

**THE PATIALA AND EAST PUNJAB
STATES UNION APPROPRIATION
(NO. 2) BILL, 1953—continued.**

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR (West Bengal): Mr. Deputy Chairman, yesterday I was speaking about Rajasthan in connection with showing how the Congress brand of democracy works in different parts of the country. In Rajasthan when people are starving, the Congress Ministry is indulging in factional squabbles. But according to the Congress Government everything is all right there and their democracy is safe because a Congress Ministry happens to be there. In Tripura, to cite another example, recently an Advisory Council was set up with some gentlemen who do not command the confidence of the majority of the people. One gentleman particularly is there who during the last elections stood as a candidate for the House of the People and was defeated at the hands of the Communist candidate by a margin of 10,000. There is another gentleman, a devoted servant of the feudal prince. So, Sir, all this shows how the Congress brand of democracy functions. In this connection, Sir, I like to make it clear that we are not defenders of the Rarewala ministry. During the earlier discussion on this matter my friend and leader Mr. Sundarayya made it quite clear what attitude we will take towards that party. He said that when the Government failed to bring about a rapprochement between the two reactionary parties, the Congress and the Rarewala Party only then this President's rule was inaugurated there.

Now, Sir, coming to the present condition in PEPSU the Government are admitting the connection between Biswedars and the police and the dacoits but pleads helplessness in the name of democracy. Sir, it is a distortion of the term 'democracy'. I think what the Government really wants is to bring the word 'democracy' into disrepute by this sort of thing, by knowing fully well that the relatives of rulers and Biswedars are /

in the police, and that is having a very bad effect on the administration. Knowing full well that there have been cases when Biswedars have given help to dacoits what attitude Government is taking? It is an attitude of complacency and they say, "we have entered into agreements; we have some covenants; we are helpless; we are proceeding under the Constitution". Sir, if the Government were really serious why can't they come out with an amendment to the Constitution. Supposing the case was otherwise, supposing it came to the notice of the Government that in the police there are progressive radical elements do you know what would have happened? My hon. friend the Home Minister would have come here and taken up an attitude as if heavens are going to fall, as if the whole machinery of the State is in danger, as if there is subversive activity going on and some speedy measures would have been placed before the House or some such speedy measures would have been taken there.

Sir, another thing in this connection I like to submit is this. On the previous occasion my hon. friend the Home Minister made out much about the parallel Governments there. Sir, my friend Mr. Sundarayya exploded that charge and I say, Sir, that the hon. the Home Minister exaggerated this whole thing. I say that not only the charge was baseless but actually what happened there has been exaggerated. Sir, here is a report published by the Ministry of States. There also they have made such similar charges. But there they have not dared to use the term 'parallel government'. I refer to page 6 of the report of the Ministry of States where it is said that they have set up some *panchayats* to take charge of the affairs of the villages and to decide disputes among villagers. If *panchayats* are set up by Congressmen it is all right and perfect democracy functions but if Communists happened to take the initiative in setting up pan-

chayats democracy would be in danger, this happens to be the logic of my hon. friend. Here it is also mentioned that the Biswedars have resorted to violence in resisting attempts on the part of the tenants as they said that the tenants were taking forcible possession and I would like to submit and I would ask: Is it permissible to publish in this Government report ■baseless and unfounded allegations against any political party which had not been substantiated anywhere. I like to draw your notice to that fact because here it has been mentioned that the Communists are openly advocating revolt against the Biswedars.

Then, Sir, I like to show that this allegation which was brought forward here by the hon. the Home Minister was exaggerated because it shows what really those village *panchayats* were. My friend and leader Mr. Sundarayya said that these *panchayats* had offered to the Government that they were prepared to give land revenue and that they were prepared to give co-operation to the Government, and that has been proved in fact. I understand from what has been said by the Finance Minister that, during the tour of the Adviser of these areas, people came forward and were ready to give the rent and all other co-operation. This also explodes the charge that there were parallel Governments. Sir, I do not exactly remember the date but somewhere in April I saw a statement in the press attributing it to the present Adviser as having said that this question of parallel Governments was an exaggerated one. So, Sir, this is how my hon. friend the Home Minister tried to build up his case.

Now, Sir, coming to the question of dacoit menace, I submit that it is a misnomer. By coining this term 'dacoit menace' the Government are trying to hide out the real truth and they are trying to hide out the truth that they are very soft to the Biswedars and to feudal rulers. The dacoit menace is in PEPSU; the dacoit menace is in Rajasthan and the

dacoit menace is in Saurashtra. What do all these imply? These are not simple dacoits. These are, I submit, Sir, armed detachments of the feudal reactionaries. This is a grave menace to the people of India. The Government of India may not think this as a menace but it is a grave menace to the people of India. While these things are happening, about these things Government is very soft. Government is very soft to tax-dodgers who hide huge sums of their income and evade paying to the Government exchequer huge sums of tax. These people are worse criminals but about them Government is very soft.

Now what is the present policy of the Congress administration in PEPSU under the Adviser's regime? They took charge of the whole thing under cover of the bogey of two things. Under the bogey of parallel Governments repression is going on in PEPSU against the *kisan* movement. The *kisans* were fighting for their just demands. At the same time there had been a show of some concession to the peasantry. I repeat 'show of some concession' without really going to the root of the problem. I shall explain, Sir. Last time I made a plea on the floor of the House that immediately an ordinance should be promulgated stopping evictions of peasants from land. My hon. friend the Finance Minister was replying to the debate and he said that some ordinance has already been promulgated stopping evictions and that only in certain cases where eviction was thought to be justified evictions are permitted. But, Sir, as my hon. friend Mr. Reddy said yesterday, I have also received similar information that a large number of tenants are going to be evicted. Not only that, but because of a loophole, eviction is sought to be justifiably fled. That ordinance leaves many loopholes in the hands of the Biswedars. Sir, a copy of the Ordinance has not been laid on the Table and so I have no knowledge of it but I think that that Ordinance was drafted on the

[Shri S. N. Mazumdar.] lines of the PEPSU Tenancy (Temporary Provisions) Act. This was assented to by the President on 28th March 1952. If that is so this Ordinance leaves many loopholes to evict the tenants. Sir, I do not want to take up much time of the House by quoting from this Report which is known as the Venkatachar Committee Report and this Committee was appointed by the Government itself. Sir, here is the copy of the 1952 Act and in the Act it has been mentioned the cases in which peasants can be evicted. But the Act leaves, as I have said, a large loophole in the hands of the Biswedars.

In this connection it must be remembered that Biswedars in PEPSU obtained proprietary rights over the land by sheer fraud and violence and by illegal means. I find that the hon. the Home Minister is laughing.

