

THE INDIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY  
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 1956

THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH  
(RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR): Sir, I beg  
to move:

"That the Bill further to amend  
the Indian Red Cross Society Act,  
1920, as passed by the Lok Sabha,  
be taken into consideration."

In using the words "further to  
amend", I have to say that there are  
only two very simple amendments  
that I have had to put in myself.  
They relate to verbal changes only  
and so I will not dilate on those at  
all.

The main reason for amending the  
Indian Red Cross Society Act is parti-  
tion. After partition, it was incum-  
bent on the Indian Red Cross Society  
to give a portion of its funds to Pakis-  
tan which was her due. I need not  
dilate in this House as to what the  
Red Cross is and what it stands for.  
I think every Member is familiar  
with the great work that the Red  
Cross in India does and with the very,  
very fine work that the International  
Red Cross is responsible for. The  
Indian Red Cross Society was consti-  
tuted by an Act of the Central  
Legislature in 1920 and it has become  
necessary now to amend it in order  
to authorise the Indian Red Cross  
Society to partition its corpus and  
funds with the Pakistan Red Cross  
Society and to transfer the share due  
to the latter in accordance with the  
terms mutually agreed to between  
the two Societies. After we pass this  
Bill, naturally the Indian Red Cross  
Society will be free of all obligations  
imposed by this Act in respect of  
areas in Pakistan. This agreement, as  
far as the partition of the funds is  
concerned, has been come to not on  
a Government level—we kept this  
matter out of Government's policy  
and I think we did so rightly—but by  
the representatives of the Indian and  
Pakistani Red Cross Societies meeting  
together. They met on two occasions  
and agreed to the basis on which  
these funds should be partitioned.

In addition to the partition of the  
funds, the Executive Committee of the  
Governing Body of the Indian Red  
Cross Society has also taken advan-  
tage to amend Section 5 of the exist-  
ing Act. This is really done in order  
to enable the Indian Red Cross  
Society to have a certain amount of  
control over the management and  
procedure adopted by its branches in  
the States in order to ensure a uni-  
form policy and for the development  
of Red Cross work all over the  
country. Moreover, we have been  
asked by the Red Cross Society in  
Sikkim whether they could be affiliat-  
ed to us. Until and unless the Act  
is changed in order to enable us to  
affiliate territories outside the Indian  
Union, we will not be able to say  
"Yes" to them. This Bill was intro-  
duced in the Lok Sabha on the 27th  
September 1955, and was passed  
there and I would now like to submit  
it for being passed by this House.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Motion  
moved:

"That the Bill further to amend  
the Indian Red Cross Society Act,  
1920, as passed by the Lok Sabha,  
be taken into consideration."

श्रीमती सावित्री देवी निगम (उत्तर  
प्रदेश) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, श्रीमन्, इंडियन  
रेडक्रास सोसाइटी (अमेन्डमेंट) बिल का  
हार्दिक समर्थन करने के लिये मैं यहां खड़ी  
हुई हूं। इस अवसर पर मेरा हृदय रेडक्रास  
की अत्यन्त उपयोगी एवं प्रशंसनीय काम करने  
की नीति और उसकी सफलता के प्रति श्रद्धा  
में भर उठा है। श्रीमन्, यह कहते हुये मुझे  
अत्यन्त गर्व होता है कि मानवता की सच्ची  
सेवा का जो ऊंचा स्तर रेडक्रास सोसाइटी ने  
संसार को दिखाया और संसार के सम्मुख  
रखा है वह हमारे लिये ही नहीं वरन् संसार के  
सभी देशों के लिये अनुकरणीय और श्लाघ्य  
है। हमारे देश में लगभग हर प्रान्त में, हर  
भाग में, रेडक्रास सोसाइटीज़ बड़ी तत्परता से  
काम कर रही हैं और स्वयं राजकुमारी अमृत  
कौर के सतत प्रयत्नों से हम भारतवासियों को

[श्रीमती सावित्री देवी निगम]

भी रेडक्रास सोसाइटी का बहुत लाभ मिल रहा है। लेकिन यहां पर मेरा एक अनुरोध और एक सुझाव है।

श्रीमन्, अभी तक रेडक्रास सोसाइटी ने जो काम किया है वह मुख्यतः बड़े शहरों में या फिर छोटे शहरों में ही सीमित रहा है। मैं मंत्री महोदया से अनुरोध करूंगी कि जितने भी रेडक्रास सोसाइटीज के रिसॉर्सेज हैं, अब उन सब को इमीडियेटली, जल्दी से जल्दी, गांवों की तरफ डाइवर्ट कर देना चाहिये क्योंकि शहरों में तमाम तरह की मेडीकल हेल्प, मेडीकल एड और हर तरह की सहायता देने वाली तमाम संस्थाएँ काम करती हैं। लेकिन अब भी हमारे देश में ऐसे लाखों गांव हैं जहां पर हम और हमारी सरकार कोई भी मेडीकल एड नहीं पहुंचा पाते हैं।

