

the hon. the Defence Minister has declined to answer the question at short notice. I would like to request the Defence Minister through you, Sir, not to stand on formalities but taking into consideration that these people are on hunger strike for seven days now see that something is done to end the situation and redress the grievances of these workers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Passed on to Defence Ministry.

#### ALLOTMENT OF TIME FOR THE VOLUNTARY SURRENDER OF SALARIES (EXEMPTION FROM TAXATION) AMENDMENT BILL, 1954.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have to inform Members that under rule 162(2) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States, I have allotted 30 minutes for the completion of all stages involved in the consideration and return of the Voluntary Surrender of Salaries (Exemption from Taxation) Amendment Bill, 1954, by the Council including the consideration and passing of amendments, if any, to the Bill.

#### NOMINATION OF SHRIMATI BEDAVATI BURAGOHAIN TO THE SOCIAL WELFARE BOARD

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have nominated Shrimati Bedavati Buragohain to be a Member of the Social Welfare Board set up by the Planning Commission vice Dr. J. M. Kumarappa.

#### THE PREVENTION OF DISQUALIFICATION (PARLIAMENT AND PART C STATES LEGISLATURES) AMENDMENT BILL, 1954.

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

"That the Bill to amend the Prevention of Disqualification (Parliament and Part C States Legislatures) Act, 1953, be taken into consideration."

This is a very short Bill consisting of just one clause and I hope it will not excite controversy and will be passed by the House without any difficulty. Hon. Members will remember that we passed an Act for the prevention of disqualification for membership of Parliament in certain cases. At the time the Bill was before the House, I said that there were certain matters which required further consideration and one of them was the examination of various statutory bodies. The suggestion I made was that in the case of statutory bodies it would be better to insert the non-disqualification clause in the Acts by which those bodies were set up. Since then, other questions have also been brought to our notice and they also require examination. This will involve reference to various State Governments for collection of information. I had various queries from various Members of Parliament asking as to whether membership of certain non-statutory bodies would affect the position. It was not possible for me to give an answer which would satisfy them in the absence of precise information as to the nature of the functions which were exercised by those bodies. Information is being collected; whatever has been collected is not complete. It will take time to consider these matters and then it will be for Government to bring a Bill which will meet all cases as far as practicable. At one stage I thought of bringing forward a Bill dealing with statutory bodies only and including a clause in the relevant Acts removing the disqualification, but the list was not at all complete. So I thought, instead of proceeding piecemeal in that way, it would be much better to take a little further time to collect all the information available and then to bring forward a larger Bill not merely in respect of these cases, but also of other cases of non-statutory bodies which are now under a ban under the existing Act, except for a blanket cover given up to the 30th April. Now, the 30th of April is near at hand but many Members have not found it possible yet to make up their minds as to whether