



THE
SENATE OF PAKISTAN

DEBATES

OFFICIAL REPORT

Saturday, August 23, 1975

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SENATE DEBATES
SENATE OF PAKISTAN

Saturday, August 23, 1976

The Senate of Pakistan met in the Senate Chamber, (State Bank Building), Islamabad, at half past ten of the clock in the morning, Mr. Chairman (Mr. Habibullah Khan) in the Chair.

(Recitation from the Holy Quran)

DEFERRED STARRED QUESTION AND ANSWER

(Originally set down for reply on 20th August, 1975)

Mr. Deputy Chairman : Yes, Item No. 2—questions. I think a question was deferred on that day. Will you reply that question because I do not see any person on that side is present.

Malik Mohammad Akhtar : Yes, Sir. This question is in respect of direct recruitment in Baluchistan. I am going to answer.

Mr. Deputy Chairman : Now, it is question No. 2. Who will ask that question? Leader of the House might ask this question.

Rao Abus Sattar : Sir, question No. 2, on behalf of Haji Sayed Hussain Shah.

**BALUCHISTAN QUOTA IN DIRECT RECRUITMENT TO VACANCIES
IN GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF PAKISTAN**

Haji Sayed Hussain Shah : Will the Minister for Fuel, Power and Natural Resources be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of posts in various grades in the Geological Survey of Pakistan filled in by direct recruitment during the years 1972-73, 1973-74 and 1974-75 ;
- (b) the number of posts, out of those mentioned in (a) above, which were allocated to the Province of Baluchistan ;
- (c) the number of persons belonging to the Province of Baluchistan appointed against the posts reserved for the province ; and
- (d) if any of the above posts reserved for Baluchistan has not been filled in by appointment of a candidate belonging to that province, the reasons therefor ?

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Grade No.				

1972-73 1973-74 1974-75 1975-76 1976-77 1977-78 1978-79 1979-80 1980-81 1981-82 1982-83 1983-84 1984-85 1985-86 1986-87 1987-88 1988-89 1989-90 1990-91 1991-92 1992-93 1993-94 1994-95 1995-96 1996-97 1997-98 1998-99 1999-00 2000-01 2001-02 2002-03 2003-04 2004-05 2005-06 2006-07 2007-08 2008-09 2009-10 2010-11 2011-12 2012-13 2013-14 2014-15 2015-16 2016-17 2017-18 2018-19 2019-20 2020-21 2021-22 2022-23 2023-24 2024-25

and one in 1974-75 on ad hoc bases as the selected candidates from other provinces did not report for duty at Quetta.

Against 245 posts reserved for direct appointment 62 persons of Baluchistan domicile are already working in the department whereas their entitlement does not exceed 8 per cent on quota basis. In spite of this 4 persons were employed in 1973-74 and one in 1974-75 on ad hoc basis as the selected candidates from other region did not report for duty at Quetta.

Note.—Posts in grades No. 1 and 2 are filled on zonal basis. There is no quota for the said posts. The posts in grade No. 4, 10, 12, 13, 14 and 15 are filled on promotion basis and selections are not made through direct appointments.

Malik Mohammad Akhtar (Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs) : Sir, it is on behalf of Haji Syed Hussain Shah, and I reply it on behalf of Mr. Mohammad Yousaf Khattak. Sir. (a) to (d)—Complete information is given in a statement placed on the table of the House in respect of question. No. 2 on the 20th August, 1975. Sir, we are repeating the same statement. Other explanations will be given when the supplementaries are asked.

Mr. Deputy Chairman : You are not amending that statement ?

Malik Mohammad Akhtar : No, Sir. We had some explanations and I hope that explanation will be sufficient when the supplementaries are put.

جناب نعمت اللہ شنواری : ہمارے پاس سوالات کی کاپی نہیں ہے -

جناب ڈپٹی چیئرمین : آپ کے پاس کاپی نہیں ہے - یہ ایک کاپی انہیں دے دیں -
سینئر شنواری صاحب کو -

سردار محمد اسلم : جناب والا ! یہ سوال اس دن ملتوی کیا گیا تھا - کیونکہ سپلیمنٹری کے جواب میں وزیر موصوف کی طرف سے chair کو request کی گئی تھی مکمل جواب کیلئے سوال تو defer کیا جائے اب دوبارہ جب یہ سوال آئے تو اسی طرح کا printed statement ٹیبل پر رکھ دیا گیا - ساتھ وزیر موصوف نے فرمایا کہ سپلیمنٹری پوچھیں تو پھر explanation دیں گے -

ملک محمد اختر : وہ explanation پہلے بھی دی جا سکتی ہے اگر آپ اجازت دیں اس سے شاید آئریبل ممبر صاحب satisfy ہو جائیں -
جناب ڈپٹی چیئرمین : رولز پرمٹ نہیں کریں گے -

I think, the Rule will not permit because this is a question asked under the Rules. Now, under the Rules a person can raise a supplementary.

سردار محمد اسلم : میں سپلیمنٹری پوچھتا ہوں - انہوں نے گریڈ ۱۷ میں کہا ہے کہ ...

“Out of 50 posts in Grade 17 reserved for the direct appointment, three persons of Baluchistan domicile are already working whereas their entitlement according to quota percentage does not exceed two posts”.

یہ last میں انہوں نے جو already کام کر رہے ہیں وہ کوٹہ میں نہیں ہیں - میں نے پوچھا کہ ڈائریکٹ پچاس آدمیوں کی جو posts تھیں ان میں تین آدمی appoint کیے گئے تھے - یا پروموٹ ہونے اپنے ڈپارٹمنٹ سے اور اپنے ڈپارٹمنٹ سے پروموٹ ہو کر گریڈ ۱۷ میں گئے ؟

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Malik Mohammad Akhtar : Sir, the answer is very simple if your honour looks at the statement. The number of posts in various grades in the Department to be filled in by direct recruitment during the years 1972-73, 1973-74, 1974-75. The answer is 1972-73 Nil 1973-74 Nil and 1974-75 three. So, the answer is there. Three persons have been recruited. Now, Sir; may I add with your permission.

Mr. Deputy Chairman : Excuse me, Malik Akhtar. I would not be able to accept this explanation from myself at-least if not for the House, because the question was asked about the number of posts in various grades in Geological Survey of Pakistan filled by direct recruitment.

