

areas which are normally covered by the Indian lines; and

(b) whether Government have decided to revise the agreements with the foreign shipping lines and if so; the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (DR. G. S. DHILLON):

(a) There is evidence to indicate that some foreign non conference shipping lines are operating their vessels in India's overseas trade in which Indian Lines have been operating as members of Conferences and joint shipping services.

(b) No, Sir. However, Government is considering measures for protecting the interests of Indian shipping in India's overseas trade.

FAREWELL TO SHRI B. N. BANERJEE THE RETIRING SECRETARY-GENERAL AND WELCOME TO SHRI BHALERAO THE NEW SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE RAJYA SABHA

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have to inform the House that Shri B. N. Banerjee has retired from the office of the Secretary-General of the Rajya Sabha with effect from the afternoon of April 1, 1976.

Born in 1916 and educated at Calcutta, and London School of Economics, Shri Banerjee joined the Bengal Judicial Service in 1942. After a meritorious record of service there, Shri Banerjee joined the Ministry of Law, Government of India, and also served as Legal Adviser to the High Commissioner for India in London. In 1956 he joined the Rajya Sabha Secretariat as Deputy Secretary and in 1963 he was promoted as Joint Secretary in that Secretariat. He was appointed as Secretary of the Rajya Sabha in October, 1963. Consequent on the redesignation of the post of Secretary, Rajya Sabha, as Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha, he was appointed to that post in November, 1973.

Shri Banerjee worked as Secretary to this House for more than 12 years and his picture was marked by considerable changes, both constitutional and procedural. He set a unique record of service to our House

and helped in maintaining the highest traditions of Parliamentary system. The Rules of Procedure went through several substantial changes during his term of office and he had made important contributions to the same. His relationship with all members of the House was very cordial and he was always available to them for giving whatever assistance or advice asked irrespective of their party affiliations.

He accompanied several Parliamentary Delegations abroad and attended many Presiding Officers' Conferences and Conferences of the Secretaries of various State Legislatures.

He also actively participated in the Twenty-first Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference held in New Delhi in November last year wherein India played the host.

With his vast experience and sound knowledge, he was of great help to me since I became the Chairman and he gave good advice on complicated procedural matters.

His relationship with officers and his subordinates was also very cordial and he was sympathetic to all members of the staff whenever they had any difficulty. By his dealings he endeared himself to all those who came in contact with him—Ministers, Members and Officers alike and he enjoyed the love and confidence of them all.

On behalf of the House, I pray for his sound health and long life.

I have also to inform the House that I have appointed Shri S. S. Bhalerao, our Additional Secretary as Secretary-General of the Rajya Sabha.

Educated at Ferguson College, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics and Law College, Poona, Shri Bhalerao started his career as Assistant Secretary in the Hyderabad Legislative Assembly. Later he joined the Law Department, Government of Bombay and came over to the Rajya Sabha Secretariat as Deputy Secretary in November, 1958. He was promoted as Joint Secretary in that Secretariat in December, 1963 and Additional Secretary in December, 1974.

I am sure Shri Bhalerao will follow the parliamentary traditions and conventions laid down by his predecessors.

SHRI OM MEHTA : Sir, as just now told by you, we see a change in the House today. A seat which was being occupied by Shri Banerjee for the last 12 years is now occupied by Shri Bhalerao, who used to sit on the right side of Shri Banerjee.

AN HON. MEMBER : He was sitting on the Chairman's left.

SHRI OM MEHTA : Yes, on his left.

Sir, I extend to him our sincere congratulations and good wishes for a successful term in this high office. Shri Banerjee, I am sure the whole House will be happy to know it, will take his seat with us tomorrow. The President has been pleased to nominate him as a Member of this august House. Shri Banerjee is a person of rare qualities. With all his high academic distinction—he is a Barrister and LL.M. from London and a Gold Medalist—he is a man of extreme modesty. He joined the Rajya Sabha Secretariat in the year 1956 as a Deputy Secretary and earned his promotion to the highest office by merit and unstinted work.