THE MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS AND STATES (DR. K. N. KATJU) : I did not Jaugh. I was only smiling. Smiling is not laughter.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Sir, this fact that the Biswedars there obtained forcible possession of the land of the peasants by fraud and violence and that possession was illegal has been admitted not only by this Report but also by the first Settlement Commissioner, Mr. Popham Young, in 1901. Still there are records and receipts in the hands of the peasants showing that in 1860 and 1863 they were actually the tillers of the soil. According to Mr. Young this is what happened. The officials co-operated with the Biswedars. Those who were small proprietors were converted into occupancy tenants and those who were really occupancy tenants, were converted into tenants at will. This Ordinance, I presume, permits that the tenants at will can be ejected from the land if the landlord wants to cultivate the land for himself, but these tenants at will are really the owner* of the land. For all these years, for nearly a century, they

have been struggling to obtain rightful possession of the land which they had previously possessed. Here is one case—I leave out other cases—where there is ample proof that the land belonged to the peasants. Here is one case where no compensation to the landlords can be justified on any grounds. But what is happening? The tenants at will can be evicted because they happen to be tenants at will. If the landlord is supposed to take charge of the land for his cultivation, the tenants at will have to quit. This is a grave injustice. Sir, the provisions permitting eviction deny this very fact and I submit that this permission to evict really legalizes the loot that was perpetrated by the Biswedars. Starting from Firmanshahi of 1947, all the measures which were enacted only try to give some concession to the peasantry there, but they avoid the root of the problem. The core of the problem, they do not touch. And I say here that it is not a mere avoidance of the core of the problem but it is one of legalising the loot of Biswedars. Sir, it is said in that Act that if the peasants are in arrears of rent, they can be evicted. What is arrears of rent? I shall cite one example. The Biswedars some years back when they could not collect illegal rent from the peasants resorted to one measure which was known as the Konkonth system. The bailiffs of the Biswedars used to go round the field and without any measurement, by merely glancing at the field used to make a rough sort of calculation and say: "This is the rent you have to pay". That rent was so exorbitant at times that the peasants had nothing left after paying the rent. It was so illegal that in courts of justice the peasants obtained justice. There are many other things which are continuing even now. So I submit that, first of all, the land problem there has not been tackled properly, and secondly these concessions are mere show of concessions, not touching the root of the problem.

Then, Sir, I learn that three Bills—the PEPSU Occupancy Tenants (Vest-

ing of Proprietary Rights) Bill, the PEPSU Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Bill and the PEPSU Agricultural Lands Limitation of Ownership Bill—were forwarded to the Government in 1952. Two of the Bills have been approved by the Planning Commission and one has been remitted to the State Government for re-examination as, according to the Government spokesman, the question of compensation required careful scrutiny. Sir, I have referred to the question of compensation. Sir, this Report which is an official Report, which had limited terms of reference beyond which it had no power to go, recommended the scaling down of the proposed compensation. But actually as I have submitted—I do not like to repeat it—these landlords do not deserve any compensation. Rather, if proper justice is to be done, they should be punished for what they have been doing all these years.

Now, Sir, I shall come to some other point. In PEPSU the peasant movement is very strong and recently due to the force of the peasant movement—when I say force, it is not the force which my hon. friend means, but the organised strength of the peasant movement—the Biswedars were in some cases compelled to surrender land voluntarily. Lands were being surrendered at public meetings. Sometime back—I do not remember the exact date—in a huge kisan rally in the presence of some PEPSU Ministers and senior officers, about 70,000 bighas of land were surrendered. Here was a case of real Bhoodan Yajna. But as that happened to be not under the Congress Government or Congress organisation, it was taken to be a subversive movement. After that, I am told, my hon. friend the Home Minister made a tour of PEPSU. What transpired behind the scenes, we have no knowledge of and we have no means of knowing, but after that the Biswedars completely changed their policy and took up a recalcitrant attitude. Can we not assume, Sir, then that the purpose of my hon. friend's journey was to persuade the Biswe-

dars not to donate land to the real Bhoodan Yajna because it happened to be conducted under the auspices of the peasant movement and not under the Congress dispensation?

Lastly, Sir, I shall come to some points about the Appropriation Bill itself. I shall not take up much of the time of the House by going into details, but I shall examine only a few points. Sir, criticism had often been voiced on the floor of this House that a large measure of economy can be achieved if proper steps were taken. The demand for the abolition of the institution of Rajpramukhs was, I can say, almost universal and was voiced by the progressive elements even including Congressmen. Sometime back there was a conference of Provincial Congress workers in PEPSU and a resolution was passed for abolition of the institution of the Rajpramukh. But the institution is still continuing and huge amounts of money are being spent on privy purses and allowances. But when the demands of the common labouring people are placed before Government, they plead financial stringency, while here there are glaring examples of moneys being squandered. Covenants were entered into and agreements were made under the Constitution. But the Constitution is not rigid. Democracy does not mean that once you take a decision, you should not correct it, knowing that it is a wrong decision, that it is working against the interests of the people. Staying silent with folded hands is not democracy. It is a perversion of democracy. We want democracy, real peoples' democracy. If members of the majority party are willing, they can force their own Government to bring some amendments so that even under this Constitution some advance can be made. There is a grant for the police—another huge amount. Knowing all the facts, which have been admitted by the spokesman of the Government also, what is the use of granting this sum to the police until and unless the department is overhauled?

Then, Sir, there is a High Court to PEPSU, a small State with a popula-

[Shri S. N. Mazumdar.] tion of 34 lakhs. On the last occasion the argument was put forward here that the proper step to take was the merger of PEPSU with Punjab, so that the justified demand of the Punjab people for a Punjabi-speaking State could be fulfilled. In that case there would have been no need for a separate High Court and much money could have been saved.

There is a Punjabi Department in PEPSU. May I ask what is the necessity of having a Punjabi Department for PEPSU and another for Punjab? The Punjabi Department is supposed to conduct researches into Punjabi language, culture, etc., what is the necessity of having two departments? It is the common heritage of Punjabis-speaking people into which research is to be carried out.

Lastly, before I resume my seat I wish to draw attention to one other point. Some mention has been made that there is conflict in PEPSU between the people of the Hindi-speaking areas and the people of the Punjabi-speaking areas. This conflict is there, and it will be there because of the policy of the Congress Government. The real solution to all these conflicts is the formation of linguistic States. In those linguistic States there may be minorities. But if such States are formed in the real people's way, then inside the States so formed the linguistic minority will be assured full and equal democratic rights and there will be no question of curtailment of rights of linguistic minorities like Hindi-speaking areas in PEPSU and other linguistic minorities in other linguistic States. There will be no question of any curtailment of rights. So, the proper step is to form a Punjabi-speaking State and all these problems will be solved. The people will have a stronger voice in the administration. They will come forward and show the Congress Government the way to deal with reaction and with dacoit menace—which is in fact an armed detachment of feudal reaction.

SHRI S. MAHANTY (Orissa): Mr.

Deputy Chairman, it is a sad thought that the Indian Parliament should be called upon to consider the PEPSU Appropriation Bill. It is sadder still in recollection that the popularly elected Government in PEPSU was the first casualty of the Congress disintegration. However, it is too late in the day to make a reference to it. I would only confine my remarks to Vote No. 48, namely, the Bhakra-Nangal Project.