Malik Mohammad Akhtar : Sir, let me explain Sir, my answer is 'three persons' I want to state that the question mainly relates to direct recruitment to various Grades in Geological Survey of Pakistan. The quota for Baluchistan for direct recruitment is only 3.4 per cent. This means that unless in any grade the number of appointments is below 25, no person from Baluchistan can be appointed. At page 1 of the statement under Grade 17, it is to be explained that the question relates to only three years, that is 1972-73 and 74. It has already been stated in the remarks column that the total number of posts in the Grade reserved for direct recruitment is 50. This means that on the basis of the quota reserved for Baluchistan at least two persons can be appointed. It is stated that three Baluchistan domicile persons already working in Geological Survey of Pakistan in this Grade. These three appointees are of the period from 72 to 73. So, the question of any direct recruitment when they are already holding posts over and above, their quota does not arise. These three persons are already working. There is no question of any additional direct recruitment during these years in grade 17, and I will be explaining in respect of grade 16.

Mr. Deputy Chairman : Actually, you must be knowing the policy of the Government. The policy was prospective and not retrogressive. Whenever there is a vacancy this percentage will apply. If there had been 15 vacancies, then Baluchistan had a right for 3.5% not otherwise; but if somebody was already working in grade 16 and in grade 16 there were some vacancies and you treated them 3.5% in grade 16 and from 16 to 17 once again you treated them the representation of the province, I think this is not fair. The question is: Was there any direct recruitment for grade such and such if there is any direct recruitment whether after that recruitment policy of the Government that quota was observed or not. Promotion is no answer to that.

Malik Mohammad Akhtar : Sir, my answer is very clear. Three Baluchistan domiciled persons were already working G.S.P. and they have not been given any additional post. I will look into that.

Mr. Deputy Chairman : If this is the answer that no person was recruited from Baluchistan, then the statement on the floor of the House is incorrect. It has to be withdrawn in view of your answer.

Malik Mohammad Akhtar : Let me explain. It may be treated as revised answer. I made a statement, and I can give you a copy of the statement.

Mr. Deputy Chairman : I must see the legal position. If the question is submitted to the Senate, and if that question is withdrawn, whether the first part will be treated as answer or the second part. Let us see the rules.

Malik Mohammad Akhtar : In answer to the Supplementary, I submitted a statement this is a factual statement.

Mr. Deputy Chairman : What is the legal position Malik, Mohammad Akhtar. Whether this revised answer will form part of the record ?

سردار محمد اسلم : کیا وزیر موصوف صاحب ! ایوان کو بتلائیں گے کہ جو پچاس
اسامیاں پر کی گئی ہیں ان میں بلوچستان کے صوبے کو ان کا کوٹہ دیا جائے گا ؟

Malik Mohammad Akhtar : The revised answer will form part of the record. That is why I suggested that it may be sent back. Now, the revised answer is there.

Sardar Mohammad Aslam : What is the revised answer, Sir.

Mr. Deputy Chairman : The revised answer is that no post was given in those 50 posts.

سردار محمد اسلم : جواب میں گریڈ ۱۶ کے against 1974-75ء میں ۲۲ اسامیاں
ریگولر پر کرنے کا بتلایا گیا ہے اور 1974-1975ء کے کالم میں against گریڈ ۱۶ دیا
گیا ہے۔ یہ explanation میری سمجھ میں نہیں آتی۔ یہ سمجھا دیں پھر آگے کوٹیشن
کروں گا۔

Malik Mohammad Akhtar : Sir, I would request the honourable Member to look in the column immediately below the column he has referred to and there it is mentioned against grade 16 that 25 *ad hoc* posts have been given. Now, I will give the statement in respect of Grade 16. In Grade 16 the regular allocation for Baluchistan was 3 but only 1 candidate was eligible. This policy is being followed strictly in all Grades, and none from the other province is being appointed even if the posts remain vacant. For Baluchistan efforts to find eligible persons belonging to Baluchistan will continue till such candidates are available. As far as NDVP appointments are concerned which have been referred to have been in column 1. It is mentioned under Grade 16 that first it is 'nil' then in 1973-74 there are 25 NDVP appointments. So, Sir, the matter is very clear. I think the honourable Senator may very kindly again look into column 1, and he will find that there is mention of 25 NDVP appointments.

سردار محمد اسلم : سپلیمنٹری سر ! جناب والا ! یہ explanation ایسی ہے جس سے میری سمجھ میں کچھ نہیں پڑا۔ اس لئے کہ کالم گریڈ ۱۶ جو ہے دو دفعہ mention کیا گیا ہے۔ ایک میں against گریڈ ۱۶ 1974-75ء میں بائیس آسامیاں پر کی گئیں اور دوسرے گریڈ ۱۶ کے 1974-75ء میں ایڈھاک بیس پر این ڈی وی پی میں پر کی گئیں۔ ریمارکس کے کالم میں یہ لکھا ہے کہ :

“25 appointments on ad hoc basis were made during 1973-74 on the recommendations of NDVP.”

اور دوسرے کالم میں یہ لکھا ہے کہ :

“No one from Baluchistan was recommended by NDVP. It may be mentioned here that against a total of 150 posts direct appointment, 7 persons of Baluchistan domicile are working whereas entitlement of the Province is 5.25 say 5 only.”

explanation میں کہا گیا ہے کہ ایک آدمی کو ایفٹائیڈ ملا ہے اور باقی آدمی متعلقہ کوالیفیکیشن کے نہیں ملے اور جب تک کہ کوالیفٹائیڈ آدمی ہمیں نہیں ملیں گے اس وقت تک بلوچستان کے لیٹے آسامیاں دوسرے صوبوں سے پر نہیں کریں گے۔ اور وہ خالی رہیں گی۔ یہاں پر جواب میں دیا گیا ہے کہ ان کا کوٹہ پانچ تھا اور دو فالتو دی گئی ہیں۔ ان میں ان کا کوٹہ فالتو ہے۔

Malik Mohammad Akhtar : Sir, I will again request the honourable Senator to very kindly look into it, I will read the entire statement. Grade No. 16, 1972-73, Nil ; 1973-74, Nil : 1974-75, 22 Regular ; 1972-73, Nil ; 1973-74, Nil ; 1974-75, three—These are the 3 posts which have been mentioned. Then again in the next year it is 'nil'. Then over all it has been mentioned that 25 appointments on ad hoc basis were made during 1973-74 on the recommendations of the NDVP. Again it is mentioned that no one from Baluchistan was recommended by the NDVP for direct appointment and seven person of Baluchistan domicile are working whereas entitlement of the province is 5.25 say 5 only, and 7 of them are working.

Sir, the matter is very simple, The confusion is only that they are not making direct recruitment in respect of vacancies wherein in respect of those grades persons belonging to Baluchistan domicile are already working and that is creating all the confusion, Sir, and as the House is of the view that no regard be given to the existing ..