इसके अतिरिक्त, श्रीमन्, मैं यह भी कहूंगी कि जो हमारी फर्स्ट एड ट्रेनिंग का प्रोग्राम होता है उसके लिये जब शहरों में हम कैडिडेट्स बढ़ने चलते हैं तो हमें कठिनाई होती है। भारत सेवक समाज के तत्वावधान में मैंने कई बैचेज, करीब २५, ३० बैचेज को, यहां ट्रेनिंग दिलवाई लेकिन अब हालत यह हो गई है कि हमें लड़कियां ही नहीं मिलती क्योंकि या तो अपने स्कूलों के डिपार्टमेंट के मातहत वे ट्रेनिंग ले रही हैं या ले चुकी हैं। लेकिन जब गांवों में हमने ट्रेनिंग के कार्यक्रम को शुरू किया तो वह इतना सफल हुआ कि हमारे लिये मुश्किल हो जाता था कि उन कैडिडेट्स को संभाल सकें। दो, दो सौ महिलाएँ, दो, दो सौ लड़कियां ट्रेनिंग के लिये आईं लेकिन हमें यहाँ दिल्ली से ट्रेनिंग देने वाली महिलाएँ नहीं मिल सकीं क्योंकि उनको वहाँ गांवों में ले जाने से उनका शहर में काम सफर करता था। इसलिये हमें कठिनाई पेश हुई और सिर्फ तीन, चार सौ लड़कियों को ट्रेनिंग दिलवा कर हमें वह काम खत्म कर देना पड़ा क्योंकि

ट्रेनिंग देने वाले लोगों का अभाव था। इसलिये मैं यह अनुरोध करूंगी कि अब ट्रेनिंग के कार्य पर रेडक्रास सोसाइटी तो जोर दे, लेकिन चूंकि हमारी जो हेल्थ मिनिस्टर महोदया हैं वे सर्वोत्तम हैं रेडक्रास सोसाइटी की, और उनके ही हाथ से यह बिल भी निकल रहा है, इसलिये जितने भी रिसोर्सेज हैं उनको गांवों में ट्रेनिंग दिलाने के कामों की ओर डाइवर्ट कर दे।

श्रीमन्, एक बात मुझे और कहनी है और वह यह है कि हमारी रेडक्रास सोसाइटी की जो मैनेजिंग बाडी है उसमें महिलाओं की संख्या अधिक से अधिक होनी चाहिये। आप यह न समझें कि महिला होने के नाते मैं उनके पक्ष में यह मांग कर रही हूँ। लेकिन चूंकि महिलाओं में सेवाभाव की भावना होती है और उनका धार्मिक जीवन होता है इसलिये यदि बहनों को मैनेजिंग बाडी में अधिक स्थान दिया जायगा तो उससे बड़ा लाभ होगा।

श्रीमन्, इसके अतिरिक्त मुझे क्लोज नम्बर ६ के अमेंडमेंट के विषय में कुछ कहना है। इस क्लोज के विषय में यह जो अमेंडमेंट है उसके बारे में मैं यह कहना चाहती हूँ कि सचमुच यह बहुत ही आवश्यक और जरूरी है क्योंकि इसका मुख्य उद्देश्य यह है कि हिन्दुस्तान को जो रेडक्रास सोसाइटी है उसका लिक विदेशों की रेडक्रास सोसाइटीज के साथ कर दिया जाय। मैं सोचती हूँ कि इस अमेंडमेंट के बिना रेडक्रास सोसाइटी का जो उद्देश्य है वह अधूरा रह जाता है क्योंकि इसकी जो स्थापना हुई वह इसी दृष्टि से हुई कि आपस में सहयोग बढ़े, ऐक्य बढ़े और ईर्ष्या, द्वेष और लड़ाई झगड़े से ऊपर उठ कर केवल मानवता की सेवा की जाय। यह सेवा हम विदेशों में भी, जहां कहीं भी आवश्यक हो, जहां भी मानवता कष्ट में हो, कराह रही हो, वहां बगैर किसी भेदभाव के दे। अतः जब तक इस तरह का अमेंडमेंट नहीं लाया जाता तब

तक हम अपना और देशों के साथ आपसी सहयोग नहीं बढ़ा सकते हैं। इस अमेंडमेंट द्वारा तात्कालिक और आपत्तिकालीन सहायता के अतिरिक्त अन्य देशों के साथ आपसी प्रेम और सहायता का व्यवहार और परस्पर एकता बहुत बढ़ जायेगी। इसलिये यह अमेंडमेंट बहुत आवश्यक है।