During the last twenty years he has grown into an institution in this Parliament House and Members, irrespective of their party affiliations, always went to him for help and guidance in their parliamentary work. His advice was always correct and earned for him the respect and admiration of all Members including Ministers.

He has served a galaxy of Chairman of the Rajya Sabha including you, Sir, as told by you just now and, I hope, I will not be considered presumptuous if I say that he was held in esteem and trust by all of them.

Sir, his nomination to the Rajya Sabha is a fitting tribute to his excellent record of good work and his high personal qualities as the foremost servant of the Rajya Sabha.

To me personally, Sir, Shri Banerjee has been a close friend and I have found collaborating with him always most fruitful

and purposeful. I am happy that his association with the Rajya Sabha continues. He has now a wider field to serve not only the Parliament but the country as a whole.

Sir, on behalf of all Members of the Rajya Sabha I offer him our very warm and affectionate felicitations and good wishes.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal) : Sir, I join you in expressing our deep satisfaction and admiration for the services rendered to this House by Mr. Banerjee over the past two decades. As has just now been pointed out, an inarticulate and yet not a Member of the House and yet a Member, he would now be an articulate Member of the House and naturally his services will now be available not in the form of advice that he may speak from that chair which is just below you but in the speeches and other contributions that he would be making. We will naturally be happy to have him with us.

Sir, I have watched Mr. Banerjee maintain the high traditions of the House from this office functioning as the Secretary-General not of any individual party or group of individuals but of the House as a whole. The reflection of the collective sense of responsibility that attaches to that office is of high significance not only for the office itself but for the work of the House.

Mr. Banerjee, Sir, if I may say so, belonged to the same College to which I belonged, namely, the Scottish Church College. Though I was not there for long—because I was arrested after a year—he continued and studied there. I did not know him personally there but when he came to the House I at once found a man of distinction who understood the problems of the House and who tried to help the Members; that was very very important.

Sir, he was a communication channel between the Members of the House on the one hand and the Chair, on the other. As you know, Sir, sometimes it is very difficult to reach the Chair and much more so to convince it. Mr. Banerjee acted as a good mediator to synchronise the role of the Chair and that of Members of the House in such a manner that the House

[Shri Bhupesh Gupta]

functions in excellent symphony of democracy; and that happened. Sir, his informed silence in the House helped the House to be more and better articulated and that again is a tribute to him.

Sir, I need not say very much about him because he will be here and we will be talking to him and he will also be speaking. When Mr. Mukherjee was here when I came first who had a part in drafting the Constitution of the country, he was an eminent Secretary and his place was well filled by Mr. Banerjee.

Today, I must say, we have another man in whom we have great faith and for whom we have great love and affection, who is occupying Mr. Banerjee's place, Mr. S. S. Bhalerao. We are, indeed, very happy that one of us has occupied this position. Sir, we have never treated them—the Secretary-General and other officials of the House—as anything but a part of ourselves and I do hope, Sir, that that tradition will be maintained, Sir, therefore, one who has gone, has left a high tradition; one who has come has grown in that tradition and I am sure, Sir, the dynamics of that tradition will be carried forward.

Sir, you have also a great responsibility and before I sit down, I would only like to say that this office is a very important segment of the House. They do not speak but without them we cannot function. Without their help, without their understanding, without their guidance, without their sympathy, without their corrective influence, it is very very difficult, Sir, for us or for you to function in this House. Therefore, they occupy, if I may say so, a strategic point in the parliamentary institution, silent and yet vocal, passive and yet active in that sense, in the House. Therefore, I do hope Mr. Bhalerao will be carrying forward the high qualities of Mr. Banerjee and the traditions that he left in this House.

Finally, I would like to say that the Secretary-General shall always function as the Secretary-General of the House as a whole. That is very very important. He has in him the trust of the whole house placed. The quality and excellence of his

work will be tested by the manner in which he responds to the temper, the mood, the aspirations and the urges of the entire House. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI SALIL KUMAR GANGULI (West Bengal) : Sir, Mr. Banerjee was very impartial and helpful to the Members always. He is very unassuming, although he is a very learned and competent man. Because of his sympathetic and considerate behaviour, polite behaviour towards the staff, he used to get the fullest co-operation of his subordinates which has made this institution of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat one of the finest institutions in India.