Sir, the Bhakra-Nangal Project is one of the premier multi-purpose river valley undertakings. Indeed, no one feels more proud than myself, that we have been able to undertake a project of such magnitude. At the same time it should be borne in mind that the history of this project goes back to the year 1908. It was originally conceived in 1908, and then it was further explored in the year 1918, and work was started in 1946. Though its progress was interrupted due to partition, still early in 1948 the work was resumed. A State of not very considerable means like PEPSU is spending Rs. 35 crores on this account towards capital outlay. I think this is nearly six times the annual revenue of the State. Therefore, it is all the more necessary on my part to draw pointed attention to the happenings that have been obtaining in the Bhakra-Nangal Project.

I do not mean to suggest that all is not well there. But certain facts have to be borne in mind. In the early years of the project, the total estimate was said to be in the neighbourhood of Rs. 100 crores. In 1952 it went up to Rs. 137 crores, and in the year 1953 it has reached Rs. 156 crores, and one does not know where this spiral of rising estimates will end. As the House will appreciate, I do not mind waste and corruption so much: waste and corruption are bound to continue so long as the Government seems to be wedded to waste and corruption. But my complaint comes in when waste and corruption impair our efficiency. If waste and corruption had not impaired efficiency, probably I would not have made pointed refer-

ence to it ad nauseam. What is happening at Bhakra-Nangal? As the House knows, we are annually spending Rs. 20 lakhs on American experts. The Chief Engineer of the project, Mr. Slocum, for whom I have the highest admiration, took charge in the year 1951. In the year 1951 two diversion tunnels, 50 feet in diameter and half a mile long, were dug in Bhakra-Nangal. But so much damage was done to both the tunnels during the first flood of 1951 that the Fifth Report of the Estimates Committee of the Indian Parliament made very serious observations on it. So, even though Rs. 20 lakhs are being spent annually on foreign experts, here we get a sample of their work. Let me not dilate further on that point. The Government of India seem to overdo their admiration for foreign experts. The project was undertaken in 1946, not by the Congress Government—they simply inherited the work—but by the previous Administration. The Congress Government simply continued the work that had already been taken up by the previous Administration. In 1908 there was no question of bringing foreign experts. In 1948 there was no question of bringing foreign experts. I wonder how in the year 1951 the Government of India suddenly woke up to the necessity of importing foreign experts at fabulous costs.

Then, Sir, about these foreign experts I have my own feelings, very strong feelings. What happened in Damodar Valley? The Damodar Valley Project was originally started with an Indian Chief Engineer at the head of the administration. But suddenly the Corporation took the view that they should work without a Chief Engineer. I invite your attention to page 28, paragraph 49 of the Estimates Committee's Fifth Report where the fact has been mentioned. But then, the madness of my friends is not without its methods. After the Chief Engineer was dispensed with, a frantic search was started for a Chief Engineer for the Damodar Valley Project. Once they held that no Chief Engineer was necessary, but then, after the Chief

Engineer had been dispensed with, they started a frantic search for a Chief Engineer. The pages of the annual reports of the Damodar Valley Corporation will show to what frenzied extent that search for a Chief Engineer went on, until they could find an American Chief Engineer. It is one thing that we should borrow from the International Bank for our development projects, but it is disgraceful that in a commercial proposition where we are paying a rate of interest much higher than the European countries such dictates should be carried out at the cost of our own exchequer and our own experts. I should leave the matter at that.

As this House knows, in Bhakra a total area of 7-4 million acres will be irrv-pounded by water. But what will be the ultimate result in irrigation? It will irrigate 66 million acres of fields. In this project, much emphasis has been laid on the production of power. It is, so much so good. But in the year 1954 we are going to produce power from the Bhakra and it is a sad thought that, that electric energy which will be produced in the year 1954 will not be utilised either by Rajasthan or by PEPSU or by Punjab who are contributing towards the cost, but it will be utilised here in Delhi. Yet as you know, as my hon. friend, the Finance Minister, knows very well, betterment levies are in contemplation, increased water rates are in contemplation, increased irrigation rates are in contemplation. Therefore, it will be seen that the entire capital cost of these river valley projects is being sought to be recovered from the agriculturists even though the emphasis is placed on power production. Sir, this lopsided emphasis on power production at the cost of irrigation and agriculturists while trying to raise the entire cost of the project out of irrigation, out of agriculturists, is very bad in principle.

Sir, now I will come to another aspect.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I seek your permission, to go out for such time as Damodar

[Shri H. P. Saksena.] Valley Corporation is discussed and to come back when we begin discussing the "Patiala and East Punjab States Union Appropriation Bill".

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Sir, my friend's enthusiasm outruns his discretion. I wonder if he had had the time to have a look at this Bill. In that case he would have found Vote No. 48 relating to Bhakra-Nangal. I appreciate his exhibitionism but it should not be at the cost of his commonsense. I am referring to Mr. Saksena.

Sir, then I should like to come to the Administration. I have only my best words for the present Administration. I have only my admiration for the Adviser there who is carrying on tasks in the face of considerable odds. But that does not mean that I hold that bureaucracy is better than democracy. Bureaucracy can never be a remedy for the defections in democracy. It is a very dangerous proposition that has been expounded. But I should not like to go into that theoretical aspect of the question.

Sometimes back during Question Hour I wanted to know from the hon. Home Minister as to how many of his junior officers in PEPSU have superseded their seniors and how many officers had been asked to proceed on forced leave and all that. If this House would have been favoured with an adequate information, then it would have been proved how even the present regime is being adjusted to suit the convenience of a particular party, namely the Congress. I think it will be very improper on my part if I make a reference to them by citing their names.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please don't.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: No, Sir. I do not want to embarrass the hon. Home Minister but the impression is there and he would do well to dispel that impression by placing such facts as are in his possession. If our complaint was against the Rarewala Ministry

that they wanted to spoil the free flow of administration by bringing in favouritism, by bringing in certain considerations, which do not ultimately contribute to a healthy administration, the same things are being perpetrated today, if I may be permitted to say so with all respect.

Before resuming my seat, I would only observe that it will be a very happy occasion indeed when this • black interregnum, however bright it may be, will end there and a popularly elected Government will take its place in PEPSU to run their own affairs.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Dr. Katju.

PROF. G. RANGA (Madras): What? "After him, will there be no discussion?"

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is the Minister in charge of the Bill.

