approved was not put into effect at all. Then, suddenly a number of letters were again being written to me and Kakasaheb, and I myself sent my own suggestion. That went on for a couple of years.

May I say, Sir, it is very unfortunate that in India that tradition of architecture is almost completely broken? I could not find an architect. I could find a person who could put up a temple. I brought some persons from Kathiawad, I brought some from Kutch, from Saurashtra and from Gujarat, and I put them here in the Sangraha to give me a plan. They could not give me a plan. So also the Central P.W.D. They were all civil engineers miscalled architects. There are no architects in India. I must say that it is a very sad thing that in India, with its wonderful and magnificent tradition of architecture, today that tradition has completely broken down. We wanted a very simple plan, as we all know, and it has taken us eleven years to get a plan which is approved, but which I have not seen. If the models are placed in Parliament, I would see them. What I want to say is, unless somebody is put in charge—in full charge—it is of no use. He may be in the Committee or he may not be there. It was not done then because nobody was in charge of it. Even today there is a Committee, but nobody is in charge of it and nothing will be done. I do not think that charge will be given to the C.P.W.D. in this matter. The need is for the appointment of a person for this work and the Nidhi should be associated with this work. Some person should be given this work and none else, and with a kind of injunction that the work must be finished within a couple of years. The Committee may carry on the work later on, but the building work must not be given to the C.P.W.D., but to the Nidhi.

Another thing which I wanted to say is this. We visit Rajghat very frequently. Not only do we visit, but the whole nation visits it. Distinguished people come from abroad and visit Rajghat. Whenever I go there, I love to go round the garden and I like to lie on the grassy plains there. It is very beautifully made out. But so far as the structure is concerned, it is so insignificant, so cheap, so unattractive . . .

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA: So simple. Please add.

SHRI N. R. MALKANI: I do not deny that. But do you deny what I said also about it? Distinguished people come there, the whole nation goes there, to pay their respects. Some portion of the structure appears to be too simple, too cheap and too unattractive. I rather think that this structure should be replaced by a better, nobler and more elegant one, worthy of the Father of the Nation. Today, to my mind, it is unworthy of the nation. It must be replaced as soon as possible. It can be done only when certain persons are put in charge with marching orders to finish it in one or two years, as the case may be. As far as I know, we have not spent crores of rupees on it; we are going to spend only a few lakhs. This can be done and should be done as early as possible.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very glad that now under this enactment, a Member of this House would be associated with this Committee. I never liked the provision in the original Act which said: "two members of Parliament nominated by the Speaker." Well, with all respect to the Speaker, I think, Sir, that when Parliament nominates anybody, we should be placed on the same footing and in the same category and it might have been as well provided "two members nominated by the Speaker and the Chair-

man." I do not know why that was not done. Maybe, he would nominate them. That is not the point. I am talking in terms of a certain approach. Therefore, it is a good thing. As far as the election is concerned, I do not know about the other House. In principle, election is good. But as far as our House is concerned, we should be quite satisfied even if it is nomination by the Chairman. That is not the main point for us. Sometimes, having regard to other considerations, maybe, a person who is above party politics will do much better justice to the proposition than it is the case, quite apart from individuals. Therefore, that is not at all the main point for us. But I like that a Member of the Rajya Sabha should be associated with this Committee and it is for the Government to consider this. Now that it will be election in this House, I can only appeal to the Members opposite-it will be for them to consider as to how best this election should be effected.

I was a little surprised when the hon. Member from that side raised a question as to whether we on this side of the House who are alleged to have repudiated Gandhism are entitled to be elected. Well, when people are elected to some committees, I do not know the norms which the hon. Members go by. But then, Sir, I think it is better to judge people by their present standpoint rather than by their past affiliations. I think it is better to choose people who stand by all the ideals rather than people who have discarded these ideals. I may put it that way. Therefore, let us not introduce this controversy. After all, the country knows as to who stands for some of the good and noble preachings of Mahatma Gandhi and who does not.

AN HON. MEMBER: You stand.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: This is a well-known fact in the country today and there should not be much discussion over it. We wanted to avoid a discussion, but the hon. Member has got provoked—I do not know why—and he made a suggestion. My answer to him is, if that were to be the qualification, if Gandhiji's salutary, noble and humane preachings are to be the qualifications and there is adherence to them in terms of human well-being and other considerations, we, from this side of the House, can perhaps put in a stronger claim than many Members opposite, although we have undoubtedly ideological differences in certain other matters. Sir, this is the point.