Sir, Mr. Bhalerao who is succeeding him is very capable and a nice gentleman and I am quite sure, he will be able to maintain the high traditions left by Mr. Banerjee.

श्री ओडम् प्रकाश त्यागी (उत्तर प्रदेश) :

सभापति महोदय, मुझे बहुत गौरव अनुभव हो रहा है माननीय वनजी साहब के संबंध में दो शब्द कहने के लिये। मैं उन के संपर्क में आया। उन की अपने विषय में योग्यता अगाध है और जितनी अगाध योग्यता है उतना उन में अभिमान उस योग्यता का और क्षमता का बिलकुल नहीं है और सब से बड़ी विशेषता जो मैंने उन में पायी वह यह है कि पार्टियों के झंझावात से दूर रह कर उन्होंने अपने कर्तव्य का बड़ी ईमानदारी से पालन किया और किसी भी पार्टी का कोई भी आदमी जब कभी भी उन के संपर्क में आया और उन से सलाह ली तो उन्होंने बड़ी ईमानदारी से और योग्यता के साथ उस को अपना सहयोग प्रदान किया और मैं तो यहां बैठा हुआ सदन में देखता रहता था, अपने निधमों और कानून में वह इतने माहिर थे, इतने योग्य थे कि ऐसा लगता है कि तमाम कांस्टीट्यूशन उन के दिमाग में खेलता रहता है। जब कभी भी कोई उलझन खड़ी होती है, देखता हूं कि वह खड़े होते हैं और चयर के सामने अपनी ओपीनियन पेश कर देते हैं; तो उन की क्षमता और योग्यता को देखते

हुए और उन्होंने तटस्थ मनोवृत्ति के साथ सदन के प्रति ईमानदारों के साथ जो कार्य किया है उस के लिये मैं सम्झता हूँ कि पूरा सदन ही उन की सेवाओं के प्रति उन का हृदय से आभारी है और मैं अपनी पार्टी की ओर से उन के प्रति आभार प्रकट करता हूँ और सरकार को भी धन्यवाद देता हूँ इस बात के लिये कि उन्होंने यह निर्णय लिया कि उनकी सेवाओं के प्रति सम्मान प्रकट करने के लिये उनकी योग्यता और क्षमता से सदन को लाभ उठाने के लिये सदस्य के रूप में उनको नामजद किया जाय। साथ ही भालेराव जी, जिन का उनके स्थान पर आगमन हो चुका है, का अभिनन्दन और स्वागत करता हूँ। उनके भी सम्पर्क में मैं आया हूँ। उनका जितना मधुर स्वभाव है और सहयोग की भावना है वह सचमुच सराहनीय है। योग्यता उनकी भी कम नहीं है। मैं आशा करता हूँ कि जिस पद को उन्होंने सुशोभित किया है उसकी परम्पराओं को निभाने में अवश्य सफल होंगे। मैं परमपिता परमात्मा से प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि इस चेंबर पर जिस पर वह विराजमान है उन्हें अपने कार्य में सफलता प्रदान करे।

SHRI T. N. SINGH (Uttar Pradesh) : Sir, I pay my small tribute to Shri Banerjee, whom I have known since 1964 rather closely, ever since I came to this House. I was always impressed by his knowledge of the procedures and the rules which should govern a democratic institution like this august House. I must also put on record that his advice was available to both sides of the House freely and fairly, for which he richly deserves our tribute and thanks.

Sir, in this regard, I hope you would give the same heed to his advice, which you have been giving so far, when he sits here as an Independent Member and not as a Member of any party. This is what I expect.

Sir, Mr. Bhalerao has been a neighbour of mine, besides being associated with us in this House. I know him well. I have been impressed by his erudition and scholarship

and his general behaviour towards the Members of the House. I think he richly deserves the distinction which has been conferred on him. I am sure he will not only keep up and maintain the traditions built up so far, but will also help in seeing that this august House really becomes the citadel of democracy in this country.