DR. K. N. KATJU: Mr. Deputy-Chairman, inasmuch as a reference has been made to me by my friend Mr. Mazumdar, I just venture to intervene for a very few minutes and deal with one particular aspect of the matter which has been emphasised, which has nothing to do with the Appropriation Bill or with the contents of the Budget which was passed in the House of the People. Reference was made to parallel Government, panchayats and what I saw when I visited Patiala and this particular territory. Now, Sir, I do not want to go into the past history as to why the President decided to take over the administration of the State in his own hands. There were many conditions; which brought about this action on the part of the President. The Ministry had broken down. The Election-Tribunal declared many seats vacant; there were many vacant seats in the State Legislature of 60 people and we thought that the Constitution had broken down there. And then there was the law and order situation. The House will remember that only two months since the Adviser took over—and I claim on his behalf that—he has

done well and he has brought about a sense of security and stability in PEPSU. I went there myself in, I think, August last and I took some trouble in touring, on a very hot day, some of the villages where, I venture to say colloquially, there was some sort of a parallel Government. I do not use that phrase of my own invention; I only repeat what I saw with my own eyes. I saw, as I said, Biswedars. There was a complaint that Biswedars had been murdered. On the other hand, I saw young people, one or two, with their hands amputated, and Biswedars came along and said that they dared not occupy the villages where they had their own homes. When I went to some village there, I was told with great pride that not a single penny of rent had been paid nor a single penny of revenue for years and years. I complimented them and I told them: "Well, this is Swaraj. You pay neither revenue nor rent". And they said "Here our *Pan-chayats* have been established who try all sorts of cases, rape cases and even murder cases and we impose our punishment, we impose fines". Well, I think that is a parallel Government. What does a 'parallel Government' mean? It means that the writ of the State does not run in any particular part of any State; well, that particular part has ceased to be governed by the State Administration. No police, no rules, no courts, and the people a law to themselves in this particular village. I saw a Bisweddar sitting there. They said, "Here is an admirable young man"—I complimented him. "We have conferred upon him a certain portion of land and he is cultivating it". Now, the Adviser has gone there. I do not know, but instructions may have been issued to the Communist Party in PEPSU from my hon. friend from Calcutta or Bengal, or from my hon. friend from Orissa, or from my hon. friend from Bombay who form the Central Council of the Communist Party of India that they had better pay up now and the old days are gone, and the result is that over three lakhs of rupees have been realised from these tenants, wil-

lingly given, on account of arrears of rent, arrears of revenue, and there is no more of that old sort of *bandobast*. They realise that they are all subject to the law of the land. I think that is an achievement of which the Adviser can be proud.

SHRI M. S. RANAWAT (Rajasthan): Don't you think these tenants are admirably disciplined?

DR. K. N. KATJU: My hon. friend was very angry about the Biswedars. As was said in the House of the People, the word biswa represents 1/20th, or whatever it may be, of a bigha.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: I said only what is contained here (holding *some papers*).

DR. K. N. KATJU: A Bisweddar may be a huge proprietor owning 10,000 acres of land, or a Bisweddar may be owning only 25 *bighas* or 10 *bighas*. He may be just a peasant proprietor. It all depends. So, there is no odium attached to the word Bisweddar. Please remember that PEPSU consists mostly, I believe, of the old Phukian States, and their system of administration was entirely different, Patiala, Jind, Nabha and all the other States which constitute the Phukian States. Even the land system was different/ and the whole administration was run on different lines, and democratic institutions have now been introduced and progress has been made. The House will remember that this Adviser regime or the President's rule is not going to be a permanent feature. It will be a negation of democracy if it were to be so. We propose to give the people an early opportunity, as soon as the electoral rolls are ready, for expressing their own will and sending to the Legislature their own elected members and then they will be able to manage their own affairs.

PROF. G. RANGA: Does it mean many months or many years? What does 'early opportunity' mean?

DR. K. N. KATJU: 'Early opportunity' means some months, but I can-

[Dr. K. N. Katju.] not exactly specify the time. I said in the other House and I believe I said here also that it will be only a question of months. Please remember that in a House of 60 we never expected that there would be as many as 18 or 17 vacancies caused by the unseating of different candidates, and that would have meant a miniature general election. Four of the Ministers out of a Council of six had been unseated. That was one of the causes that we thought that we had better step in. There was also the general lawlessness in the State prevailing. That was the cause. So far as the actual administration is concerned, it is primarily the function of the people of the State and there is no question that we would 9 A.M. stand in their way. Now, I suggest that we will have another Bill today here, on which I shall be asking the House to allow the President to make laws and those laws will come before you. Some of them deal with agrarian problems—with other problems also. The time factor should never be lost sight of. The police there is a sort of amalgam of different police forces from different States, of different grades of efficiency. It is very easy to say that when the Adviser goes there, he should do away with the police. The police can only be drawn from particular areas. If that area or if that particular State consists of peasant proprietors, small Biswedars or big Biswedars, then naturally the services are drawn from the ranks of the people. The police have been drawn from the Biswedars both high and low, small and big, and the result is that we have got to deal with that police. The officers are not trained. Great efforts are being made to train these officers. Officers are drawn from the Punjab. I am glad to report that there is noticeable improvement both in detection and investigation and in the morale of the police. But it cannot be done as if by a magician's wand in the course of a day. I therefore suggest, Sir, that so far as the law and order situation is concerned, it has definitely improved. So far as the restoration of the respect for law

is concerned, that has also improved, and people who were defying the law—I am not talking here of dacoities and such things, people defying the law in the name of different ideologies—have come to realise that the law of the land will prevail and they will all be subjected to the law of the land. Of course, there is every opportunity for everybody to have the law amended; you may have tenants who cannot be evicted from their holdings; you may have* deductions of rent; you may have anything you like, but it must all be done in a lawful manner, and people must not be allowed to deal forcibly with such questions and compel people to leave their homes and go away under the threat of violence and murder. I am talking of both sides.

SHRI B. GUPTA (West Bengal): Yes, it is very clear!

DR. K. N. KATJU: And then there is the usual declamation against the Rajpramukh and the privy purse and allowances. I have dealt with them over and over again. It is a question of constitutional guarantees. I entirely agree that it is in the power of this House and the other House to amend the Constitution, but we have given our word and we would not like to withdraw it. I will only say this: You may have complaints against the system of Rajpramukh on the ground that it is a hereditary institution. I can quite conceive of an argument built on that ground, but please remember that, even if you have a Head of the State just as you have the Governors in Part A States, then the expense of paying for that Head of the State is going to be larger, if not considerably larger, than the expense you incur on a Raj-pramukh for functioning as the Head of the State. I am speaking from personal experience because I have been in that capacity in two States.

Then about the High Court and the merger question. I made it clear when the general question of PEPSU was under consideration, that the Government had no intention whatsoever of

taking up this larger question of merger of PEPSU with East Punjab, because that is a matter entirely to be dealt with on different considerations, on which the opinion of the people should be expressed in a constitutional manner, but so long as there is a B class State, then every B class State and every A class State must have a High Court. You cannot do away with that. You must therefore have a High Court. I don't know what was the point made about that. May be, an argument in favour of merger. Then that question arises. I don't want to take up any more time of the House. My hon. friend will deal with the Budget in all its proper aspects.

