

COUNCIL OF STATES

Saturday, 2nd August 1952

The Council met at a quarter past eight of the clock, MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

RESIGNATION OF SHRI P. B. THACKER

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have to inform hon. Members that Mr. Premji B. Thacker has resigned his seat in the Council of States with effect from the 26th July 1952.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIR

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have to tell you that the Council will also meet on the 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th August 1952 and, maybe, we may have to have afternoon sessions but that will depend on the rate of progress that we make.

THE ESSENTIAL GOODS (DECLARATION & REGULATION OF TAX ON SALE OR PURCHASE) BILL, 1952

SHRI T. V. KAMALASWAMY (Madras) : On a point of order, Sir, we have already had the Prevention of Corruption (Second Amendment) Bill 1952 moved, and in fact the hon. Minister was in the middle of his speech.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Will you please explain ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE (SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI) : Sir, my Bill had preference over the Bill of my hon. friend, Mr. Biswas, but somehow or other, Mr. Biswas came first and I was relegated to the background. It has been brought to my notice that in the meantime some of the States are going forward with some additional sales taxes. It seems to me that they are racing with us just to have their Bills passed before we come out with our proposals. Therefore I would request you and the House to accom-

modate me, because we want to get this Bill through, before the Bills in Bombay and Madras and elsewhere progress further. I would like, Sir, this Bill to be passed by Parliament before they (States) are in a position to have their Bills passed.

SHRI J. R. KAPOOR (Uttar Pradesh) : Could not the Central Government issue a directive or even a request to the State Governments not to hurry through their Bills. I am not opposed to this Bill being taken up now. The hon. Minister of State for Finance has said that these States are hurrying through their Bills. Cannot the Central Government request the State Governments not to hurry through with their measures ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Under the Constitution the States have complete autonomy so far as this subject is concerned.

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI : As hon. members have rightly pointed out, it is not possible for us to intervene. They have a monopoly of Sales Tax. They cannot pass these Bills because they know that the Constitution is so worded that whatever measures they pass in regard to articles not declared by Parliament to be essential for the life of the community will have effect. It is because of this we are in a hurry.

SHRI J. R. KAPOOR : I do not suggest that the Central Government should intervene, but is there not a little amount of co-operation between the State Governments and the Central Government ? It is more a question of co-operation rather than a question of intervention.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE (West Bengal) : I am faced with a little difficulty. That difficulty is technical, but the point that was raised by my hon. friend was not with regard to the urgency of the measure. I agree with the hon. Minister that we should push up this Bill as early as possible and pass it. I also find co-operation among the Ministers as to who should move his Bill first and who should move his Bill thereafter, but the point is