Mr. Deputy Chairman : No No Malik Akhtar, you are mistaken. The House has not expressed any view. Many statements on the floor of this House have been made by the Ministers that this quota will be observed whenever there is a new recruitment. So, if there was any recruitment which was earlier

to this policy that will not affect the future employments. This is the policy of the Government and stated before this House many times. So, the House is not expressing any opinion on this question.

Ch. Mohammad Hanif Khan (Minister for Finance) : May I make a submission. Actually, I think there is some misunderstanding. The answer which has been given is more or less of a technical nature. I myself have not been in a position to understand it. But I feel that what happens in certain cases is that because of the urgency of the matter sometimes ad hoc appointments are made without there being any vacancy because the matter is urgent and it is required that somebody should be appointed. Subsequently, regular vacancies are created and these people, who are initially appointed on ad hoc basis, are actually accommodated against those regular vacancies. That is what happens, That is the reason why this point is not being properly explained.

Mr. Deputy Chairman : This statement is not clear.

Ch. Mohammad Haneef Khan : I think the misunderstanding appears to be because of this. But this is the position that ad hoc appointments are made because matters are urgent, some appointments are needed, some work is to be carried out ; and subsequently, these appointments are regularised against vacancies which are subsequently created. That is what happens. That is why it is said so.

Mr. Deputy Chairman : Any other supplementary ?

Mr. Afzal Khan Khoso : Sir, when the ad hoc appointments are made and later on these appointees are absorbed in the regular vacancies what about those persons who have not been taken on ad hoc basis who ought to have been taken from these provinces ?

Mr. Deputy Chairman : It is not actually forming a part of this question and a supplementary cannot be asked if it is not connected with the main question.

Mr. Afzal Khan Khoso : In the sense that those people who have been left out from Baluchistan, for instance, it is written here that there were so many posts on ad hoc basis but none from Baluchistan quota. Now, Sir, when they are actually absorbed in the regular posts would they be considered ?

Ch. Mohammad Haneef Khan : May I answer this question ? I understand the whole question. They have already been absorbed for the simple reason that it is mentioned that the total entitlement of Baluchistan province is this much and against this entitlement so many people have already been appointed. So that explains the position. It is a different thing that while making ad hoc appointments merit is considered by the appointing authority. This is a separate point but 'ad hoc basis' does mean that people are taken without there being any vacancy because of the urgency of the matter. So, these people are accommodated against regular vacancies when they come into being subsequent to the ad hoc appointments.

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Mr. Deputy Chairman : It is enough for this question. I think the Department has not taken care or not bothered to actually fully study this question, therefore, it has created some confusion,

Next is short notice question No. 1 by Senate Afzal Khan Khoso. You have to read this question first.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

SUI GAS TO JACOBABAD

S.N:Q.D. No. 2.

Mr. Afzal Khan Khoso : Will the Minister for Fuel, Power and Natural Resources be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there is any provide Sui Gas facilities to Jacobabad and other towns on the right bank of Indus in the Province of Sind ; and
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor ?

Mr. Mohamed Yusuf Khattak (Read by Malik Mohammad Akhtar) :

- (a) A feasibility scheme for supply of gas to Jacobabad is under preparation. Decision on its implementation would depend upon the economic feasibility and availability of resources.

Some towns on the right bank are already getting gas and some important towns will be considered after the completion of Sui-Karachi Indus Right Bank Pipeline Project.

- (b) In view of (a) above no reply to this part of question is necessary.

Mr. Deputy Chairman : Any supplementary ?

Mr. Afzal Khan Khoso : Would the learned Minister concerned answer this supplementary as to when this feasibility scheme was started and in what stage is it now ?

Malik Mohammad Akhtar : Sir, I will again have to read a small statement. Sir, the Indus Gas Company is responsible for the distribution of natural gas in the province of Sind excluding Karachi. Some of the towns located on the right bank of river Indus have already been supplied gas and they are, Sir, Shikarpur, Kotri, Jam Shoro and Petaro. Besides Amex liquid five petroleum gas stations have also been made available in Larkana and it is being supplied to the consumers on the pattern of natural gas. The Sui gas Transmission Co. are laying a high pressured gas transmission pipeline on the right bank of river Indus and on the completion of the said pipeline which is expected by the end of 1976.....

Mr. Ihsanul Haq : On a point of order. This is not feasibility. He is giving us the details. Mr. Khoso has asked about the feasibility report which means when the survey is conducted of an area what will be the pros and cons, what will be the economic feasibility, when the work will start. Instead of answering these questions, he is reading a statement.

Mr. Deputy Chairman : The problem is that it is not actually his own Division.

Mr. Ihsanul Haq : Then I think, the learned Minister should not make a futile exercise.

Ch. Mohammad Haneef Khan : The answer is very simple because it does not make any commitment as to whether the Sui gas will be provided to this area or not. It is being considered. Feasibility report is whether it is possible to give Sui gas to this area or not and subsequently it will be seen whether it is economically possible. So many things are to be examined.

Mr. Deputy Chairman : Well the question asked by the Senator is when the feasibility study started.

Ch. Mohammad Hanif Khan : This is a simple thing. If he has got the date he can give; otherwise the answer is that I do not have the date.

Malik Mohammad Akhtar : The matter is very simple. I wanted to go in more details. If it is not linked by any of the honourable Senators, I will not give it.

Mr. Deputy Chairman : If it is connected and relevant to the question it may be given.

Mr. Ihsanul Haq : On a point of Order. The question of liking or disliking is not there. The simple thing is feasibility report means the appointment of an agency of consultants or the technical people to prepare technical as well as economical data. These jobs are assigned to persons or to a company. They start the job, there are studies and when such studies are completed there comes the report.

Mr. Deputy Chairman : Senator Ihsanul Haq is it a point of order ?

Mr. Ihsanul Haq : I am explaining the position. There is no question of liking or disliking.

Mr. Deputy Chairman : This is a point of personal explanation.

Malik Mohammad Akhtar : Then I am sorry to say that no positive date can be given at this stage.

Mr. Deputy Chairman : This is the answer.

Mr. Afzal Khan Khan Khoso : My question was not about the positive date. My question was when did this feasibility scheme start and at that stage it is now, as we are at present?

Mr. Deputy Chairman : He has said that he would not be able to answer this question. Probably he requires fresh notice.

Malik Mohammad Akhtar : Yes, fresh notice, Sir.

Mr. Deputy Chairman : Any other supplementary?