SHRI KARTAR SINGH (PEPSU): Mr. Deputy Chairman, the time allotted for all stages of this Bill is two hours. Of course, with regard to this Appropriation Bill, I have simply to make a few suggestions. So far as the Budget and the Appropriation Bill goes, it was fully discussed in this House on the 27th and 28th March this year. We had general discussions on the Budget and there was also discussion with regard to the sum of Rs. 8 crores that is included in this sum of Rs. 18 crores of the present Bill. We have to see what has happened and what are our immediate needs after the assumption of office by the Administrator. So far as the question of this Appropriation Bill goes, my only submission with regard to this matter is that since the formation of this Union, for the last 4 or 5 years the Budget had been prepared by Sardar Gian Singh Rarewala in various capacities and so far as the Administrator is concerned, we all know that he took charge only on the 10th March 1953 and the date of the White Paper on PEPSU 'Budget was 14th March 1953. It shows that the Budget was prepared by the previous Government which was incurring expenditure; therefore this Bill which is in terms of the grants passed by the other House relates to something which was done by the previous Government and no major change could have been expected in the present Budget.

Demand 39 in this Bill relates to a sum of about Rs. 32 lakhs to be paid to the ex-Rulers of these States. The amount is required in the year ending 31st March 1954 to defray the expenses in connection with privy purses and allowances of ex-Rulers of integrated States and allowances of their relatives and servants. The sum is charged on the Consolidated Fund of PEPSU. This is not an item which could be voted by the House of the People and only some discussion could be had on this item. So my submission is this. Our experience during the last few months or say, 2 or 3 years, of what we have been seeing in these B States is that the Constitution of India requires to be amended. There is a certain sum charged on the Consolidated Fund of the State or on the Consolidated Fund of India and the persons who take advantage of it are naturally expected to be impartial and not to take part in politics. That should be the general rule. With regard to the payment of privy purse to the ex-Rulers my experience of PEPSU has convinced me that these ex-Rulers who are granted their allowances and emoluments out of the Consolidated Fund are not using the same in a proper manner. A sum of about Rs. 10 lakhs is paid to the Patiala ex-Ruler and Rs. 5 lakhs to the relations of the Patiala Maharaja. Similarly in the case of Faridkot there is another lakh of rupees for his brother and relations. Similarly there is provision for ex-Ruler of Nalagarh and others. One of the objects of the President's rule is that we should restore decencies in public life in PEPSU. But we have found that these ex-Rulers have been playing a vital part with regard to the decency or otherwise in public life. Experience shows that so far as Patiala goes, practically all his relations stood as candidates in the last elections. Similar is the case with Faridkot etc. The point that I want to make out is that all those persons, who are paid privy purses out of the Consolidated Fund of the State, should be ineligible for election to the State or the Central Legislature, that there should be an amendment of articles

[Shri Kartar Singh.] 102 and 191 of the Constitution and of section 7 of the Representation of the People Act. It is a dangerous principle that the very persons who get money out of the funds of the people should spend that money for their own elections against the same people. That should be taken into consideration because that is a matter relating to B States only as the rulers of these erstwhile States get the money out of this fund. So a suitable amendment is sought in this connection in the Constitution and the Electoral Law so that persons receiving privy purses should be disqualified for election.

My second submission is with regard to the law and order condition in the State. After the assumption of powers by the President, I can say, without fear of contradiction, - that the people of PEPSU have heaved a sigh of relief. Previously the law and order situation had practically broken down and now there is marked improvement in the situation. That goes without saying. On going through the speeches in the other House in connection with the Appropriation Bill, the point made by my friends opposite in this House also was that in fact there was no change in the law and order situation, and the hon. Finance Minister stated in the Lower House that facts will prove that the situation has improved. The hon. Home Minister also stated today here that there is marked improvement in the law and order situation. The Central Government also has done much in this case. They have lent 2 companies of the Central Police Reserves to PEPSU and they are doing very well there. They are independent people and they are dealing with the situation all right.

There are then statements made by my Communist friends. I have also got two statements by two different persons in this connection, one by Sardar Hukam Singh in the other House to the effect that the situation of law and order in PEPSU cannot be said to have improved to that extent

and that it was possible that the police did not record the F.I.R. and so did not register the cases and they do this with a view to show that the number of crimes in PEPSU has decreased. I have got another statement and that is by Sardar Bhupendra Singh Mann, who made it on the third of this month as the Secretary of the National Front Party, and he has said that it is a tall claim to say that the situation has improved in PEPSU. Further he goes on to say that the present Government has drawn an iron curtain over the happenings and these have not been recently reported in the Press. So we have two statements made by two responsible persons, one by Sardar Hukam Singh and the other by Sardar B. S. Mann, ex-Minister of the previous Ministry. According to the statement, made by Sardar Hukam Singh, one cannot be sure that the situation in PEPSU in the matter of law and order has improved because the police does not record the crimes, or to put it in legal terms, F.I.R. are not recorded by the police so that the real state of affairs is not known. That is the statement made by Sardar Hukam Singh. Many points were made out during the discussion that took place on the proclamation of the President's rule in March, in this House and the other House and figures were given in this House and in the other House. Hon. Members of the Opposition from PEPSU gave figures to show that the situation of crime in 1952 in the United Front regime in PEPSU was better than what it was in 1951. But here are two statements (by two responsible persons of the United Front Party) which go to show that the PEPSU police cannot be depended upon for the figures given out because the F.I.R. is not recorded in many cases. That is what I stated last time when the question was raised here. The police were not recording the F.I.R. and the statement made by the hon. the Finance Minister goes to show that there was some truth in the statement that the police were under the influence of the Biswedars. So

far as the Police Department is concerned, there is some truth in that. If you take all this together, one comes to the conclusion that the state of affairs, so far as the officials are concerned, is hopeless, though one of the main purposes for which the Administration was taken over by the President was the eradication of corruption and the toning up of the Administration. The officials are not functioning properly, according to these two statements. But such statements should be made only after careful study. The fact remains that since Mr. Rao took over, things have improved and the police should now be behaving better.

There was another point. Mr. Rao in the course of a public statement had said that the Biswedars had given shelter to dacoits. Here is another statement by Sardar Dara Singh (recently a Minister in the Rarewala Ministry) on the question made on the 13th of April 1953 at a big conference. Sardar Dara Singh in his speech at Dam Dama Sahib observed as under:

"Mr. Rao had made a statement accusing the Biswedars that they (the Biswedars) provided shelter to the dacoits but if we say the same thing against Biswedars we are dubbed as Communists. But still S. Gian Singh and his colleagues are all through supporting the Biswedars".

He has accused the Biswedars of providing shelter to the dacoits, and has said that no action had been taken against them. This is a statement made by a gentleman who was only two months ago a Minister in the State. I was not satisfied with the statement made by the hon. Finance Minister in the other House and this statement was referred to also by my Communist friend yesterday. The hon. Finance Minister said there was truth in the allegation that the Biswedars gave shelter to the dacoits, but in the absence of concrete evidence, no action was possible against the

Biswedars. Now, this is a matter on which I wish to join issue with him. Here is the statement of the hon. Finance Minister. There is the admission of Mr. Rao, the Administrator. There are also the statements of those other gentlemen who were occupying responsible position in the State. Still no action was taken against a single Biswedars. May I ask what is the Preventive Detention Act there for?