But we are not at all happy at the manner in which this thing is being handled by the Committee. Why is this slow progress there? Why should there be a feeling that this Committee is not doing much work? Why should there be a sense of disappointment and sore over this matter when so much of human sentiment and feelings are involved? It was possible for the Committee to act much more promptly, with greater imagination, and to translate the feelings and sentiments about this matter into actual deeds by some correct type of action—and timely action. I hope, Sir, now that the Committee will be somewhat shaped and changed, it will take into account the feelings of the people, the criticisms that they have made, their sentiments and all that, and evolve a live course of action which will be in conformity with the wishes of the people and will undoubtedly be worthy of the great traditions and the memory that we are going to commemorate.

श्रीमती सावित्री निगम (उत्तर प्रदेश) : सभापति महोदय, इस विधेयक को सदन में लाने का जो उद्देश्य है . . .

DR. R. B. GOUR: When hon. Members speak in Hindi, they speak for a longer time. It is better that they speak in English.

श्रीमती सावित्री निगम : उसमें मुझे कोई ऐतराज नहीं है . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: She would not take a long time.

श्रीमती सावित्री निगम क्योंकि, श्रीमन्, यह विधेयक बहुत ही आवश्यक है और इसके बारे में कोई दो राय नहीं हो सकतीं कि इसकी अच्छाई के लिये जो भी अमेंडमेंट होने चाहियें किये जायें । आज जबकि विश्वबन्धु राष्ट्र पिता महात्मा गांधी को दिवंगत हुए ११ वर्ष हो चुके हैं, तब उनकी पुण्य स्मृति को साकार रूप देने का काम आज से बहुत पहले ही हो जाना चाहिये था ।

श्रीमन्, यहां मैं इतना अवश्य कहना चाहूंगी कि जहां यह स्मारक बहुत ही सादा, शालीन और शानदार बनाया जाये, वहां साथ ही साथ गांधी जी के उन सिद्धान्तों को, जिनके कारण दुनिया को एक नई दृष्टि मिली है, उनके स्मारक में अवश्य डिपिक्ट किया जाये और इस प्रकार से किया जाये कि उनके स्मारक को देखते ही लोगों के हृदय में नई भावना भर जाये । इसके साथ ही साथ मैं इतना और कहना चाहती हूं कि जहां पर यह स्मारक बनने जा रहा है, उसके आसपास कृष्ण नगर की बस्ती है । वह एक नई स्लम के रूप में खड़ी हो रही है । इसी वजह से ही मैं मन्त्री महोदय का ध्यान नहीं दिलाना चाहती, बल्कि इसलिए भी कि बाहर से जो बड़े बड़े मेहमान आते हैं और गांधी जी की स्मृति में अपनी श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित करते हैं उनको दयनीय अवस्था, दीनता और गन्दगी की जो झलक मिलती है, वह बहुत खटकने वाली चीज है और उसको अवश्य दूरी किया जाना चाहिये । चाहे कैसा ही स्मारक बनाया जाये, कितने ही श्रद्धापूर्ण ढंग से बनाया जाय किन्तु ऐसी बस्ती को जो दरिद्रता और गरीबी का एक नमूना है, जो **एक** छोटा मोटा स्लम है, यदि उसको हम लोगों ने दूर न किया तो हमारा जो उद्देश्य है, उसको हम पूरा न कर सकेंगे । सिर्फ इसी एक बात की ओर मैं माननीय मन्त्री महोदय का ध्यान दिलाना चाहती हूं और मैं यह कहना चाहती हूं कि अभी बड़ी सरलता से इस चीज़ को किया जा सकता है, क्योंकि वहां पर अभी थोड़े से ही लोग बसे है, हालांकि इन लोगों की झुग्गियों की बस्ती बराबर बढ़ती जा रही है और अगर अभी से ही नहीं रोका गया, तो आगे चल कर जब स्मारक बन कर तैयार हो जायेगा, तो उस समय एक बहुत बड़ी समस्या खड़ी हो जायेगी । यदि वहां से यह स्लम अभी नहीं हटाया गया तो वह सारा उद्देश्य जिस को लेकर यह कमेटी बनाई जा रही है, जिस के लिए सदन में यह विधेयक लाया गया है, वह पूरा नहीं हो सकेगा ।

एक बात मुझे और कहनी है । सारे देश के लोग, विदेशों के लोग और सारे संसार के लोग जिस स्मारक में दिलचस्पी रखते हैं, और जिसे देखने के लिए लाखों आदमी आते हैं, उसके लिए यदि यह कर दिया जाये कि--- अभी बहुत आगे से तीन चार सड़कें एक साथ आती हैं और उन पर बहुत कन्जेशन रहता है--- जहां से दिल्ली गेट शुरू होता है, वहीं से एक सडक चौड़ी करके दोनों तरफ लान बना दिये जाये, तो उससे लोगों को आने-जाने में सुविधा होगी और साथ ही साथ जिस महान् व्यक्ति के स्मारक का हम लोग दर्शन करने जायेंगे, उसका आभास हमें पहले से होने लगेगा । धन्यवाद ।

SHRI K. C. REDDY: Sir, I have listened to the debate with great interest and I feel that so far as the provisions of the Bill are concerned, there has been really not much of criticism, though some suggestions have been made. I shall come to them later.