श्रीमन्, इसके अतिरिक्त मैं क्लाज १२ के अमेंडमेंट के विषय में भी दो शब्द कहना चाहती हूँ। इस अमेंडमेंट के द्वारा यह बात बहुत अच्छी हुई है कि मैनेजिंग बाडी को ला कर उनको सुपरविजन की पूरी पूरी पावर्स दे दी गई है क्योंकि मैने सुना है और रेडक्रास के सम्पर्क में रहने के कारण मैने देखा है कि अक्सर ऐसा होता है कि हमारे देश के प्रान्तों में जो रेडक्रास की सोसाइटीज़ हैं उन में काम उतनी तत्परता से जिस तरह से होना चाहिये, नहीं होता है। इन सोसाइटीज़ को सहायता की जो चीज़ें मिलनी हैं उनका डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन अच्छी तरह से नहीं होता। जब मैनेजिंग बाडी के पास सुपरविजन का काम बढ़ जायेगा तब वे भी अपना काम सुचारु रूप से चलाने लगेंगी।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं इस बिल का हार्दिक समर्थन करती हूँ। यह बिल विशेष रूप से इसलिये लाया गया है कि जो पाकिस्तान के रेडक्रास का शेयर है, वह तमाम चीज़ें उसको दे दी जायें। यह बात उचित और न्यायसंगत है। धन्यवाद। जयहिन्द।

SHRI KISHEN CHAND (Hyderabad): Mr. Deputy Chairman, the hon. Minister in moving this Bill has pointed out that this is rather a simple amending Bill. I beg to draw your attention to the fact, Sir, that it is a humanitarian work and that if any money goes to Pakistan we should be glad about it, but time and again it is said that some money which is due to Pakistan should be given to Pakistan but, whenever any amount is due to India from Pakistan and India

demands that money, it is always said that the matter is under negotiation and some sort of objection is raised or some sort of explanation is given. I do hope, Sir, that, when we are giving this amount of money to the Pakistan Red Cross Society for doing humanitarian work, we have to carefully examine whether for some similar humanitarian work, any amount of money is not due from Pakistan. I am not saying about the refugees; I am not saying about the public debt taken over by India because they are not humanitarian things, but where it is a question of funds of hospitals you know Sir, that there are a large number of private hospitals which have been left in Pakistan endowed by Indian money and Indian funds, run by Indian money and Indian funds and those hospitals are doing good work by serving the people of Pakistan. We should be glad about it, but when the donors or trustees want the funds to be transferred to India to start similar hospitals in our country, the Pakistan Government is raising objections. Is it possible for the hon. Minister, when this Red Cross fund is going to be transferred to Pakistan, to adjust this money against the charitable endowments donated by Indians which is lying in Pakistan so that the trustees may be able to start charitable hospitals in our country through the income of those endowment funds? If we give this money and later ask from Pakistan for the return of those endowments, we will get the usual reply. Therefore at this moment if for this charitable work another charitable work is exchanged and we make some sort of adjustments I think it will be fair and it will not look that in the matter of charitable endowments we are bringing in other mundane things.

Then, Sir, I want to draw your attention to one thing more in the First Schedule. You know, Sir, the history of the Red Cross Society. There were wars about 50 or 70 years back which were very cruel. There used to be no arrangements for medi-

[Shri Kishen Chand]

cal aid to military personnel engaged in war or after-war care, but now the Governments are taking good care about it. One hon. Minister of our country is propagating the idea of world peace in U.N.O. So, when we are aiming at world peace may I suggest, Sir, that the principal object of the Red Cross Society may be changed from medical aid to the military services to medical aid to the police forces in our country. There are now riots in which the policemen are injured and it would be far better if the Society could look after them. In the First Schedule the objects are mentioned and object No. (1) is "The care of the sick and wounded men of the Armed Forces of the Union", and so on, but there is no mention of aid to the sick and wounded members of the armed constabulary or the Police force in the Union of India. I do wish that a clause may be added here. It would be very welcome because the police services, when they are engaged in combating the riots in our country, suffer heavily but the Red Cross does not come to their aid. If they come to their aid it will be very welcome.

Then, Sir, one word more and that is that in the matter of State branches I very greatly welcome the amendment in this Bill whereby the hon. Minister has proposed to impose greater control over the Branches of Red Cross Society in the various States, but I do hope, Sir, that this will not lead to too much of interference in the work of the Red Cross Society and that due liberty will be given to the State Branches for carrying on their good work.

With these words, Sir, I support this Bill.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, in view of the laudable object with which this Red Cross does humanitarian work I have no hesitation in supporting this amending Bill.