A point was made by the hon. the Home Minister last year on the debate about Preventive Detention Act that while there are cases in which there is no concrete evidence against a man and still we find that he is harmful to the public, the Preventive Detention Act will be put into use. When we find that a man is charged with a substantive offence and there is not much evidence against him which justifies his conviction in a court of law, a point was made, that for purposes of preventing people from committing the same offence the Preventive Detention Act would be used and that is the purpose for which it was enacted. We have here the statements of the Ministers and of the Administrator that the Biswedars are helping the dacoits, by giving them food, shelter and ammunition and if there is not concrete evidence against them, what is the reason that not a single Biswedars has been detained under the Preventive Detention Act? But the question is why there is no concrete evidence? The answer is supplied by the hon. the Finance Minister himself. He says. "The fact is that important posts in PEPSU are held either by the Biswedars or their relations". So in that case how could you get concrete evidence. I appeal to the House just to think of the position that on the one side the F.I.R. is not recorded (that is the allegation made not by me but by the hon. Members opposite) by the police because they are under the influence of the Biswedars and they are going to harp on the tune of the Government, whatever is in power. My submission is that I was not at all satisfied when the [Finance Minister said that there was

[Shri Kartar Singh.] not concrete evidence. Immediate action should be taken against the Biswedars who are sheltering the da-coits against whom, if the contention of Sardar Bhupinder Singh Mann and Sardar Dara Singh is correct, there is an iron curtain and that is due to the fact that the Biswedars are holding important posts there. I would, through this House, request the Minister in charge to please note that Mr. Rao may be instructed to see that action is taken against the Biswedars under the Preventive Detention Act. Once you apprehend one or two of them you will find that the law and order situation for the improvement of which powers taken over by the President will improve further so that there will be no curtain, as they say, on the situation of crime in PEPSU.

Then there is the other point. We were told today by the hon. the Home Minister that a Bisweddar is one who owns some land, even a *biswa* of land. *Biswa* is one-twentieth of a *btgha*. To me this is not correct. It is the same thing as to say that one who is named as Jagir Chand is a jagirdar while in fact he may be penniless or a richman is named Garib Chand. Bisweddar does not mean who owns a *biswa* or about 50 square yards of land. Bisweddar does not mean so in PEPSU. Just as in U.P. the word zamindar is used. The word zamindar may mean one who owns agricultural land, whatever its area. It may even mean less than a *biswa* or 50 square yards. It may be 5 square yards or that zamindar is one who tills the land but it does not mean that in U.P. In U.P. zamindar is one who is a big landlord and who has got tenants under him. That is why we say 'abolition of zamindari' abolition of the system of zamindars holding big lands. In PEPSU, a Bisweddar is one who is a big landlord and has got tenants, sufficient number of tenants and sufficient property, whether occupancy tenants or non-occupancy tenants, tenants-at-will or tenants for a fixed period, whatever the case may be.

With regard to this, since an assurance was given in the other House and in this House, I quite associate myself with Mr. Reddy and some Communist friends on the other side and the other gentlemen that the eviction of tenants must stop forthwith. The question is why so many tenants are going to be evicted in this season. The law in PEPSU is that all revenue court decrees and Revenue Officers' orders for the eviction of tenants are to be executed from the 1st day of May to the 15th of June each year. So, this is the season for the eviction of tenants. If there is a loophole in the law and if we find that a number of tenants are going to be evicted, then (of course we are going to confer the power of legislation on the President, this is coming in this House either today, tomorrow or on Monday) the first thing that the President should do would be that he should enact legislation for PEPSU for the purpose of staying the eviction of tenants forthwith. We, Congress Members from PEPSU are at one with my hon. friends on the other side ■ that the eviction of tenants must stop forthwith and this should not be allowed to go further.

Then there is the other point about legislation. Of course I will deal with this matter when the question of the delegation of power to the President will be discussed and I will give his- • tory of the agrarian reforms in which I am very much interested and for ■ that also immediate legislation should be brought. That would be a separate matter and I shall deal with it later on.

There is the point about Sales Tax. So much of income is derived from Sales Tax in PEPSU and we have to pay Sales Tax on the necessities of life, things which are so essential for the life of the community and the hon. the Finance Minister stated in the other House: "It must be admitted that Sales Tax was not in accordance with the Essential Goods Act which was passed by Parliament". This statement was made by the hon. the

Finance Minister in the other House and my submission with regard to the Sales Tax is that all the goods essential for the life of the community, including all those in the list under article 286(3), should be exempted in PEPSU and thus essential goods prevented from being unduly taxed.

Before this we were told that there were three legislations and two more may be added and these five may be passed as President's Act very soon and any delay in this matter would be very harmful to the people. Sales Tax may be maintained but a different Act may be enacted. With regard to eviction of tenants, a suitable enactment, immediately stopping eviction of tenants, may be undertaken forthwith so that the poor common man may also feel that the President has done something in the matter.

Of course, there are other cases also where there is immediate need. One of them is the top heavy Administration of PEPSU. There are so many Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries, Under Secretaries and so on and they themselves sometimes do not know what is the function that they are to do. There are «o many Assistant Secretaries, Under Secretaries and Deputy Secretaries that sometimes they do not know who oi them has to deal with a particular matter, although there is a good number of them. So with a view to effect •economy in this direction a retrenchment committee should be set up to see what economy is possible and what retrenchment could be made accordingly. There are also the Custodian, Muslim Evacuee Property, the Director of Rural Rehabilitation, the Director of Urban Rehabilitation and the Director of Land Records. I think two in place of four will do to hold all these departments instead of these departments being held by different persons. These things, if done, will have a good effect.

, Then about elections, because every -time the point is made that election should be held very early. After going through the statement of Sardar

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Bhupinder Singh Mann to the press and the speech of Sardar Hukam Singh in the other House by which they tried to make out that things are hopeless there and the law and order situation is not improving; it appears to me that they have inadvertently made out a strong case for not holding early elections in PEPSU. My submission is that there should be no elections in PEPSU till the law and order situation improves to such an extent that my friends opposite also admit that now there is no lawlessness and that election could be conducted in a fair and impartial manner as there is law and order in the true sense of the term and people are not threatened by the dacoits and Biswedars and people begin to feel that now is the time for the election, the situation is normal and that election might be held. It is only then that elections should be held for the State Legislature in PEPSU.

With these words, Sir, I resume my seat. Thank you, Sir.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FINANCE (SHRI M. C. SHAH): Sir, my task has been lightened by the Minister of States having spoken on the law and order situation. I find, Sir, that except my friend Mr. Mazumdar no Member of the House has stated that the law and order situation is not improving. As a matter of fact, Mr. Reddy at the beginning of his speech admitted that the law and order situation is improving and I am grateful to the House for, except my Communist friend, nobody has controverted this fact that the law and order situation is improving.