SHRI GODEY MURAHARI (Uttar Pradesh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have been presiding over the House whenever you have been leaving the Chair. I have been associated with Mr. Banerjee not only as a Member, but also as the Deputy Chairman of the House. I must say that but for Mr. Banerjee, my task would have been very much difficult. On many occasions I have found that the Presiding Officers have to rely entirely on the Secretary-General for his advice and for his knowledge of the rules and procedures, the precedents set up in the House, the conventions followed in the House and so many other things. Mr. Banerjee has not only distinguished himself as a good administrator—I know how he administered the staff and the Secretariat of the Rajya Sabha—but he has also distinguished himself as one who moved with the Members and, I should say, tried to probe into their minds because, at times, it is very important that the Secretary-General knows in advance what the Members think so that he could see to it that there is proper functioning in the House. We are all apt to commit mistakes sometimes. Therefore, it is necessary that one should know what the Members want or what the Members really think is important because the Members may come up with so many issues before the House. Unless you know what is really important for the Members, it is very difficult to satisfy the Members and in this respect, I think, Mr. Banerjee has been very useful to the House because he had tried to go and talk to the Members, befriend the Members and at times, saw to it that they had no grievance at all while functioning in this House. I think this is very essential for any Secretary-General, and with all the experience he has had in this House and with the friendship that he was able to build up with most of the Members who came into this House, he had endeared himself to all

of us. Therefore, we would have, perhaps, felt his absence as Secretary-General. But we are glad to hear that he will be nominated to this House and so, he will always be available to us for advice and guidance whenever we need it from him. It is a good thing that an ex-Secretary-General with such vast experience as he has had not only in constitutional and legal matters but also in the functioning of this House would be available to us for advice. Sir, I would personally like to thank him for all the co-operation and assistance that he was able to give me in the discharge of my duties.

At the same time, Sir, I would like to welcome Mr. Bhalerao to his new job. Because he has been with us, I do not think we will miss anything that way, Mr. Bhalerao will be administering the Secretariat as Secretary-General and Mr. Banerjee will be a Member of our House, and thus we will have both of them. Mr. Bhalerao has had a lot of experience in our House and he has been administering the Secretariat along with Mr. Banerjee. I think we are very fortunate to have a smooth change-over in the Secretary-General's post.

Therefore, Sir, I would like to take this opportunity of congratulating both of them.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now let us go on to the next item.

SHRI T. N. SINGH : Sir, before you go to the next item, may I raise a point of privilege? I hope you will permit me.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let the papers be laid on the Table.

SHRI T. N. SINGH : Sir,

MR. Chairman : You have not given any notice.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Annual Report (1972-73) of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi and related papers

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI KEDAR NATH SINGH): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Annual Report of the Indian Council of Agriculture-

ral Research, New Delhi, for the year 1972-73, together with a statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the Report. [Placed in Library See No. LT 10613/76].

The Indian Telegraph (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 1976

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (5) of section 7 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Communications Notification G.S.R. No. 420, dated the 20th March, 1976, publishing the Indian Telegraph (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 1976. [Placed in Library See No. LT 10588/76].

Annual Report (1974-75) and Accounts of the Bharat Gold Mines Limited, Oorgaum and other related papers

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers :

(i) Third Annual Report and Accounts of the Bharat Gold Mines Limited, Oorgaum, for the year 1974-75, together with the Auditors' Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

(ii) Review by Government on the working of the Company. [Placed in Library See No. LT-10589/76 for (i) & (ii)]

Annual Report (1974-75) on the working of Industrial and Commercial Undertakings of the Central Government

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA): Sir, on behalf of Shrimati Sushila Rohatgi, I beg to lay on the Table a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Annual Report on the working of Industrial and Commercial Undertakings of the Central Government for the year 1974-75 (Volumes I to III). [Placed in Library. See No. 10607/76].