It has been natural on the part of some Members to raise some general subjects in respect of this Samadhi. A criticism has been made that the Government have been very slow to raise a suitable memorial on this site and we have taken a long period of 10 or 11 years and nothing has been done on this site so far. Well, this is a very difficult matter and if I may say so, has been a very controversial issue. During all this period of 11 years, various suggestions have been made from time to time by

various eminent people that the memorial should take a particular form, that it should be like this or that, it should not be like this and so on and so forth. I would like to say that considerable thought has been given to this problem and it is only after a good deal of effort that Government have recently come to a decision as to what the design of the memorial should be. All are agreed that this memorial should not be an ornate and grandiose thing, a big structure of granite or any structure of that kind. It should be simple. Everyone is agreed on that. There should be a certain amount of dignity about it, there should be some sanctity about it, some symbolism about it; something which is in tune with the ideals of Gandhiji and it is, keeping these main objectives in view, that the Government invited the architects all over the country to submit their designs. It is true that, as Mr. Malkani said, there were some designs which had been prepared by some architects. Those designs were examined and whatever the voting was in the Committee about it, ultimately it was considered that we had to invite these designs from a larger number of people. The Institute of Architects said that a notification should be issued, that designs should be invited from a larger number of people and about 100 designs were received and all these designs were placed in the Exhibition Grounds for a long time and if I mistake not, a notification or a circular was issued that these designs have been placed in the Exhibition Grounds and such of the Members of Parliament as would be inclined to go and see these designs were welcome. Some Members of Parliament did go there.

DR. R. P. DUBE (Madhya Pradesh): Where?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: In the Exhibition Grounds. Some Members of Parliament did visit and see these designs. Even now it is intended to place this design particularly, which has been chosen now, in the India Exhibition 1958 and I would invite such of the hon. Members who feel the urge, to go and see that. Even in regard to the present design there is some controversy about it. Some feel that it is an appropriate design. In fact if I may quote the Prime Minister's words, he said in the Lok Sabha when this Bill came up for discussion there:

> "I feel that, personally, speaking for myself, it is a suitable thing which will not hurt, if I may use the word, the chaste memory of Gandhiji by some unjust or ornate design".

So all these designs were very carefully examined and all the Members of the Cabinet went there and saw this design. Others also were asked to go and see the design and it was after a good deal of consideration that the design has been ultimately approved and it is intended to be executed during the next few years. It will take 4 or 5 years, I believe, for the work to be completed there at the site. It has to be done in phases, and it has to be done very gradually so that the atmosphere of the Samadhi there is not unnecessarily disturbed and it should not in any way prevent people to go there in the normal course. I think that if we keep in mind the very delicate and controversial nature of this matter, in view of the very controversial opinions about the nature of the design, etc., the time taken has not been unduly large. In fact the Government did not want to do something in a hurry and repent thereafter. There was no particular urgency about it. The idea was not to put up a grandiose thing but something very very decent and dignified and ultimately as I have indicated, we have selected the design and I hope that when it is completed, it will be a fitting one for the memory of Mahatma Gandhi.

A point has been made about the name of the Samadhi. The name Rajghat Samadhi has been there during the last 11 years and it has come to be known all over the country and if I may say so, even outside the coun-

[Shri K. C. Reddy.]

try. I don't see any particular appropriateness for changing the name at present to that of Gandhiji Samadhi. This matter was also raised in the Lok Sabha and there the Prime Minister said that there are certain sentiments today attached to this name which has come into vogue and there is no particular compelling reason to change that name at present.

A point has been made that the nominated element is too excessive in this Committee. In fact some Members have expressed, though not here but in the Lok Sabha, that there should be no elected element at all on a Committee of this kind, that it would have been far better if all these people had been nominated to this Committee as it was contemplated in the original Bill.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: It depends on who nominates.