My friend the States Minister had given certain facts and figures and I may inform the House that from the figures that I have got and which I shall presently give, it will be clear that the law and order situation has very much improved. I have taken the figures for the months of March and April of the years 1952 and 1953 just for purposes of comparison because the President's rule was brought into being in March this year and the

[Shri M. C. Shah.] Administrator had taken charge. Murders in March and April of 1952 taken together were 62 whereas for the corresponding period in 1953 they were 46. Dacoities for the two months in 1952 were 16 and for the same period in 1953 they were 2. I have also got the report from the Administrator that there was no dacoity in April this year. Burglaries last year during March and April were 256 and the same this year during the corresponding months were 152. Robberies in 1952 (March and April) were 49 and they in 1953 (March and April) were 33. All reported crimes in 1952 came to 1,845 and they have come down to 1,123 in 1953. It will take time. Sir, for all these things to be brought practically to nullify. Now there is also the report that a batch of nine proclaimed criminals voluntarily surrendered to the Adviser on the 4th April 1953. Thereafter dozens of more outlaws and offenders have been voluntarily surrendering, some to the Adviser and some to the police. From that figure, Sir, it will be very clear that the Administration is taking very active steps to bring the law and order situation to normal conditions.

Now about the police there were criticisms and here also I have got certain figures to show how the Administrator has taken very strong action against some of the corrupt officials. It was stated, Sir, that in the police force there are quite a number of police officers belonging to the class of the relatives of the Biswedars and the ruling princes. It is a fact, Sir, and it is an unsavoury fact, but then PEPSTJ had to take them on in terms of a Covenant, and it is not possible to get rid of all of them in a summary way as suggested by some Members. Well, action has always been taken against officers who were found dishonest or whose conduct was unsatisfactory. At present 1 Superintendent of Police is under suspension on charges of corruption and proceedings have been started on charges of misappropriation, etc. against another. 3 Superintendents of Police were compulsorily retired owing to their un-

satisfactory work. 10 Sub-Inspectors of Police have been dismissed from service on other charges of corruption or for other irregularities and 20 have been compulsorily retired on similar charges. It will thus be seen that Government are fully alive to the gravity of the problem and every possible step is being taken to improve the general tone of police administration. It will take some time before the general tone of the PEPSTJ police can be brought up to the level of a Part A State. This is due to circumstances inherent in the legacy received by the new Union from various Covenanted States.

It was also stated, Sir, that shelter was given to the dacoits by certain Biswedars. Enquiry has been made, and the enquiry made shows that there is some substance in the allegation and some of the Biswedars concerned have been warned by the District Magistrate-not to give any sort of help to dacoits. It was not possible to take any criminal action against them owing to lack of concrete evidence.

SHRI B. GUPTA: May I know, Sir,, if any enquiry was made to find out whether any of the police officers was related to the Biswedars?

SHRI M. C. SHAH: I have already-said this. I have given detailed information. I also said that certain action has been taken against the police-officers for corruption, etc. During this short period sufficient action has been taken. In some cases there was no concrete evidence, that is to say that there was not enough evidence to prosecute them. It is also because—perhaps my hon. friend is aware of this—that there is separation of judiciary-and executive in the PEPSTJ and so, when a man is to be prosecuted there must be enough evidence to get him convicted and because it was not there in some cases that action could not be taken.

Then my friend Mr. Mahanty who is suffering from expertphobia is unfortunately not here to hear the reply-to the points made by him. He wanted rather to say that on the Bhakra-Nangal Project a good deal of money

is being wasted by calling foreign experts. That matter has been discussed over and over again on the floor of this House and elsewhere also. The Prime Minister has often stated that if it is absolutely necessary to have that technical skill from outside there can be no objection to bring the foreign experts. As he has already stated, the Bhakra-Nangal Project will cost about 156 crores and if for the success of this project we are to get experts from outside India, who are well versed in these river valley projects, I do not think there can be any objection. That Member said that because of that, some 20 lakhs will be wasted or something of that sort he said. The Bhakra-Nangal Project is a very important project undertaken by the Government under the Five Year Plan and as I have already told you, it will cost 156 crores of rupees. The total area covered by this project is 58'62 lakh acres of which Punjab is 3854, PEPSU 10-88 and Rajasthan 9:2 lakh acres, these areas will be irrigated under that project. At the same time there will be electricity also. Therefore, Sir, even if we spend on foreign experts, I am sure, that will be saving crores of rupees because of their experience in **these** river valley projects. Sir, I will not take up the time of the House by giving all the facts about Bhakra-Nangal and the advantages that will accrue to PEPSU when the whole project is completed. I would only say this that we should not grudge a few lakhs of rupees if we had to spend on foreign experts. It can be objected to only if indigenous skill is available and is rejected. It is not a case of rejecting the indigenous expert skill available here and importing foreign experts. Sir, this is an oft-repeated slogan that I have heard on the floor of this House. My hon. friend Mr. Mahanty and some other Members always object to foreign experts, perhaps on sentimental grounds, but when huge projects are involved sentimental feelings should not come in the way.

Then, Sir, Mr. Reddy has made certain points as also my friend Mr. Kartar Singh about the eviction of tenants. I think that aspect had al-

ready been dealt with here by the Finance Minister in his reply to the general discussion on the Budget. Sir, he had already stated that there is already in force in PEPSU the PEPSU Security of Tenure (Temporary Provisions) Act, 1952. The chief object of this Act is to stop the wholesale eviction of tenants-at-will in areas by persons owning more than 100 acres. Tenants in areas owned by persons owning less than 100 acres are liable to be ejected only when the owner is going to take up self-cultivation and I may say that practically in all other advanced States there is that kind of legislation. So these evictions are allowed by law only in certain cases which may be regarded as equitable. This, Sir, is the position in regard to agrarian reforms. He also mentioned about the Bills that are under contemplation. I will not tire the House by reading about all those Bills that are under contemplation. One has already got the approval of the President. There are others which were passed but before they can be taken over, there was this President's rule. Another Bill has been sent back by the Planning Commission.

Now, a question was raised with regard to the compensation to be paid and it was stated by my friend Mr. Mazumdar, who is not here now, that we had not accepted the recommendations of the Venkatachar Committee. I should say this is incorrect. No such recommendation was made. The hon. Member had stated that the Biswedars were not entitled to any compensation and he based his argument on certain observations made in that Venkatachar Committee Report. The Venkatachar Committee had just traced the origin of the Biswedari system and they had not stated that the Biswedars were not entitled to any compensation. So the statement made was not correct. As a matter of fact, Government have accepted most of the recommendations which are being incorporated in Bills. The principle of • compensation for extinction of Biswedari rights was accepted by the Committee and therefore that point does not arise.

LShri M. C. Shah.]

Then there were two or three points made by my friend Mr. Reddy and they were in regard to certain cases. He said something about one Mr. Inder Singh, a Harijan of Samana. The house of Inder Singh was searched by a Sub-Inspector of Police on the 19th April 1953 and some jewellery suspected to be stolen was taken possession of from there. Inder Singh was alleged to have been taken away by the Sub-Inspector of Police with him and it was stated that he had been ill-treated by him and kept in wrongful confinement. Inder Singh appeared before the Superintendent of Police on the 28th April 1953. There were marks of some simple injuries inflicted with a blunt weapon on his person. A case was registered on his statement under Section 348 I.P.C. and the Sub-Inspector Bhajan Singh, the police officer concerned, was placed under suspension. The case is being investigated by a senior officer under the supervision of the Superintendent of Police. Enquiries are also in progress about the suspected stolen property taken possession of from the house of Inder Singh.