Mr. Afzal Khan Khoso : Another question, Sir. What are the necessary qualifications from the point of view of feasibility for the supply of gas? Would the honourable Minister kindly tell this?

Malik Mohammad Akhtar : The supplementary has already been answered. Will the honourable Member look into the answer. The printed answer is there.

Mr. Afzal Khan Khoso : What are the necessary ingredients, Sir?

Malik Mohammad Akhtar : That is already answered in the printed matter which I have read out. I need not repeat that, Sir.

Mr. Deputy Chairman : Senator Ihsanul Haq has annoyed the Minister and, therefore, has deprived the House.....

Malik Mohammad Akhtar : No, Sir, not annoyed. I was trying to give a full explanation. If they want me to go by rules, I will go by rules.

Mr. Deputy Chairman : It is the jealousy between the two Members from Lahore.

Mr. Ihsanul Haq : He is an elder Member, Sir.

Malik Mohammad Akhtar : He is my brother, Sir. But when the answer is already given there in the printed form.....

Mr. Deputy Chairman : But Malik Akhtar, you could have answered that question as to when the work on feasibility report started. If you have that in your brief you can answer the question, and he will be satisfied.

Malik Mohammad Akhtar : I regret I can't give the dates. But as far as the qualifications and what would be the result are concerned, it would be the economic feasibility and availability of resources, and that is already given, Sir.

Mr. Deputy Chairman : No other supplementary? Yes, Sher Mohammad Khan!

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 جناب شیر محمد خان : گیس کے متعلق ہی پوچھتا چاہتا ہوں کہ میں نے بھی یہی پوچھنا ہے کہ کسی علاقے یا ضلع کو گیس دینے کے لیئے بنیاد کیا ہوتی ہے ؟

جناب ڈپٹی چیئرمین : آپ کا سوال تو سپلیمنٹری سوال کی حدود سے نکل جاتا ہے ۔

Next is question No. 2. Yes Senator Afzal Khan Khoso !

Mr. Afzal Khan Khoso : Mr. Deputy Chairman. May I have the permission to read out my question.

Mr. Deputy Chairman : Yes.

AGRO BASED INDUSTRIES IN JACOBABAD DISTRICT

S.N.Q.D. No. 2.

Mr. Afzal Khan Khoso : Will the Minister for Industries be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there is any proposal to establish agro-based industries in Jacobabad District financed or sponsored by Federal Government, its Agencies and Public Corporations, during the current financial year ; and
- (b) if not, whether there is any proposal to establish any agro-based industry during this year's plan ?

Mr. Deputy Chairman : Yes, Syed Qaim Ali Shah !

Syed Qaim Ali Shah Jillani (Minister of State for Industries): Since it is a short notice question, the information is being collected from the Provincial Government and the concerned Federal Agencies, and will be placed on the table of the House as and when received.

Mr. Deputy Chairman . It is a simple answer. There can be no supplementary. No supplementary can be asked on this answer.

(Mr. Afzal Khan Khoso stood at this stage)

Mr. Deputy Chairman : What is the supplementary ?

Mr. Afzal Khan Khoso : Sir, has the honourable Minister got any personal knowledge of any proposed industries ?

Mr. Deputy Chairman : No, it is not a question of personal knowledge. He has to speak from records.

Syed Qaim Ali Shah Jilani : It is not the personal knowledge that counts. But I have told the Senator that the information is being collected, and he has given on Private Member's Day a motion which is going to be debated. I think it is a resolution and I will give him complete information at that time. I might be able to collect the information by that time.

Mr. Deputy Chairman : Thank you. No. 3, Senator Afzal Khan Khoso !

Mr. Afzal Khan Khoso : Sir, may I have the permission to read out this question ?

AIR LINK TO JACOBABAD

S.N.Q.D. No. 3.

Mr. Afzal Khan Khoso : Will the Minister for Defence be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is proposed to link Jacobabad with Karachi and Islamabad by providing PIA flights during the current financial year ; and
- (b) whether Government considers it desirable to open PIA booking office at Jacobabad and provide a coach service between Jacobabad city and Sukkur Airport ?

Mr. Deputy Chairman : Yes !

Maik Mohammad Akhtar (On behalf of Mr Aziz Ahmad) : (a) No,

(b) Not for the present.

Mr. Deputy Chairman : Thank you.

It is item No. 3, Mr. Masud Ahmed Khan !

(Interruption)

Mr. Deputy Chairman : Do you want to ask any supplementary ? There is no question of supplementary. You have given a resolution. Let us speak on the resolution on the day when it comes before the House.

Sardar Mohammad Aslam : On a point of Order, Sir.

Mr. Deputy Chairman : I have asked Mr. Masud Ahmad Khan to present the report. Do you want to ask anything other than the supplementary ?

Sardar Mohammad Aslam : Yes, Sir, other than the supplementary. It is a point of order.

Mr. Deputy Chairman : What is the point of order ?

سردار محمد اسلم : جناب والا ! میں آپ کے نوٹس میں اور آپ کی وساطت سے ہاؤس کے نوٹس میں ایک بات لانا چاہتا ہوں جو کہ کل کی پروسیڈنگ کے متعلق ہے یہ صرف ریکارڈ کی correction کی بات ہے ، complement نہیں ہے کیونکہ ہمارے ساتھ پڑیس والے کم از کم اس وقت تک cooperate کر رہے ہیں آج کل ان کے پاس کام بھی زیادہ ہے اور اخبار میں ان کو جگہ بھی بہت کم ملتی ہے لیکن کل کی پروسیڈنگ جو ہوئی ہے اس میں کہا گیا ہے کہ مسٹر افضل کھوسو کی قرارداد میں ، جس میں جیکب آباد کو ہوائی سروس کے ذریعے کراچی سے ملانے کے لیئے کہا گیا تھا ، سینٹر فاروق احمد لفاری نے ترمیم پیش کی جس پر طریق کار کی طویل بحث کے بعد جناب ڈپٹی چیئرمین جناب طاہر محمد خان نے اپنی رولنگ آئندہ پرائیویٹ ارکان کے دن تک محفوظ رکھی۔ لیکن اصل پروسیڈنگ یہ تھی کہ جناب فاروق احمد نے اپنی امینڈمنٹ جو تھی وہ ورڈز کی تھی اور میری امینڈمنٹ اس میں ریکارڈ کی correction کے لیئے رہ گئی تھی اس پر آئندہ بحث ہونی تھی۔

جناب ڈپٹی چیئرمین : اس میں آپ یہ نہیں کہہ سکتے that it is a wrong reporting بہت سی باتیں وہ نہیں کہتے۔

سردار محمد اسلم : نہیں ، میں یہ نہیں کہتا کہ کاروائی غلط لکھی گئی ہے وہ ۱۹-۲۰ باتوں میں سے ایک دو باتیں لکھتے ہیں It is their option لیکن جناب والا ! ان کی امینڈمنٹ نہیں تھی وہ تو ورڈز ہو گئی تھی۔

Mr. Deputy Chairman : This was also part of the proceedings.