The hon. the Health Minister said in her statement that it was unnecessary for her to give any explanation of what the Red Cross means or what it stands for. This statement may be quite good and quite correct so far as hon. Members of this august House are concerned but I say categorically that not even one in a million of Indians knows what this blessed Red Cross Society is and more particularly what the Indian Red Cross Society means or what it stands for. That may be a western way of doing things which had been planted in our country. That may be very useful and very beneficial institution but it has got nothing in common with the people of this country. I shudder to think of what our condition is going to be in future if we continue aping the western method of life, western institutions and the western systems in each and every branch of our day to day life. The same is the case so far as the system of treatment is concerned; the same is the case so far as social services are concerned. We have got seva samitis that can be made to do very useful work. We have got Scout organisations which have been Indianised consisting of our young students. We have got the Girl Guides. All these are there; yet, there is the Red Cross Society and more especially the Indian Red Cross Society. There is nothing Indian there; there is nothing Red there. I do not see anything red; and the Cross is a thing with which very few of us are familiar. Whenever we are angry with anybody we say we are in a cross temper. Otherwise there is nothing in common with the Indian way of life and the Red Cross. Sir, I am sure that this term is not understood and is not intelligible to almost all Indians with the exception of a few highly educated westernised Indians. It is a term with which our masses are not at all familiar. Our future way of life has got to be moulded in the Indian way and the more we delay that process the more injury we are doing to our own cause and therefore I would be very glad if by some method this Red Cross Society can be given an Indian

name, its method of rendering social services can be changed and.....

SHRI T. BODRA (Bihar): Give the suggestion please.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA: .....the institution itself can be brought in common with the way of life of the majority of Indians.

My friend Mr. Bodra who always has something working in his mind—perhaps not very lofty and not very praiseworthy—thinks that there is a snag somewhere and he gets ruffled. I would beg of him not to get ruffled so far as I am concerned because for his information I may say that I am a cosmopolitan sort of man. I am not a believer in one religion; I believe in all religions and in all religions I find there is truth. The one universal truth is to be found everywhere; only the searcher or the inquirer is needed who should be filled with zeal and enthusiasm for the search for truth. Otherwise this dangerous mentality of ours should not have arisen. With these words, I support the amendment.

डा० डब्ल्यू० एस० बालिगे (मध्य प्रदेश) : उप सभापति महोदय, मैं इस विधेयक के सम्बन्ध में केवल एक दो बातें आपके सामने रखना चाहता हूँ। पहली बात यह है कि अभी जो श्री सक्सेना ने सूचना दी है वह मुझे भी मंजूर है। मैं कोई एक धर्म में विश्वास करने वाला आदमी नहीं हूँ। मैं यह समझता हूँ कि सत्य सभी धर्मों में है और इंडियन रेडक्रास यह जो नाम है इसमें ऐसा कोई भी शब्द नहीं है जो सचमुच मुझे खटकता हो। यह “क्रास” शब्द भी मुझे नहीं खटकता है। लेकिन मैं यह जरूर कहूँगा कि अगर इस देश में हम धर्म के ऊपर ज्यादा जोर नहीं देना चाहते हैं तो जहाँ तक बने हमें ऐसे शब्द की योजना करनी चाहिये जिससे किमों धर्म की गन्ध न आवे। तो मैं समझता हूँ कि यद्यपि जैसा मैं ने कहा कि इंडियन रेडक्रास मोसाइटी बहुत खराब नाम है यह

चीज समझने वाला मैं नहीं हूँ, लेकिन फिर भी अगर यह नाम उचित तौर से बदल दिया जावे तो कोई बहुत बुरी बात नहीं होने वाली है।

दूसरी बात जो मैं आपके सामने रखना चाहता हूँ वह यह है कि यद्यपि इस विधेयक के बारे में काफी जानकारी हम लोगों को दी गई है, मेकेंड शेड्यूल में हम लोगों को काफी जानकारी दी गई है कि किस स्टेट का इसमें कितना परसेंटेज है, वगैरह, वगैरह। लेकिन जो एक बुनियादी जानकारी हम लोगों को चाहिये थी कि जिसकी बुनियाद पर हम कुछ इस विधेयक के सम्बन्ध में कह सकते थे, मुझे यह कहना है कि वह जानकारी हमें नहीं दी गई। यानी इस देश की जो इंडियन रेडक्रास सोसाइटी है और पाकिस्तान की जो रेडक्रास मोसाइटी है, उन में जो एग्रीमेंट हुआ है वह क्या एग्रीमेंट हुआ है यह हमारे सामने आज नहीं है। अगर यह चीज हमारे सामने रखी जाती तो हम यह सोच सकते कि यह एग्रीमेंट ठीक है या नहीं। हो सकता है कि इस एग्रीमेंट की वजह से हिन्दुस्तान के साथ न्याय न हुआ हो बल्कि अन्याय हुआ हो। यह भी हो सकता है कि शायद पाकिस्तान के साथ अन्याय हुआ हो। हम इसलिये नहीं कह रहे हैं कि पाकिस्तान के साथ कोई अन्याय हो, लेकिन हमें समझना तो चाहिये कि अन्याय हो रहा है या न्याय हो रहा है। यह जो डिक्लोजन आफ असेट्स है, यह जो विभाग हो रहा है इसकी बुनियाद क्या है? कितना पैसा हम लोगों का पाकिस्तान में आज जा रहा है, यह हमको ठीक तरह से समझना चाहिये। मैं बड़े अदब के साथ एक बात जरूर कहूँगा कि जैसा कुछ चोखों में हुआ है कि पाकिस्तान का एक तृतीयांश भाग रहा और हिन्दुस्तान का दो तृतीयांश रहा, ऐसी भी एक बुनियाद हो सकती है, लेकिन यह बुनियाद यहाँ लगेंगी या नहीं लगेंगी, इसके बारे में मुझे बहुत भारी संशय है। क्योंकि यह भी एक नत्व हो सकता है कि जिसकी बेसिस के ऊपर जिसकी बुनियाद के ऊपर विभाग हो सकता है।