SHRI K. C. REDDY: It was said that to serve on a Committee like this the appropriate persons who would be very useful would not ordinarily come forward to stand for election and the nominated element may as well be retained. It is for the first time that we are introducing the elected element so far as this Committee is concerned and we would like to see how it works. For example, a suggestion was made by one Member, Shri Govinda Reddy, that there should be a representative from the ruling party and a representative from the Opposition. This is a very novel suggestion that has been made. I have not come across any such suggestion till now. Where is the need for the ruling party to be considered separately and the Opposition to be considered separately for serving in a Committee like this? I cannot understand it.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: Not particularly on this Committee. Generally speaking in those committees on which a representative sits from this House, if it is one, it is generally the ruling party that is represented. If it is to be two, opportunity should be given to the Opposition party also but with regard to this particular Committee, I did not mention it. It was a general remark.

SHRI K. C. REDDY: I am not convinced about the stand taken by the hon. Member. In fact I feel that there is no need to consider, on a Committee like this at any rate, representation for the ruling party separately and representation for the Opposition separately. There is no question of Opposition party or the ruling party in a matter of this kind. So, I don't think there is any need for increasing the elected element at this stage. Suggestion was also made that we might increase the number from 3 to 4 and reduce the nominated element. As I hinted earlier, let us see how this proposed reconstitution of the Committee works for some time and if there is need to change the composition of the Committee, and introduce a larger elected element, it is always open to the Government to bring forward an amendment at the appropriate stage.

Certain suggestions have been made about the maintenance of the Samadhi, the keeping of the surroundings clean and matters of that kind. Also, it has been said it would have been better on my part if I had given some indication as to how this Committee has been working, and there were some criticisms and observations made that this Committee was not doing satisfactory work. I must deny that allegation and say that this Committee has been doing very good work and very eminent persons were on this Committee. The late Shri Devdas Gandhi was there on this Committee and certain close associates of Gandhiji have been members of this Committee. Kakasaheb Kalelkar has been a member, so also Shri Nair, a Member of the Lok Sabha, and Shri Brij Kishan Chandiwala and Shri Lakshmidas Purushottamji and others—people very closely associated with Gandhiji and eminent in their own right have been members on this Committee. They met regularly and did everything necessary in order to maintain the Samadhi in a proper and fitting manner.

SHRI N. R. MALKANI: Is the hon. Minister not aware that Shri Devdas Gandhi himself said that much could not be done because this Committee was there, that they could not do much in the matter of good sanitation and so on?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: I do not understand what the hon. Member means by saying that things could not be done because the Committee was there. I did not quite follow his observations. The Committee has been entrusted with this function . . .

SHRI N. R. MALKANI: Have you seen in what an abominable state the surroundings are?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: Only yesterday morning, I was there and I went round the whole Samadhi ground with the Chairman of the Committee. There are certain things which ought to have been done and there are certain improvements to be effected and these matters are receiving the attention of the Committee. Government also is keeping in close touch with the work of the Committee. The Committee has done very excellent work. There may be something more to be done and certainly they will address themselves to this very necessary task and I have no doubt that they will discharge their duties satisfactorily.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: What about the slum that is coming up there?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: I am coming to that. My hon. colleague the Minister of Health is certainly aware of the existence of the slum in that area and we are anxious that the slum should be removed. There is also some storm-water drain and sewage water also entering there. There are certain schemes and certain proposals which are under consideration and which have been sanctioned and when those are implemented, I hope that some of these defects would be removed.

I do not think it is necessary for me to add anything more. I hope this Bill will be passed unanimously.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: Sir, one information I would like to have. Is it proposed to have a prayer hall constructed there?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: No, there is no proposal to construct a prayer hall as such.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

> "That the Bill to amend the Rajghat Samadhi Act, 1951, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now we take up the clause by clause consideration. There are no amendments proposed to clauses 2 and 3.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, I have an observation to make on clause 2. It is true there is no amendment but I would suggest an amendment which the hon. Minister can accept. It will be a very simple amendment and it can be done with the permission of the House. You know last year there was an amendment about the Speaker nominating the Members. I would, therefore, like here to put this distinctive mark on it from this House showing our attitude with regard to these matters of elections and nominations, that we are not absolutists in this matter. Relatively we give them the go-by. Our amendment will be to sub-clause (d) of clause 2. After amending, sub-clause will read like this:

> "(d) three members of Parliament of whom two shall be elected from among themselves by members of the Lok Sabha and one shall be nominated by the Chairman of the Council of States."

I will give the reasons why I am suggesting this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Not necessary. Does the House give permission to move this amendment?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: No, no.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There you are. They have rejected it.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: But, Sir, . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: That goes. It is all over.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I shall speak at the third reading stage.

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO (Andhra Pradesh): I hope the same democratic spirit will be displayed always.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So, there are no amendments to clauses 2 and 3.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

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

SHRI K. C. REDDY: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved.

"That the Bill be passed."

