

## PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

## (i) PEPSU RULES OF EXECUTIVE BUSINESS (VALIDATION) ACT, 1954

THE MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS AND STATES (DR. K. N. KATJU): Mr. Chairman, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Patiala and East Punjab States Union Rules of Executive Business (Validation) Act, 1954. [Placed in Library, see No. S-82/54.]

## (ii) BUDGET ESTIMATES OF THE DAMODAR VALLEY CORPORATION FOR 1954-55.

## (iii) ANNUAL REPORT (PART I) OF THE DAMODAR VALLEY CORPORATION FOR 1951-52.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI J. S. L. HATHI): On behalf of Shri Gulzari Lal Nanda, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Budget Estimates of the Damodar Valley Corporation for the year 1954-55, under sub-section (3) of section 44 of the Damodar Valley Corporation Act, 1948. [Placed in Library, see No. S-77/54.]

I also beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Annual Report (Part I) of the Damodar Valley Corporation for the year 1951-52, under sub-section (5) of section 45 of the Damodar Valley Corporation Act, 1948. [Placed in Library, see No. S-76/54.]

THE SPECIAL MARRIAGE BILL, 1952  
—PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSES.

THE MINISTER FOR LAW AND MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI C. C. BISWAS): Sir, I beg to present the Report of the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Bill to provide a special form of marriage in certain cases, and for the registration of such and certain other marriages.

6 C.S.D.

THE CHILDREN BILL, 1953—PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION (DR. K. L. SHRIMALI): Sir, I beg to present the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to provide for the care, protection, maintenance, welfare, training, education and rehabilitation of neglected children and juvenile delinquents in Part C States.

REFERENCE BY MR. CHAIRMAN TO THE RETIRING MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before we take up discussion on the Press (Objectionable Matter) Amendment Bill, I wish to call attention of this House to the fact that over 70 Members of the Council will be retiring very soon of whom about 20 are not likely to be returned. I should like to express on behalf of this House our sense of obligation to them and our best wishes for their future.

On the whole, the manner and the matter of our discussions have been of a fairly high level. I say "on the whole" for sometimes we were not able to resist the temptation of indulging in abusing one another or discrediting one another, but such occasions were very few, very infrequent, and I hope very much that those things would disappear altogether. I wish merely to say that membership of Parliament is not the only way in which public service could be rendered. It is said that there is only one way of dying for one's country, but there are a thousand ways of living for and serving one's country and all those opportunities are open to the Members who may not get returned to this Parliament.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE (SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU): I should just like to associate myself—not with all that you said, because it is your privilege—but

[Shri Jawaharlal Nehru.]  
with the good wishes that you have expressed to those of our colleagues who were Members but who in the course of things may not come back here.

THE PRESS (OBJECTIONABLE  
MATTER) AMENDMENT BILL,  
1953—concluded

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kishen Chand.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND (Hyderabad): Mr. Chairman, I was pointing out....

MR. CHAIRMAN: I want to tell you one thing before you proceed. It is now 2-15 P.M. I should like to ask the Minister to answer at 3 o'clock and I wish to give 10 minutes each to two Members this side and two Members that side. You have taken five minutes already.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND: Mr. Chairman, Diwan Chaman Lal yesterday put the point that nobody in this House will have any objection to the definition of objectionable matter in this Bill and that this Bill is very essential for curbing the licence of newspapers, and the yellow Press. I would ask a counter question of the Treasury Benches. This Bill has been in operation for two years. Has this Bill been successful in curbing the activities of the yellow Press? Has it removed the scurrilous and obscene writings from our Press? I submit that it has not done so. It has failed entirely in fulfilling its objects because this Bill is wrong. It is not striking at the obscene literature; it is not striking at the abuse that is flung at our leaders by the yellow Press. Sir, I come from Hyderabad and I know that the Urdu Press there is really hopeless. For printing a newspaper in Urdu they require just two or three litho stones and a small hand press and in about two to three hours they can bring out about a thousand copies. You cannot ask for any security from them, because the whole

of that press would cost just Rs. 100. You can go and capture it, but on the next day they will issue a newspaper from some other place. So this Bill is really striking at the genuine activities of the Opposition. This Bill is being utilised to curb the right of criticism against the Government by launching such prosecutions which lead to the demand of securities from newspapers and the Press. Sir, in a democracy the Opposition is a very essential thing and I hope the Congress Benches will realise the importance of the Opposition Press. They should welcome healthy criticism, but by having this type of Press laws they are indirectly curbing that healthy criticism. Sir, Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, when he was piloting the original Bill, had made a provision that the members of the profession of journalism should act as jurors and they should decide about the subject-matter as well as fix the punishment that should be given in such cases. But by this amending Bill that right is being taken away. I expected the hon. the Home Minister to widen the scope of the original Bill; I expected him to have made it compulsory that in all such prosecutions the Sessions Judges should be helped by a jury which will decide not only the question of fact but also the question of punishment to be given and also on the amount of security that should be demanded. I had expected that in this Bill the maximum amount should have been fixed. After all, it is the jurors of that particular area knowing that language who can really decide whether any matter printed in the newspaper is objectionable matter and whether it would come within the meaning of one of these six items which have been enumerated in section 3 of the original Act. When we compare our democracy with the other democracies of Europe and America, we find there is a principal difference in the liberty of the Press. In the U.S.A., the laws are so liberal that almost anything can be printed. (*Time bell rings.*) Sir, we should not use this Act in order to suppress all opposition for if there were no Opposition, democracy cannot work in our country.