

SHRI C. C. BISWAS : I do not wish to say anything more at this stage. I have already dealt with it exhaustively.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The question is :

That the Bill further to amend the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1947, as passed by the House of the People, be passed.

The motion was adopted.

SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES OF MINISTERS BILL, 1952

THE MINISTER FOR DEFENCE (SHRI N. GOPALASWAMI) : Sir, as my hon. colleague, the Home Minister is engaged in the other House, I beg to move :

That the Bill to provide for the salaries and allowances of Ministers, as passed by the House of the People, be taken into consideration.

Sir, I do not think any long speech from me is necessary to commend this motion to the House. The question of Ministers' salaries has engaged the attention of the two Houses and the public for some time. I believe it figured also prominently in the course of the election campaign and there has been sensed a general feeling of discontent with the amount of salaries that Ministers of the Central Government have been receiving. The Government took note of these facts—these developments in public opinion—and after giving it a great deal of thought came to the conclusion that response

should be made to public opinion in this regard. As hon. Members know, the Salaries and Allowances of Ministers Act, which is now in force provided for three classes of Ministers, namely, Cabinet Ministers, Ministers of State and Deputy Ministers. That Act fixed the salaries and allowances of these three different categories. For Cabinet Ministers it fixed a salary of Rs. 3,000 per month with a furnished house and a sumptuary allowance of Rs. 500 per month. For Ministers of State the salary is the same, namely, Rs. 3,000 per month, but they are not entitled to a free furnished house nor are they given any sumptuary allowance. Deputy Ministers' salaries were fixed at Rs. 2,000 without a free house or any sumptuary allowance. That is, under the law, the state of things. When after the elections were over the new Ministry was constituted, out of the Ministers of State who had been previously in office one was retained as a Minister of State and the other Ministers were divided into two categories—Cabinet Ministers, and Ministers of Cabinet rank not in the Cabinet.

SHRI H. N. KUNZRU (Uttar Pradesh) : It is past six. Would it not be desirable that my hon. friend should speak tomorrow, so that what he says may be fresh in the minds of hon. Members ?

SHRI N. GOPALASWAMI : I have no objection.

The Council then adjourned till a quarter past eight of the clock on Tuesday, the 5th August 1952.