[डा० डब्ल्यू० एस० बार्लिंगे]

जैसे कि मानिये हम लोगों ने ज्यादा से ज्यादा रकम दी और आज जो प्रदेश पाकिस्तान में है उन प्रदेशों से उतनी रकम नहीं आई, कुछ रकम आई होगी, मानिये कि कुछ रकम, एक्स रकम आई, मैं कह सकता हूँ कि शायद न्याय की बात यही होगी कि जिस प्रदेश से जितनी रकम आई हो, पाकिस्तान में आज जो प्रदेश गये हैं उन प्रदेशों से जितनी रकम आई हो, उतनी ही रकम उनको देना है। यह शायद ज्यादा न्यायसंगत होगा। मैं यह सब चीजें इसलिये कह रहा हूँ कि न्याय या अन्याय क्या है और जो एग्जिमेंट पाकिस्तान और हिन्दुस्तान की दोनों बाँचेज में हुआ है वह एग्जिमेंट न्यायसंगत है या नहीं, इसका निर्णय करने के लिये हमारे पास आज कोई जानकारी नहीं दीख पड़ती है और अगर यह जानकारी हम लोगों को होती तो मैं समझता हूँ कि बड़ी अच्छी बात हो जाती। बाकी इसका विरोध करने का तो सवाल पैदा ही नहीं होता क्योंकि इस हाउस में ऐसा कोई आदमी नहीं होगा जो कि यह चाहेगा कि पाकिस्तान के साथ अन्याय हो लेकिन साथ ही साथ मैं एक बात जो कि श्री किशनचन्द ने अभी आपके सामने रखी है उसको जरूर दुहराना चाहता हूँ। मैं यह जरूर कहना चाहता हूँ कि आज कितनी ऐसी रकम है जो कि पाकिस्तान को हिन्दुस्तान को देना है और हमको भी कुछ उनको देना है। तो हम तो केवल देते रहें और उनकी तरफ से हमारे पास कोई रकम नहीं आये, यह तो कोई उचित नहीं रहेगा। यह तो एक सामान्य गणना की बात है।

SHRI KISHEN CHAND: I pointed out about charitable trusts and charitable endowment trusts.

डा० डब्ल्यू० एस० बार्लिंगे : मैं इस सम्बन्ध में आपका और समय लेना उचित नहीं समझता हूँ। अभी किशनचन्द ने जो कुछ आपके सामने रखा है वह मैं ही आपके सामने रखने वाला था और यह एक

बड़ी अच्छी बात हुई कि हमारे एक मैथ-मैटीशियन ने यह बात आपके सामने रखी। मैं उन्हीं बातों को फिर से दुहराना नहीं चाहता हूँ। लेकिन मैं उन से पूर्णतः सहमत हूँ। मुझे इस सम्बन्ध में और कुछ ज्यादा नहीं कहना है। मैं इस विधेयक का मूलतः समर्थन करता हूँ।

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA (Mysore): Mr. Deputy Chairman, I had not much of an intention to speak, but when I heard the words emanating from the lips of my friend, Mr. Saksena, which seemed to convey to the House an idea that this Red Cross Society is something foreign, in the first place, and, in the second place, it has not been doing much of good work in this country, I felt with my knowledge of the working of the Red Cross Society in India I should get up and say a word in its defence. Not that the hon. Minister is not going to answer him and those other friends who have had some criticisms to make but I do feel.....

डा० डब्ल्यू० एस० बार्लिंगे : हम लोगों की बात केवल शब्द के बारे में है न कि काम के बारे में है।

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: I heard from Mr. Saksena he was not aware of what exactly this Red Cross Society was doing in the land. So, I thought I should just say something about it. I am very glad that Dr. Barlingay sees that this Society has been doing good work. There is no doubt about that.