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, I am very sorry I have to speak, because the House did not allow me to move my amendment. Let there be no misunderstanding on this score. What I want to convey to the House is that I do feel that this Committee should undoubtedly be a non-party, good committee, where things could be handled in a proper way and in the proper spirit and I think, Sir, in our present set-up, it is very right to have this nomination always, invariably.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: What?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: That is what I feel. In our present set-up, therefore, I suggested that as far as the member from this House is concerned, it may be left to the Chairman to nominate him. That was my suggestion. Anyway, it has not been accepted. I hope that mutual consultations would take place before we propose a person for being elected. We should, as far as possible, get him elected unopposed, and unanimously.

[MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.]

With regard to the other items, I can't say much. I do not think it is very good on the part of the Minister to have been so complacent about the matter. Undoubtedly, very eminent persons have been associated with this Committee. Yet it is also the fact that there has been some kind of a feeling that probably things have not been properly handled, that things might have been quickened and all that. This should be taken into account. And when my hon. friend over there suggested that somebody should be from the Opposition, it was not from any partisan outlook that that suggestion was made. We should all sit together in order to discuss these things so that all sides are taken into account before we evolve some schemes. This is all we meant. I hope, Sir, that this will be kept in view.

DR. R. P. DUBE: Thank you. If man, the hon. Minister said in his reply that this scheme would take another four or five years. Sir, eleven years have already gone by and if it is to take another four or five years, a man like me, cannot be sure if he will be alive to see it. So I would request him and this Committee to apply their mind to expedite the matter. Since the model has been selected and they have approved the model, they should try to hurry up the matter and let it be completed soon.

DR. W. S. BARLINGAY: Wish you long life.

DR. R. P. DUBE: Thank you. If wishes were horses, beggars would ride. But wishes are not horses. So my only request is that if it could be easily arranged and manipulated, it should be completed as early as possible. Five years is a very long time, I think.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Sir, I will not take even one minute. I find—not on this occasion alone but on previous occasions also—the question has been raised that there should be consultations whenever nomination or election to a committee is made. I wanted to

say this before, but I shall do so now, that the convention in this House has been of a different nature altogether. I know with regard to elections to committees there has been consultation with Congressmen and the Opposition and it is with mutual consultations that nominations have been made. And generally there has been no election so far, in the last six years that I have been a Member of this House. Therefore, it is not as if there have been no consultations and the principle that a member should be from this party or that party has not been followed in this House. I think it is up to us to allow this convention to go on and I think these remarks were not necessary here.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA: Sir, I simply want to thank my hon. friend, Shri Dhage, for the clarification he has given.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: In a year some ten to fifteen times public prayers are held on these grounds. So I would request the hon. Minister to have a public prayer hall also constructed there nearby so that the public may be able to avail of it.

SHRI K. C. REDDY: Sir, the question has been asked as to why such a long period like four to five years would be required to build this new memorial the design of which has been finally approved. We have been advised, Sir, that it would not be possible to do it in a shorter time. The work has to progress in such a way as not to put any obstructions in the way of the people who want to go to the Samadhi and pay homage to the Father of the Nation. So, it has to be taken up bit by bit. The work will begin first of all on the south side. After that is completed, we will take up the north side, then the eastern side and finally the western side. We cannot take up the work on all sides all of a sudden, dislocate the whole thing and build in a hurry. There are considerations like this. The idea is that there should be a sort of mount erected, sloping gradually. Earth should be put there and this has to settle down. This will take some time for settling down. Such technical considerations are also there. I assure the hon. Member that no avoidable delay will take place. While expediting the construction of this Samadhi to the maximum extent possible, I cannot give any assurance that it can be finished before the period that I have indicated. This reply I am giving on the advice of our technical people.

With regard to the prayer hall, Sir, the idea is to have an open-air-prayer-hall. The intention is not to put up any elaborate structures and buildings near the Samadhi. If that is accepted the question of having a prayer hall near the Samadhi, I think, will not be proper.

Regarding the conventions to which Mr. Dhage referred, that has been the practice of the House. It is for the various parties in the House to consult each other and to see that someone is nominated to the Committee unanimously.

With regard to the observations made by Shri Bhupesh Gupta, personally I would not have been averse if two Members had been nominated by the Speaker and one by the Chairman of this House. There is no fundamental principle in this so far as I am concerned but it was felt that we might introduce the elected element to some extent. It was also felt that this House and the other House, the august Houses, could be trusted to elect the proper persons to serve on this Committee. It is under these circumstances that the provision has been for three Members of Parliament to be elected by both the Houses in the proportion that I have indicated.

I do not think it is necessary for me to say anything more.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.