جس کو انہوں نے نہیں cover کیا ہے۔ آپ کہنا کیا چاہتے ہیں۔ آیا بریج آف پروليج ہوا ہے؟

سردار محمد اسلم : بریج آف پروليج نہیں ہوا ہے۔ ان کی جو امینڈمنٹ تھی وہ ورڈز ہوتی تھی اور دوسری امینڈمنٹ میری تھی جو کہ آئندہ بحث کے لیئے رکھی تھی۔ میں آخر سے پڑھتا ہوں کہ جناب ڈپٹی چیئرمین ، طاہر محمد خان نے اپنی رولنگ آئندہ پرائیویٹ ارکان کے دن تک محفوظ رکھی اور اجلاس کل صبح ساڑھے تین بجے تک کے لیئے ملتوی ہو گیا۔ اجلاس شروع ہونے ایک گھنٹہ گزر چکا ہے مگر پھر بھی ساڑھے تین کا ٹائم نہیں ہوا ہے۔

جناب ڈپٹی چیئرمین : اچھا ، اب یہ کل کی رپورٹنگ میں دونوں کو cover کر لیں گے اور اس کی اصلاح ہو جائے گی ۔

سردار محمد اسلم : شکریہ ۔

Mr. Deputy Chairman : No. 3 Mr. Masud Ahmed Khan !

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT RE : THE DIVORCE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1975—PRESENTED

Mr. Masud Ahmed Khan : Mr. Chairman, Sir. I have the honour to present in this august House the report of the Standing Committee on the Bill further to amend the Divorce Act, 1869 [The Divorce (Amendment) Bill, 1975].

Mr. Deputy Chairman : The report of the Standing Committee on the Bill further to amend the Divorce Act, 1869, [The Divorce (Amendment) Bill, 1975], stands presented.

THE GENERAL STATISTICS BILL, 1975—ADOPTED

Ch. Mohammad Hanif Khan (Finance Minister) : Sir, I beg to move that :

“The Bill to constitute certain authorities for the collection and coordination of statistics to facilitate economic and other planning [The General Statistics Bill, 1975], as reported by the Standing Committee, be taken into consideration at once.”

Mr. Deputy Chairman : The motion moved is that :

“The Bill to constitute certain authorities for the collection and coordination of statistics to facilitate economic and other planning [The General Statistics Bill, 1975], as reported by the Standing Committee, be taken into consideration.”

It is not opposed. Yes !

Ch. Mohammad Hanif Khan : *Sir, this this is an important Bill. The idea is to streamline the system of collection of statistics and data which is important for economic and other planning. Sir, in 1947, at the time of partition, a decentralised system of collection of data was inherited by Pakistan, which means that there were cells in different departments of the Government, which used to collect data and it would then furnish that data to the Planning Division, and the ministries for the preparation of future planning. Sir, in 1957, a Central Statistical Office was created, which was converted into

*Speech not corrected by the honourable Minister.

Statistical Division in 1972. But the system did not become very effective and it still suffers with very serious difficulties with the result that the proper planning, economic and other planning, cannot be made. Therefore, it is considered necessary to create certain authorities, both at the Central level as well as at the Provincial level, which would take all out measures to streamline the system, the system of collection of data, which would facilitate the proper planning in future.

Now, Sir, it is also required by the UN resolutions, etc. that we must have a very effective system of data collection. Uptil now the position is that there is no legislation to the effect. Of course, legislation is there in certain cases but even then it is not working satisfactorily, for example, there are certain laws, which I would like to mention, which are already there. There is Industries Statistics Act, 1942, there is Agricultural Census Act, 1958 and the Census Ordinance 1959 and there are some other fragmentary provisions relating to the collection of statistics.

But there is no central authority, very effective central authority, which can make this system of data collection very efficacious and efficient which is very much needed. For example, Sir, there is no legislation, as far as certain very important matters are concerned, as for instance, family income and expenditure, labour force and population growth, distributive trade, small scale household industries, capital formation, construction activity etc. In respect of these very important matters, of course, there is no doubt about it that there are certain agencies which collect data in respect of these industries but still there is no legislation which is needed to streamline, as I have just mentioned, streamline this system of data collection.

Now, the object to be achieved by this Bill is, and this Bill provides for these matters National and Provincial Statistical Councils for regulating and co-ordinating the functions of statistical authorities. Then it clearly defines Federal and Provincial Statistical spheres and competent authorities for data collection under the advice and guidance of respective Statistical Councils, making it possible to undertake the specific data collection operations through suitable notification in the official gazette and suitable safeguards, penalties for respondent as well as disclosure of information. This Bill provides for these very important matters and under this Bill, Sir, both at the Federal level as well as the Provincial level, the authority will be created—Federal Statistical Council as well as Provincial Statistical Councils. Then, there will be Statistical Agents to carry out the work in the field. They will gather this information through questionnaire. Those people who do not give the information or refuse to give the information or give false information; minor penalties have been provided for that. It has been made incumbent for the Statistical Agent to keep certain information secret and not disclose it and if he does this, the penalty have been provided.

Finally, Sir, at the Standing Committee stage after this Bill was referred to the Senat, a very important amendment has been carried out. As a matter of fact, the Bill, as it was passed by the National Assembly, did not envisage a very strong Federal Statistical Council. Its function was two co-ordinate amongst different agencies to see that the work is efficiently carried out. But at the stage of Standing Committee, the Committee took the decision that this

Federal Agency, i.e. Federal Statistical Council should be made very strong with the result that notwithstanding anything contained in any law for the time being in force relating to the collection of this data, if any instruction is given by the Central or the Federal Statistical Councils, then it will be a binding upon all the authorities. That was the important amendment which was carried out by the Standing Committee. With that amendment, there were two other minor amendments, I do not have to mention them here. This Bill is now before the Senate. I would respectfully submit that it should be considered.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: I think the Committee has made so many amendments in this Bill. Somebody from the Committee would like to speak on the Bill. I think, Mian Ihsanul Haq and Hanef Ramay have participated in the debate of the Committee. As there are some amendments, I think, the Committee must speak. Let me give the floor to Senator Ansari first and then to Mian Ihsanul Haq. Yes, Senator Ansari.