DR. W. S. BARLINGAY: I do not think there ever was a controversy about the work of the Indian Red Cross Society.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: Just because I heard a statement from my friend, Mr. Saksena.....

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA: He is accusing me of having said that the Red Cross Society has not been doing any good work, of which accusation I am not guilty and this I have got to submit.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: Sir, I should have misunderstood him.....

DR. W. S. BARLINGAY: That is because he spoke in Hindi.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: That is another piece of information! I think Mr. Saksena spoke in English.

DR. W. S. BARLINGAY: I am sorry.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Dasappa knows sufficient Hindi.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: I am glad Mr. Saksena has reassured me that his speech should not be taken to mean that there was any idea of casting a reflection on the working of this Society.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA: Not in the least.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: I am so glad. I feel that, in the first place, from the experience that I have of this Society within the resources at its command, it is really doing a marvellous piece of work. I doubt very much if the funds of any organisation are put to such excellent use as the Red Cross Society. As I know much of it is more or less on a voluntary basis. A great deal of charity such as is available in these hard days is being drawn in for conducting the various activities of the Red Cross Society. I think Shrimati Savitry Devi Nigam said that it is better that as far as possible this work reaches the people in the villages. I entirely agree with her. There is no doubt about it. But even so this Red Cross Society does function in the villages. I have got here the report of the Indian Red Cross Society for the year 1955. It is open for any hon. Member to go through this report and see what a lot of work is done. Take for instance in Mysore a number of maternity and child welfare centres are being conducted and most of them are in the villages. No doubt a few of them are in the cities also, but quite a large number is in the villages and a great many other

institutions functioning in the villages are being given support by the Red Cross Society. Then, again.....

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: In U.P. and around Delhi there is no such network of centres. There may be here and there.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: The report is there. Therefore, let there be no general remark made with regard to the work of the Society in the whole of the country. It may be in some States work is going on well and in certain other States the work is not going on so well. It may be that they are not as active as in some other States. I will only read one or two sentences from this report with regard to Mysore State on page 98:—

“During the year 110 maternity homes or wards were functioning in the States under the auspices of the Branch. Of these 17 Centres in Mysore, Bangalore and the Kolar Gold Fields were kept under the management of the local authorities. In small towns and villages 59 maternity homes functioned as adjuncts to the existing dispensaries. The Branch gave grants for the initial equipment of these homes. The remaining 34 maternity homes of the Red Cross functioned under the charge of trained midwives at places where there were no such dispensaries.”

And then what is even more important or equally important, is that in times of scarcity, in times of distress, in times of famine this Red Cross Society rushes into the field and does enormous good work. And, in fact, as I personally know the amount of gratitude that the people express towards the Red Cross is only to be seen in order to be appreciated. So, it would be wholly wrong to think that the Society is not functioning as well as it should be, if anybody has got such an impression.

The next question is about the name itself. After all we are moving towards one great ideal—and India is

[Shri H. C. Dasappa.]  
heralding that ideal—and that is the ideal of one world Government, if possible. There is what is known as universal brotherhood. Now, shall we always and at all points keep to our own nomenclatures and our own names for our institutions which are of an international character? Are we or are we not to take part in these international big social institutions meant for the welfare of the masses of humanity regardless of frontiers?

DR. W. S. BARLINGAY: May I ask Mr. Dasappa one question? I entirely agree with Mr. Dasappa so far as his point of view is concerned. In that case, where is the necessity for having two Societies, one for this country and another for Pakistan? Why can't one Society work both in this country and in Pakistan and also in any other country in the world?

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: Sir, it is one Society; there is no doubt about it. It is one Red Cross Society. It is of an international character and in order to function as such, it must have its various branches. In India, you have got a Branch. There was a common branch for India. That was in the past. But after the division of India into India that is Bharat on the one hand and Pakistan on the other, it is only proper that there should be branches of the same Society in both the places.

DR. W. S. BARLINGAY: Why should it not cut across national boundaries?

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: You have got international meetings, conferences, exchange of views, planning and all that. All these we have got even today, so far as the Red Cross is concerned. But what is now sought is, for administrative purposes, you just have this division of funds. The Pakistan Government is there. It has got to administer the funds. You cannot go and aid certain institutions in Pakistan. You have no jurisdiction. The case is likewise in various other countries. I thought that that was sufficiently intelligible. It is certainly

not possible to have one branch functioning here which will have jurisdiction over Pakistan also. So that is the idea. But here I may say one thing. Let us not make a fetish of this name. The Society has had a fine tradition handed over to us from generations and it has gained certain broad meaning so far as its activities are concerned all the world over. Why should we think of changing the name and not continue with this name? I think that we will really help further the cause of the welfare of the people of the land in trying to be a part of this world organisation and not only get financial assistance from them and such other aids one gets from abroad, but also the modern technique of solving these great social problems. The objects are narrated in the Bill itself. After all, this Bill is meant to cover a certain specific object, namely the question of partition of the funds between Pakistan and ourselves. It has been stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons that they have mutually agreed upon the question of division of these funds. The two Societies—the Pakistan Branch and the Indian Branch—have agreed upon it. So, when there is an agreement, it is on an equitable basis. Personally, I do not know exactly what the basis is—whether it is on a *per capita* basis or on any other basis.

