

[Mr. Chairman.] amendment. I put it to the House.

The question is :

That the following be added at the end of the original motion :

"and having considered the situation approves of the steps taken so far in the matter ."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

That the Council do consider the situation in regard to the State of Jammu and Kashmir and having considered the situation approves of the steps taken so far in the matter.

The motion was adopted.

SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES OF MINISTERS BILL, 1952 —continued.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We now get back to the discussion on the Salaries of Ministers Bill.

PROF. G. RANGA (Madras) : Up to what time are we sitting today ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : 6 o'clock.

SHRI K. B. LALL (Bihar) : When I was dealing with the salaries of Ministers, I was pointing out the example of the great patriot saint of Bihar, Sir Ganesh Dutt Singh and on that basis, I would request the hon. Minister who is in charge of the Bill that he should consider whether it would not be advisable to withdraw this Bill and fix the salaries of Ministers in that way, so that Ministers may get their salaries and may not be open to attacks.

An atmosphere has been created in the country by so many parties who want to preach a different philosophy imported from other countries and gradually we are also rather falling a victim to that sort of propaganda so that in our mind and heart we have also begun to feel like guilty persons. And it is only an expression of that kind that has compelled this sort of Bill to be brought forward. I would suggest that our

Leader should take courage in his hands and should revert to the old method, of course I do not say for all the time, but till they have determined what should be the state of society, how they should run the society, whether we are ultimately going to fall a victim to the philosophy of the foreign land or we are going to stick to the philosophy preached by Krishna and Gandhiji. This is a good opportunity for us. If Gandhiji says that we should preserve this present form of society, those of us who are possessed of wealth, who are possessed of property should feel that they are trustees on behalf of the poor people. So this is the best opportunity to put into practice the philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi. If the Ministers draw, say, Rs. 5,000 and if they do not make any claim to a furnished house or to motor allowance or anything of that sort ; these things spread and people say, "look at the house they have got, look at the car which is provided and so on." Why should there be such propaganda against them ? The best course would be, as they used to do in the previous regimes—they used to pay income-tax, they used to pay house rent, they used to have their own cars and get allowances according to fixed rules and regulations—now, the only amendment that I would propose is that they should voluntarily form a society of their own and should act just as Sir Ganesh Dutt Singh did—he took Rs. 4,000 but gave Rs. 3,000 away to the Trust and ultimately he was able to give lakhs and lakhs to the Patna University. Similarly it would be better if our Ministers were to do the same. They should have a control over their own salary and give out to the world that they are in no way less capable than their Secretaries. They can prove their worth above their Secretaries that while they are drawing Rs. 5,000 they are able to make a gift of Rs. 4,000 for public charity. In big cities in India, many poor people require homes to live in. There are persons who sleep on the footpath of Delhi and if such big enterprises are taken with the help of the gift—from Ministers' salaries, that will be catching the eyes of the people. That will

be a propaganda by itself. People will say these are the monuments of Ministers' sacrifices. Because the Ministers have sacrificed, these poor people have got homes. If such things are done—and there are many things that can be done, hospitals may be opened and so on—that will go a long way and that will be a symbol of their earnestness to build up a society on the pattern prescribed by Mahatma Gandhi. That will show that they are really following Mahatma Gandhi's principle and want a new sort of society. Today in these hotch-potch conditions because somebody calls me cheap I have to look round and see whether I am really cheap or not. That makes us guilty before the world. Actually there is no guilt. If we want to set an example to society on the pattern of Mahatma Gandhi we should do so and confront the other philosophy. I think our friends of the opposition are not bad. They are noble and they are actuated by good motives. But at the same time I feel that philosophy that is being imported into this country has vitiated and polluted the atmosphere in the land. It is taking us down to perdition and we do not know where it will stop. They have done away with God. They have done away with Nature. Where are we going, I do not know. They have disrupted the family. One day they will say there is no necessity for this institution of marriage. Now there is no relationship of father and son. Who knows.....

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA (Madras):
Where did you get all this information ?

SHRI K. B. LALL : They have no sentiments. The only sentiment that counts with them is the sentiment of economy ; but this is false economy. And similarly our Ministers too should not fall victims to this false economy. The proposed measure is no measure of economy. Is it a measure to produce any psychological effect ? Even there I feel this step will not create the desired effect. What is the economy effected if

you save a few lakhs of rupees from the Ministers' pay ? What effect, what psychological effect will this have as compared with the psychological effect that will be produced by a step like the one I have described ? I know what effect the present step will produce. If the Ministers take only Rs. 2,000 as pay, the demand will be to reduce it to Rs. 1,000. They will ask, "Why do you take as much as Rs. 2,000 ?" If you come down to Rs. 1,000, the demand will be to reduce it to Rs. 500. And if you come down to even Rs. 500 still they will ask you, "Why do you take this sum of Rs. 500 ? You should show magnanimity by working honorarily."

SHRI B. GUPTA (West Bengal): Why don't you come down to Rs. 500 and see what we do ?