Mr. Abdul Latif Ansari: *Sir, as I am one of the Members of the Standing Committee. The General Statistical Act, 1975, was thoroughly examined and certain amendments were decided to be put to the House. Sir, some penalty clauses from 12 to 15 have been given but no penalty for the Statistical Agent was shown in these clauses. The main Bill lays down that Statistical Agent.

جناب والا! جو اس پورے شماریات کا ذمے دار ہوتا ہے اسکے اوپر تو کوئی بھی penalty نہیں ڈالی گئی ہے جبکہ respondent کے اوپر ۱۲ سے لیکر ۱۵ تک کی penalty کے clauses ڈالے گئے ہیں حالانکہ اگر ایجنٹ negligently یا wilfully کوئی بھی غلطی data پیش کرے۔ جو پورے structure پر اثر انداز ہوتا ہے۔ ہمارے ملک کے اندر یہ دیکھا جائے کہ پہلے جو دو پنج سالہ منصوبے بنے ان میں بعد میں ترمیمات کی گئیں۔ جسکی main وجوہات یہ تھیں کہ datas جو تھے وہ صحیح collect نہیں ہوئے تھے۔ صحیح data نہیں دیئے گئے تھے۔ جسکی وجہ سے ان میں ترمیمیں لائی گئیں۔ ان کی main وجوہات یہی تھیں۔ لیکن ہمارے ہاں ایجنٹ جو data collect کرتے ہیں۔ وہ غلط data collect کرتے ہیں۔ آپ اندازہ لگائیں کہ ایک سڑک کی تعمیر کیلئے جب ان سے کہا جاتا ہے کہ ابھی data collect کرو کہ اس پر کہتا pressure آئے گا۔ کیسے اثرات اسکے اوپر ہوں گے تو وہ وہیں بیٹھ کر ایک غلط رپورٹ دے دیتے ہیں۔ جسکی وجہ سے ہمیشہ شکایت رہتی ہے۔ اسکے بعد آپ agriculture کو لے لیں۔ ہمارے پاس رپورٹ

آتی ہے کہ اس سال ملک میں کتنی کندم پیدا ہوگی ہوگی تو وہ بتاتے ہیں کہ اتنی کندم پیدا ہوگی لیکن آخر میں نتیجہ صحیح نہیں نکلتا۔ یہ ساری خرابی اس ایجنٹ کی وجہ سے ہوتی ہے۔ جو صحیح رپورٹ نہیں دیتا ہے۔ لیکن یہاں اس کلاز میں جہاں respondent پر یہ ذمہ داری ڈال دی گئی ہے کہ اگر وہ صحیح انفارمیشن نہیں دے گا یا انفارمیشن چھپانے کی کوشش کرے گا تو اس کے اوپر اسے سزا دی جائے گی۔ لیکن اس ایجنٹ کے اوپر جو صحیح data collect نہیں کرتا اور جس کی وجہ سے میں سمجھتا ہوں کہ اس کے اوپر ایکشن لیا جائے۔ اس کے اوپر وہ ذمہ داری عائد کی جائے تاکہ اسے احساس ہو اور وہ آئندہ صحیح data دے۔ میں سمجھتا ہوں کہ اپنے ملک کی اقتصادیات کو منظم کرنے کیلئے یہ ضروری چیز ہے کہ صحیح data collect ہو لیکن یہ کام جو لوگ کرتے ہیں وہ صحیح نہیں کر رہے ہیں۔ ہماری حکومت پورے ملک میں کوشش کر رہی ہے کہ یہ حالات بہتر ہوں اور ملکی اقتصادیات کو صحیح لائنوں پر لگایا جائے اور ملک ترقی کرے اور یہ کام تبھی ہو سکتا ہے جب ہم صحیح data collect کریں۔ لیکن میں سمجھتا ہوں کہ یہ ذمہ داری جو ہے یہ پوری قوم کی ہے اور ان افراد کی ہے کہ وہ اس نظام کو صحیح طرح چلائیں اور جن پر یہ فرض ہوتا ہے کہ وہ صحیح انفارمیشن جو ہے وہ گورنمنٹ کو دیں۔ میں سمجھتا ہوں کہ یہ کونسل جو بن رہی ہے یہ بہت اہم ادارہ اور اس ملک کی بہتری، ترقی اور خوشحالی کیلئے میں سمجھتا ہوں کہ بڑا کام دے گا۔ ہم چاہتے ہیں کہ اسکو زیادہ سے زیادہ مضبوط اور طاقتور بنایا جائے تاکہ ہمارے ملک کی اقتصادیات پلاننگ اور ترقی صحیح راستے پر ہو۔ ان الفاظ کے ساتھ میں اپنی تقریر ختم کرتا ہوں۔

میاں احسان الحق: جناب والا! جیسا کہ وزیر خزانہ نے اور میرے دوسرے ساتھیوں سے کہا ہے کہ یہ بل بہت اہم اور بہت ضروری ہے۔ اس میں شبہ نہیں کہ ہمارے ملک میں اس سے پہلے طریق کار یہ تھا کہ مختلف محکموں کے اپنے اپنے statistics ڈویژن تھے۔ جو کام کر رہے تھے۔ لیکن سنٹرل ادارہ نہیں تھا جو کہ statistics اکٹھے کرے اور اس سے آگے planning ہو۔ اس لحاظ سے بہت ہی اچھی تجویز کی گئی ہے۔ رانا صاحب کے محکمے نے بڑی محنت کے ساتھ اس بل کو بنایا ہے۔ جیسا کہ جناب آپ جانتے ہیں کہ کسی بھی ملک کے لیئے بالخصوص جو ملک ترقی پذیر ہو اس میں اعداد و شمار کا اکٹھا ہونا بہت ضروری ہوتا ہے۔ تاکہ آپ اپنے ملک کی معاشی بنیادیں