He also said about certain cases of blackmarketing. He had alleged that one Congressman was involved. He was informed that he was a Socialist Praja Party man. I may say that it is correct that three cases under Section 7 of the Essential Supplies Act were registered in May 1951 against Messrs. Anant Rai and Mangat Rai of Dhuli on the allegation that the firm had made some transactions in cotton at a price higher than the controlled price of the commodity and the person named also was one of the partners of the same firm and that person was arrested on the 13th July 1952. Then later on the Rarewala Government decided to drop all the 26 cases which had been registered for similar offences against various firms and therefore the case against that person was also dropped. So there was nothing, as far as the Administration was concerned, to show that any favour was shown to Congressmen or to members of a certain political party.

Then, Sir, it was stated that the President's regime in PEPSU was being prolonged and that elections would not be held soon. As a matter of fact, Government are very anxious to have this President's Administration limited to the utmost minimum period necessary and all preliminary work connected with elections is being proceeded with. If I give out the particulars, hon. Members will find that the Administration is rather in a hurry to have the elections as early as possible. Before the introduction of President's rule in PEPSU, the Rarewala Government had prepared a programme according to which the preparation of electoral rolls was to commence on the 1st April 1953. The printing was to be completed by the 15th December and final publication was to take place on the 15th January 1954. That was the programme of the late Ministry there. Now, in order to see that no avoidable delay occurs in the holding of elections, the Chief Election Commissioner recently paid a visit to Patiala and in consultation with the Administrator approved a programme according to which the printing of electoral rolls should take place in October 1953 and the final publication in November 1953 instead of 15th January 1954 as programmed by the Rarewala Ministry. It will thus be seen that the present Government's programme is two months ahead of the last Government and so Government cannot be charged, with any justification, that it is keen to continue the President's rule there.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY (Mysore): Does the printing of electoral rolls mean automatically the holding of elections?

SHRI M. C. SHAH: The Finance Minister has already stated in his reply that the elections will be held as early as possible. No definite date can be given. It is the anxiety of Government to have a representative Government in PEPSU as early as possible. That is all I can say.

SHRI RAMA RAO (Madras): Is there a demand for any elections in PEPSU?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order, order.

SHRI M. C. SHAH: Now, Sir, there was something said about economy and other matters. They were all replied to in the general debate and I do not think we need go into it again.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We have to close all stages of the debate by 10 o'clock.

SHRI M. C. SHAH: I am sorry I have taken more time. There are so many points but I do not think that within the time at my disposal I can reply to all of them. So, Sir, I move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Patiala and East Punjab States Union for the service of the financial year 1953-54, as passed by the House of the People, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted..

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up clause-by-clause reading. There are no amendments of which notice has been received.

Clauses 2 and 3 and the Schedule were added to the Bill.

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

SHRI M. C. SHAH: Sir, I move that the Bill be returned.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill be returned."

SHRI B. GUPTA: Mr. Deputy Chairman, at this stage it is not possible to participate in a general discussion, nor perhaps is it permissible by you. But

certain references have been made by the hon. Home Minister which were uncalled for. He took the opportunity of making the usual police propaganda by trying to explain the situation in PEPSU through making fantastic allegations against the Communist Party. It is undoubtedly a good performance for an hon. police Minister, but it certainly does not present the true picture of the situation there. It should be known to the party in power that the situation became what it is today as a result of political intrigues and machinations on the part of the Congress Party on the one hand and the Rarewala Ministry on the other. The situation presented a spectacle of the devil and the deep sea. Naturally one could not find a solution within that framework. Taking advantage of the constitutional crisis, they went there to restore what they call law and order. But they did not hit out against the princes and feudal lords, the Biswedars and the landlords who are at the bottom of the situation. On the contrary, they sought to protect them. Now the hon. Home Minister, who is not here, tells us that he has established law and order. From there another hon. Member, sharing the same side and the same elegance which belongs to that side, said that law and order had not been restored. We can quite understand the situation, because as long as the feudal elements are there, as long as the princes are there, as long as the landlords are there, and as long as the police and the administration remains in the grip of such people, you cannot get law and order restored, because it is these people who are the champions of disorder.

Now, about the Rajpramukh, the honourable Home Minister said, 'Well, if you do not have the Rajpramukh, you will have a Governor, and the Governor would cost as much as the Governor of Bengal*—which place he occupied at one time. Wonderful argument! I ask: Why should we have a Governor at all? Let us abolish the whole institution of Rajpramukh, and if possible, the institution of Governor also. It is no argument to say that be-

[Shri B. Gupta.] cause you abolish the institution of Rajpramukh you must have another Katju sitting as he sat in Bengal and eating away public money.....(*Time bell rings.*) Turn away the Rajpramukh from the State. Come here with an amendment of the Constitution. It will not take you two minutes, provided you are so minded, to abolish that horrible institution which you have created as a result of your unholy communion with the princely order. The honourable Dr. Katju does not understand all this because he is politically committed to the princely order. His constitutional points are only a cover to hide the political intrigues and machinations that preceded the arrangements. Therefore, let us not have such childish arguments. It does not behove a man of his standing and legal experience to trot out such fantastic and inadmissible arguments.....(*Time bell rings.*) Abolish this institution.....

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order, order. The hon. Member will have ample time on the next Bill. There is no time now. The hon. Minister. Any reply?

SHRI M. C. SHAH: No reply, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be returned."

The motion was adopted..

10 A.M.

THE INDUSTRIES (DEVELOPMENT AND REGULATION) AMENDMENT BILL, 1953

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI) : Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to amend the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951, as passed by the House of the People, be taken into consideration"

Sir, I would like to say a few words about the scope of this amending measure.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND (Hyderabad) : On a point of order. This regulation comes under article 369 as a temporary measure.....

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let the Bill be moved first.

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: Sir, the House would certainly like to know, before considering this measure, about the working of the parent Act. The Industries Advisory Council which according to the Act was constituted in May last year met twice, once in May and again in October. The Council constituted a sub-committee to scrutinise the licences that are granted under this Act. That sub-committee met once. The Licensing Committee constituted under the Act has been meeting regularly every month. The other aspects of the measure, namely, granting of licences and registration of undertakings, have been going on smoothly. The number which applied for registration was 3,562 and the number that were granted registration was 2,241. I would like to explain the disparity between the number that have applied and the number that have been granted registration. It is because quite a number of industries that do not really fall within the purview of this Act, industries which were excluded by the scope of section 4, which is now sought to be amended by the present amending Bill, had applied, and therefore there is this disparity between the number that applied and the number that were granted registration. The number of licences applied for for new undertakings was 189 and the number granted licences was 80. It does not really mean that there were plenty of rejections. In fact there were only two appeals against rejections so far, and one appeal has been recommended to be allowed by the sub-committee of the Industries Advisory Council, which Government accepted. In many cases the application* Iter licences were returned ask-