SHRI K. B. LALL : There is no end to such demands. I do not know what sort of demands will satisfy our friends who want to change the structure of society. If you want to give new structure to society, then I say this is the opportune moment, the opportune occasion when the Ministers should try to do that. They can give society a new and fresh structure only by following the path shown by Mahatma Gandhi. I do not, by this suggestion mean that I am opposing this measure. I am surely behind Government in this measure. All the same I feel within myself that this is a wrong measure and it will not help in any way the situation in the country and it will not improve matters in any way. Rather, it will prove to the world that up till now they were robbers and today they are correcting themselves to some extent. Still, they will be open to this attack that you are robbing to the extent of Rs. 2,000. This sort of action with a guilty mind will not help them, this half-way house measure will not correct the situation. It will be corrected only by taking courage in both hands and asserting that we want to reshape society. At the same time, appoint a Planning Commission and let there be a standard of life for the nation to be determined. When we have standardised national living, then

[Shri K. B. Lall] don't have any soft heart for those who draw Rs. 4,000 and Rs. 3,000. Most of them are not fit even for unlacing the laces of some of the Members. I don't mean to abuse them. I know there are good men, but I don't believe that the men in the services are worth their weight in gold. Those very persons are getting paid for abusing Mahatma Gandhi to their heart's content. Most of them are patriotic but then, this very salary of Rs. 3,000 or Rs. 4,000 which they are drawing is proving that there is very little of patriotism in their hearts. Does the sacrifice on the part of Ministers help them? Are they at all feeling that they also owe their duty? If, as is said, they are worth their weight in gold, how many of them have come to make voluntary sacrifice? I think none of them. I think they are trying to prevent the revolution which Mahatma Gandhi brought out. The revolution has failed because of this attitude of these officers. Those are the individuals who believed that Mahatma Gandhi is a mad-cap. They said "He wants to get 'swaraj' by going to jail, by boiling down the ocean's water." All these things were said by those people who beat us and those who* put us in jail. Now, they are having a lion's share as the prize of independence of the country.

(Time bell rings.)

If we want to set right the matter, the only course is to reshape society on the pattern of Mahatma Gandhi. That will take away the ground from under the feet of our hon. friends here who want to import a particular philosophy from another country, a Godless philosophy. They think that that will set right everything and that will set right even the mentality of our own people. Our people feel guilty because the others call them guilty. That sort of mentality must go. Our Ministers must take courage in their hands and fix a salary. There is a difference between the Prime Minister and the other Ministers. In this way, they will be more respected in the country rather than if they follow the other way. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE (Hyderabad) : Could we know if there is going to be any evening session tomorrow?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, there is an evening session from 3 p.m. to 5-30 p.m. The way in which we are proceeding, you will have to.

SHRI TAJAMUL HUSAIN (Bihar) : Mr. Chairman, I have risen to support the Bill in its entirety. Sir, this is a very simple measure. It only decreases the present emoluments of the Ministers and the Deputy Ministers. Well, Sir, they are the best judges of how much they should get. They have decided that they will decrease their own salary and we shall be happy about it. It has been said today that Mahatma Gandhi supported the Karachi Resolution as regards Ministers' getting Rs. 500 per month. I am sure, Sir, if the Father of the Nation had been alive today, he would have blessed this Bill also because Rs. 500 twenty years ago would be the same as Rs. 2,250 of today.

Sir, I don't wish to make a speech. There is nothing much to say about it. I wish to ask a few questions from the hon. Leader of the House in charge of the Bill.

No. 1 : Why is there no mention of Parliamentary Secretaries' salaries in the Bill?

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA (Uttar Pradesh) : They don't draw any salary.

SHRI TAJAMUL HUSAIN : May I know why no salary has been fixed for them and why D. A. has been fixed for them?

My second question is that the Chief Whip of the Party in power as Minister of Parliamentary Affairs draws a salary as a Minister. Why should not the Deputy Chief Whip, who has as much work here as the Chief has in the other House, also get a salary as a Deputy Minister? If he is not a Deputy Minister, why not make him a

Deputy Minister and give him a dary ?

Then I would like to know also whether a separate Bill is going to be brought ? Why are the emoluments of our Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Speaker and the Deputy Speaker not mentioned here ? I am afraid the Member of the House has not heard my last question.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has.

SHRI TAJAMUL HUSAIN : He is talking with the Chief Whip.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Order, order. The Member is complaining that his question is not noted by the Minister.

SHRI TAJAMUL HUSAIN : My last question is—I will repeat it—why the salaries of our Chairman, Deputy Chairman, the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker are not mentioned in this Bill. Do Government intend to bring another Bill for that purpose ?

My last suggestion is that when you advance money to a Minister to purchase a car for his own use, I think no interest should be charged for it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No interest to be charged ?

SHRI TAJAMUL HUSAIN : Yes. In all States Ministers get free cars. I know some change them after every year. Rs. 20,000 is spent every year. Why should a Minister in the Centre pay interest when he gets a car at his own cost ? Advance may be made for buying a car, but no interest should be charged on the advance.

ANNOUNCEMENT

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House stands adjourned till 8*15 tomorrow. There will be a session in the afternoon from 3 to 5 • 30.

The Council then adjourned till a quarter past eight of the clock on Wednesday, the 6th August 1952;