اچھی طرح سے بنا سکیں۔ موجودہ حکومت جس نے لوگوں کے ساتھ یہ وعدہ کیا ہوا ہے کہ وہ اس ملک میں ایک ایسا اقتصادی نظام لائے گی جو عدل و انصاف پر مبنی ہوگا اور ایک اچھا معاشرہ تعمیر کیا جائیگا۔ اس کیلئے یہ انتہائی ضروری تھا کہ ہمارے پاس ایک جامع قسم کی اتھارٹی ہو۔ جو پوری طرح سے statistics اکٹھے کرے اور حکومت آئندہ سے اپنے اقتصادی نظام کو آگے بڑھا سکے۔ اس کے ساتھ ساتھ ایک اور چیز بھی پیدا ہوگی وہ بھی بہت اچھی ہے کیونکہ بعض دفعہ جامع طور پر statistics اکٹھے نہیں ہوتے تھے۔ خیال یہ کیا جاتا تھا کہ بعض علاقے دوسرے علاقوں کا استحصال کر رہے ہیں۔ بعض علاقوں کے ساتھ نا انصافی ہو رہی ہے۔ بعض صوبوں میں یہ تعصب پیدا ہوتا تھا کہ استحصال ہو رہا ہے۔ دوسرا یہ ہوگا کہ جامع قسم کے statistics جو ہر سال اکٹھے کریں گے اس سے لوگوں کو اندازہ ہو جائے گا کہ اس قسم کی نا انصافی نہیں ہو رہی اور آگے ہو رہی ہے تو اس میں تدارک بھی کیا جا سکے گا اور اس کے ساتھ ساتھ اس طرح جب کسی صوبے کے statistics اس صوبے کے لیئے اکٹھے کرنے کا تو یہ بھی ہتہ چل سکے گا کہ صوبے کے کولمے ایسے علاقے ہیں جو پسماندہ ہیں۔ ان علاقوں میں کس کس چیز کی ضرورت ہے۔ اس طرح سے اس چیز کو بھی ہمیں ختم کرنے میں مدد ملے گی۔ یہ کہا جائے کہ فلاں شہر ترقی یافتہ ہے اور فلاں غیر ترقی یافتہ ہے۔ فلاں ضلع اس کا استحصال کر رہا ہے۔ اس طرح سے ایک جامع قسم کی اتھارٹی جو statistics اکٹھے کریگی ہمیں بہت مدد ملے گی۔

جناب والا! ہمارے ہاں گذشتہ سالوں میں بہت سارے statistics اکٹھے ہوتے رہے۔ مختلف محکموں نے اکٹھے کئے۔ بالخصوص سٹینڈنگ کمیٹی میں کلاز ۲۱۔ جو امینڈمنٹ کی ہے۔ اسکو میں explain کرتا ہوں۔ کلاز ۲۱۔ جو نیشنل اسمبلی سے بل پاس ہو کر آیا تھا وہ یوں تھا۔

The provision of this Act shall be in addition to and not in derogation of the provisions of the Industrial Statistical Act, 1942, the Agricultural Census Act, 1958, Census Ordinance, 1959, and any other Law for the time being in force which provides for the collection of statistics.

جناب والا! کلاز ۲۱ کی امینڈمنٹ جو ہم نے کی ہے۔ وہ یوں ہے:

“Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force which provides for the collection of statistics, the Federa

Statistics Authority may issue to any other authority functioning under any such law such directions as it may consider necessary for this Act."

اس کلاز کی ترمیم کرنے سے یہ ہوا کہ جو سنٹرل statistics اتھارٹی ہے وہ پوری طرح سے farce بن جائیگی اور باقی محکموں کے ساتھ اس کا رابطہ بہتر ہوگا۔ وہ instructions دے گی وہ بہتر طریقے سے carry کی جائیں گی۔ کیونکہ جس طرح سے ہم جانتے ہیں کہ گذشتہ کئی سالوں سے ہمارے ہاں زراعت کے statistics اکٹھے ہوتے ہیں۔ جب فصل بوئی جاتی ہے تو کہا جاتا ہے کہ سلک خود کنیل ہوگا پھر جب فصل آ جاتی ہے اسوقت یہ ہوتا ہے کہ آج تو جناب بارش ہو گئی آندھی آ گئی۔ یہ بھن نہیں دیکھا جاتا کہ پٹواریوں نے جو گرداوریاں بنائی ہوئی ہیں جو ہمیں statistics دیئے جاتے ہیں۔ ان کے مطابق فصل نہیں ہوتی جیسے کہ گہیوں کا بتا دیا جاتا ہے کہ اتنے ہزار ایکڑ اور لگیں گے۔ جب ریونیو ریکارڈ کی پڑتال ہوتی ہے تو بہت کم۔ اسلیئے ہم نے یہ کوشش کی ہے کہ تمام محکموں کے ساتھ اس central statistics authority کیا رابطہ صحیح ہو تاکہ پوری طرح اور جامع طور پر اپنا کام کر سکیں۔ ان محکموں کو صحیح instructions دے سکے۔ دوسرا یہ بھی ہم نے اس میں safeguarded کہا تھا تاکہ کوئی abuse نہ ہو۔ اگر کوئی statistics ایجنٹ کسی وقت کسی آدمی سے یہ پوچھنا ہے کہ مجھے فلاں انفارمیشن چاہیئے شاید وہ انفارمیشن نہ دے سکے۔ ہم نے یہ کیا ہے کہ اگر وہ پہلے انفارمیشن لینے آتا ہے۔ اگر وہ شکایت کرتا ہے بہتر یہ ہے کہ اس اتھارٹی کو شکایت کرے اور اتھارٹی ان کو دوبارہ اس پر instructions بھیجے 12 clause میں اس کا ایک نوٹس ہو تاکہ اس نوٹس کے دوران میں وہ جواب دے دے پھر اس کے اوپر penalty نہ لگے۔ اس لیئے میں ان معروضات کے ساتھ آپ کا شکریہ ادا کرتا ہوں اور رانا صاحب کو اس بل کی مبارکباد دیتا ہوں۔

جناب مسعود احمد خان : *جناب والا ! جیسے کہ آنریبل منسٹر صاحب نے اس ایکٹ کی افادیت کا ذکر یہاں کیا ہے۔ جہاں تک میں سمجھتا ہوں کہ جیسا کہ انہوں نے بھی فرمایا ہے اس سے اس طرح data collect کیا جانا ضروری ہے۔ یا مناسب ہے۔ یا اس ایکٹ کے تحت جو data collect ہوگا وہ ہمیں ہماری future planning میں کا دے گا۔ اس سارے ایکٹ میں کوئی ایسی بات نظر نہیں آئی کہ data کس قسم کا collect

ہوگا۔ جس کا future economic system یا پلاننگ پر دارومدار ہوگا۔ اب اس میں حوالہ دیا گیا ہے۔ - formulation of questionnair کا -

“For the purpose of collecting statistics on any matter, a Statistics Authority may, by notification in the Official Gazette, formulate such questionnaire as it may think fit.”

