

SUPPLY be pleased to state the amount that was due to Government on the 1st March 1954 from the unauthorised occupants of Government property in Delhi; and how much of it has been waived by Government?

THE MINISTER FOR WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): The amount of rent (damages) assessed as due to Government from unauthorised occupants of Government property in Delhi up to 1st March 1954 was Rs. 12,68,706 out of which a sum of Rs. 7,86,503 had been recovered by that date. A sum of Rs. 3,67,791 has been waived, leaving a balance of Rs. 1,14,412 still to be realised.

MOTION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME FOR PRESENTATION OF REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSES ON THE HINDU MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE BILL. 1952.

THE MINISTER FOR LAW AND MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI C. C. BISWAS): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move:

“That the time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Bill to amend and codify the law relating to marriage and divorce among Hindus be further extended up to the last day of the second week of the next session.”

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA (Andhra): I oppose it.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE (SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU): I should like this matter to be reconsidered. The Select Committee has been sitting indefinitely and comes to no decision at all. How are we to proceed? This is the second time that they have been asking for more time. I want that something should be done.

SHRI C. C. BISWAS: This is the second time that the Select Committee is asking for time, but it has been obliged to do so, because of the altered hours of sitting of the two Houses. The Select Committee was sitting from 9-30 A.M. to 1 P.M. every day, but that is not possible when the Houses sit for six hours a day. Therefore this motion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You withdraw the motion and reconsider it.

SHRI S. MAHANTY (Orissa): It is an insinuation that has been made against the Committee.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: May I point out that we appointed this Select Committee during the last session giving them three months to sit? If they refuse to sit for three months, it is not the fault of this House. If they choose to sit only when the Houses are not meeting and if they cannot sit on Sundays or Saturdays because they are too tired, let others be appointed to the Select Committee. It is important that this important and urgent work should go on.

SHRI C. C. BISWAS: I may say that this Select Committee had been sitting before the session commenced and they were sitting from day to day. They have already had fourteen sittings.....

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I feel very strongly about it because I feel that if they proceed at the pace at which they are proceeding, they may take roughly twenty years before they come to a decision.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All the speeches hitherto made are completely irrelevant because I have not put the question to the House. As soon as Mr. Biswas moved his motion, the first thing I had to do was to put the motion to the House before you could get up and talk. You had better withdraw the motion and reconsider the matter.

SHRI C. C. BISWAS: I cannot move another motion till day after tomorrow. Even if I call a meeting today, the Committee cannot meet before tomorrow. What is to be done?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You bring the motion tomorrow. What I say is you call the Select Committee to meet today, have the matter reconsidered there and then come forward with a fresh motion tomorrow morning. We will allow you to move it.

SHRI C. C. BISWAS: I am entirely in the hands of the House. I withdraw it.

THE SPECIAL MARRIAGE BILL, 1954

THE MINISTER FOR LAW AND
MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI C. C.
BISWAS): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the following amendments made by the Lok Sabha in the Bill to provide a special form of marriage in certain cases, for the registration of such and certain other marriages and for divorce be taken into consideration namely:—

1. "That at page 1, line 1, for 'our Republic' substitute 'the Republic of India'".

2. "That at page 3, for line 6, substitute:

'(c) the male has completed the age of twenty-one years and the female the age of eighteen years;'

3. "That at page 3, lines 16 and 17, for 'fourteen' substitute 'thirty'."

4. "That at page 6, for lines 13 to 16, substitute:

'(e) the parties are not within the degrees of prohibited relationship:

Provided that in the case of a marriage celebrated before the commencement of this Act, this condition shall be subject to any law, custom or usage having the force of law governing each of them which permits of a marriage between the two; and"

5. "That at page 6, after lines 47, add:

'Provided that nothing contained in this section shall be construed as conferring upon any such children any rights in or to the property of any person other than their parents in any case where, but for the passing of this Act, such children would have been incapable of possessing or acquiring any such rights by reason of their not being the legitimate children of their parents.'

6. "That at page 7, line 19, add at the end:

'and for the purposes of this section that Act shall have effect as if Chapter III of Part V (Special Rules for Parsi Intestates) had been omitted therefrom.'

7. "That at page 7, after line 35, insert.

'and the court, on being satisfied of the truth of the statements made in such petition, and that there is no legal ground why the application should not be granted, may decree judicial separation accordingly.'

8. "That at page 8, after line 46, add:

'Provided that nothing contained in this section shall be construed as conferring upon any child of a marriage which is declared to be null and void or annulled by a decree of nullity any rights in or to the property of any person other than the parents in any case where, but for the passing of this Act, such child would have been incapable of possessing or acquiring