SHRI K. S. HEGDE (Madras): Are you to pay something to Pakistan or Pakistan is to pay you?

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: Sir, the figures show that we have got to pay to the Pakistan Society? I think it is to the tune of Rs. 44 lakhs. The whole fund is now consolidated here and therefore, you must pass on the share of Pakistan, which is stated here to be Rs. 44 lakhs.

DR. W. S. BARLINGAY: What is the basis of calculation?

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: Sir, I am sure the hon. Minister will explain it. But I am pretty sure that when it is mutually agreed upon, it must be on



a basis which is acceptable to both of us.

**SHRI J. S. BISHT (Uttar Pradesh):**  
Sir, I was rather very much pained to hear the speech of my hon. friend, Mr. Saksena, because he began with a broadside against what he called western ways, western methods and all that. I do not know how this question of westernism came here. If he is so very angry against westernism, it would be proper to recommend scrapping of the railways, the telephones, the telegraph, the air-conditioning, the motor car, and the aeroplane. Everything of this modern civilization—the scientific, machine civilization—has emanated from the west and it is called the western civilization. (Interruption.) My friend's insistence is going to make no difference to this because this western civilization, this industrial revolution, started in the west and all the development of machines has been there. So, it is no use trying to be in two minds. I know that we are Hindus, very conservative with a sort of split personality with one foot in the 12th century and another foot in the 20th century. We cannot carry on like that. We have to make up our mind either to go back to the Vedic period or go forward. With this mental attitude of a sort of divided allegiance, we will not be able to make progress forward such as others are progressing.

Coming to the point, my hon. friend, Mr. Saksena, and also the hon. lady Member, Shrimati Savitry Devi Nigam, did not care to look at the First Schedule which, infact, luckily gives us all the objects for which the Red Cross stands. Red Cross is a very old organization. It is not only a national organization, but an international organization. Throughout the world, it has been functioning for such a long time and is well recognized for its services during war, pestilence and all the troubles that have been raging in Europe and Asia, with regard to refugees and every other thing. In fact, its very symbol stands for help and relief and compas-

sionate service to suffering humanity. It is the best international organization that has been functioning throughout the world. In World Wars I and II when there was a Red Cross flag, firing was stopped and even the bitterest enemies allowed the Red Cross people to remove the wounded or bring help and succour to the afflicted. The primary object of the Red Cross is to be of great service in international calamities like war and pestilence and it is for this purpose that this Society has been developed. I have had the honour and privilege to be connected with this institution for a pretty long time. In fact, I have held the office of District Commissioner for a long time and I know how it functions. Therefore, to make all these allegations is really very shameful. This is purely a voluntary organization and people who become members at the district level actually contribute from their own private funds. There are no funds for it nor any revenue except the grants here and there. These people contribute funds and it is on the basis of these voluntary funds that this is run. And this Bill is merely a sort of an arrangement to give legal sanction to the arrangement arrived at between Indian and Pakistan for the division of the funds that were there when India was united and Rs. 44 lakhs are to go to Pakistan as their share of the funds.

In regard to the question of the Red Cross working in the villages and all that, they try, in peace time, to go into all the levels of the society in order that the Red Cross Society may become popular and people may know what it stands for and help it. But we must make a clear distinction between the local services and other medical services. There are hospitals run by the District and Municipal Boards and there are the hospitals run by the State Government. It is their primary object to render health services and for that purpose if you will refer to the First Schedule, their object is the improvement of health, prevention of disease and mitigation of suffering and such other objects.

[Shri J. S. Bisht.]

But I hope the primary object will never be missed, namely, that it should be a very good, efficient and working arrangement for service in case of war and other international troubles. I remember that a Branch of the Indian Red Cross Society went to Korea also and rendered very valuable services there. In such places and in all these international trouble spots, it has been rendering very good service, and I have no hesitation in giving my whole hearted support to this Bill.

SHRIMATI T. NALLAMUTHU RAMAMURTI (Madras): Sir, I want to place on record here, adding to the support already given by hon. Members here to this Bill, appreciating the services—the humanitarian services—rendered by this great society all over the world, irrespective of caste, creed, categories or nationalities. This is the kind of horizon that we are going to reach in our Union of “service first and foremost to all humanity irrespective of any category.” This society has rendered invaluable service. I have travelled widely in the West and also in my own country, and wherever I went, I saw the beaconlight of this association or this organisation rendering service to the high and the low alleviating the suffering of humanity, not only giving medical services but in all fields. I do not think that anybody had touched on the educational service that this society is rendering. The Junior Red Cross is a tremendous organisation, and as a teacher connected with education all my life, I want to refer here to the invaluable services rendered by this society from day to day and from hour to hour to the young and growing citizens of our country.

With regard to the remarks of my sister, Shrimati Savitry Nigam, that rural service is necessary, I want to say here that I have visited in Madras State several rural areas where invaluable services are being rendered by this society. Once I went to Coimbatore in the South and when I asked the ladies to come to a meeting, they had just then gathered under the

auspices of Red Cross Society <sup>and they were</sup> going by bus for so many miles, for 30 to 40 miles, to render service to the needy people, people struck by famine, giving them *kanji* and other aid and to educate them in health and hygiene habits.

I say, what is there in a name? The name “Red Cross Society” is there, and I am sure I carry the conviction of the House when I say that the name “Red Cross” should be there as it is. It is a symbol. Why should we alter it? I do not know if my hon. friends will agree with me when I say that its retention will go a great deal towards world amity for which we stand and to make our culture richer and worthier. Our Indian culture has survived because we have had the capacity to absorb many things from others and at the same time be what we are, quite unique and quite ourselves. The Red Cross, the Y. W. C. A., the Ramkrishna Mission, etc., are everywhere; these are world-wide organisations that do not belong to any one country or people. They belong to the whole world rendering service to the needy. I hope I will be excused for being so emotional, but I have seen the work done by this organisation on the educational side, on the medical side and on the charity side. In all aspects, it has done invaluable service. I hope that this House will support this Bill.

SHRI T. BODRA: I wish to take this chance to express my grateful thanks to the hon. lady Member who has just preceeded me. After hearing her speech in the House, I would not like to dilate on the subject any more. I would only like to say that, so far as my part of the country is concerned—we are a most backward and poor people—wherever we look at the Red Cross, we welcome it, and our happiness knows no bounds at the sight of it. My hon. friend, Mr. Sak-sena, said that not even one in a million is aware that there is an organisation like this for the service of suffering humanity, but perhaps my friend is not aware of the fact that the poor people know the services rendered by this organisation. They have known

the Red Cross Society for ever and they welcome it and love it and worship it. The name itself is a symbol of service and sacrifice for the suffering humanity. The Red Cross Society is not a society confined to India or China or Japan. It is a world-wide organisation. It is an international organisation. Sometimes a sentence here and a sentence there in his remarks hurt the feeling of the Muslims and the Christians. We have many religions. We have got three great religions in India. Those which have to stay are Hinduism, Islam and Christianity. If in the weakness of their impulse, any hon. Member hurts the feelings of others, he will be doing a disservice to the country. By alienating the feelings of others, we cannot go ahead. I have no hesitation in welcoming this amendment Bill. I am very thankful that our hon. Health Minister herself has been a symbol of sacrifice. She is doing her best to render service specially to the people who are very poor, who are living in the villages. Thank you, Sir.

DR. R. P. DUBE (Madhya Pradesh): Mr. Deputy Chairman, I have just got up to dispel the idea of this House may have about the sign cross. This Red Cross is really no cross. If you see the Christian cross, you will see that the perpendicular line is longer than the horizontal, whereas this is only a "plus" sign. You must remember that this has been recognised throughout the world. Any aeroplane, any vehicle which has the red cross sign is immune from attack. Now, if you want to change it, you will have to publicise it, and it will be very very difficult. At present, this is known throughout the world. This cross has nothing to do with Christianity. So, why worry about the cross? The Christian cross is completely a separate sign. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We will resume in the afternoon. There is a message.

# MESSAGE FROM LOK SABHA

## THE TRAVANCORE-COCHIN APPROPRIATION (VOTE ON ACCOUNT) BILL, 1956

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:

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 144 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to inform you that the following amendment recommended by Rajya Sabha in the Travancore-Cochin Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1956 at its sitting held on the 27th April, 1956 was taken into consideration and accepted by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 3rd May, 1956:—

"That at page 1, after clause 3, the following new clause be inserted, namely:—

4. Repeal of Ordinance 4 of 1956.—The Travancore-Cochin Appropriation (Vote on Account) Ordinance, 1956, is hereby replaced." *repealed*.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned till 2.30 P.M.

The House adjourned for lunch at one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at half past two of the Clock, Mr. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

## THE INDIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1956—continued

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN (Hyderabad): Mr. Deputy Chairman, so far as this Bill is concerned, I do not think there is any necessity for any further speech. Already learned Members have thrown sufficient speech light on it but just as a suggestion, I may suggest that the hon. Minister could have given us a fuller idea of