اسکے بعد کلاز ۳ کا ذکر ہے۔ -

“(3) Nothing in this section shall authorise a Statistics Authority, a competent authority or a statistical agent.

(a) to require a woman to state the name of her husband or deceased husband or any other person whose name she is by custom forbidden to mention ; or

(b) to insist on information of a purely private nature.”

purely private نیچر کو amend کیا گیا ہے۔ - original amending بل میں یہ ذکر تھا۔ اسکو delete کر کے purely of private nature کا جو سوال پوچھا جا سکتا ہے تو اس پر پلاننگ کیا ہوگی ؟ اس پر development کیا ہوگی ؟ پھر ہمارے اکنامک سسٹم کی انفارمیشن جو ہم ان سے لینا چاہیں گے جو purely of private nature کی ہے تو actually it is with regard to the budget اگر ہم عورت کو یہ نہ پوچھ سکے کہ آپ کے خاوند کا کیا نام ہے۔ آپ کے مرحوم خاوند کا کیا نام تھا۔ جس طرح کی calamities اس ملک میں آئیں ۱۹۶۵ء کی جنگ میں یا ۱۹۷۱ء کی جنگ میں other calamities یا ایک ایسی بیوہ جو اپنا بجٹ خود رہی ہے۔ کیا ہم اس سے اپنی future planning کے لیئے ایسا سوال نہیں پوچھ سکیں گے ؟ تو میں یہ کہتا ہوں کہ اس کی امینڈمنٹ جو ہوئی ہے وہ purely of a private nature کی ہوئی ہے۔ اسکی بھی آئریبل منسٹر اسپر اضاحت کریں گے کہ یہ لفظ کیوں add کیا گیا۔ اب اس میں source of information جو ہے that will from the basis of return کیونکہ یہ data جو ہم نے کلکٹ کرنا ہے۔

this will not be of national importance but of the international importance

ان گذارشات کے علاوہ میں یہ بھی پوچھنا چاہتا ہوں کہ

compilation and publication of data of a general nature for national and international references.

یہ کون سا data ہوگا؟ یہ کس قسم کا data ہوگا جس کے متعلق یہ کہتے ہیں کہ questionnaire ہے؟ کوئی بھی آدمی ایسا نہیں ہونا چاہیے جس کے means of livelihood ہمیں معلوم نہ ہوں۔ اس کے sources of income کیا ہیں؟ کیا وہ بالکل ہی بے پار و مددگار پھر رہا ہے۔ میرے خیال میں اس کے لئے ایک اسٹیمٹ ہو سکتی ہے۔ اس قسم کے data کو ہم کیوں کلکٹ کرنا چاہتے ہیں۔ ان گذارشات کے ساتھ میں ختم کرتا ہوں۔

Mr. Deputy Chairman : Senator Afzal Khan Khoso.

Mr. Afzal Khan Khoso : *Mr. Chairman, I would like to congratulate the Minister, Mr. Mohammad Hanif Khan Rana, for having presented this Bill before the House. There are certain suggestions—certain suggestions based on certain apprehensions—that I would like to mention before this august House.

No. 1, is, Sir, that according to the Act there is a Federal Statistical Authority and there is a Provincial Statistical Authority side by side—National Statistical Council and the Provincial Council. The main purpose of this Act was to co-ordinate and facilitate the working of these authorities. In this regard, I would suggest that the composition of this authority, as it is mentioned in Section 3 is that it comprises of an officer. Now, Sir, I have nothing against an officer, whichever the officer he may be, but it will lack representative character. My point of view is that instead of appointing an authority by way of appointment of an officer, there should be a representative body at that level comprising of the officer plus some public representatives. I think, it will be better and it will function more smoothly as it has been seen on the basis of past experience.

Then, Sir, I would say a few words about 'Competent authority'. It says that the appropriate Government may, for the purpose of collection and compilation of statistics on any matter, appoint any authority or officer to be a 'competent authority' for the purposes of this Act. This means, Sir, an officer appointing an officer. My point of view is Sir, that if we have at one of these stages a representative body having officers as well as public representatives, I think, it will work better and will have more confidence of the people at large.

Secondly, Sir, I would like to mention something about the Council itself, the composition of the Council, i.e. the National Council, which is known also as the National Statistical Council that it will have members. Well, so much the better because that shown that it is going to be of a representative character.

*Speech not corrected by the honourable Senator.

Now, Sir, my suggestion would be that there should be some rotation of members in such a way that all the federating units have a say so that there is a sense of participation of all the federating units. Even in the case of Chairman, Sir unless he is the Minister concerned, I would suggest that he may be taken up on rotation basis. Thank you, Sir.

Mr. Deputy Chairman : No one else? Therefore, I request the Minister of Finance to wind up the debate.

Ch. Mohammad Hanif Khan : *Sir, before I try to explain some of those points which have been raised by the honourable Members of the House, I would like to repeat again that as far as the present system of the collection of statistics is concerned, it has remained the subject of criticism every time. We all know that as far as the planning is concerned, as far as economic policies are concerned specially future economic policies, they cannot be of any value at all unless we have got corrects information as to certain most important items and matters which are very relevant.

Of course, here it has been pointed out and enquired by the honourable Senator, Mr. Masud Ahmed Khan, as to what sort of information has got to be collected? That point is very relevant, and as I have said it has remained the subject of criticism. An attempt has been made to streamline the system, to make it more efficient, make it more useful, and meaningful. That is the purpose of this Act. We will try to make it effective, we will try to make it efficient, more understandable and more useful for the nation. An effort can be made but it was most important that we must have an authority created under the Law which should perform its functions with some huth rity in its hand. That was very important and that is what was required of use by the United Nations and the World Bank. In certain cases, although there is a legislative cover, legal authority is there in respect of certain matters, but so far as some of the most important matters are concerned there is no legal authority with the result that the information which we receive in respect of those matters are generally shoddy, useless, absolutely incomplete, sometimes false with the result that our whole economic pattern, our whole planning miserably suffers. It was for this reason that we thought that we must have a law of this type.

One point I would like to clarify is that as far as those matters are concerned in respect of which the information is needed to be collected by this Authority, by this agency—this is not the one agency because one is the Council, the other is the Authority—then there are going to be agents in the field. There are so many authorities as well—other functionaries of Government appointed under the Law which already exists. They are already working. So, the question is what are those matters for which this Act is required? Sir, I have already mentioned that in my initial speech. I have already mentioned those matters where the information. That is not exhaustive. That is not all because when a Planning is to be done then the points, the items or matters

*Speech not corrected by the honourable Senator.

In respect of which information has got to be collected can be unlimited. It all depends upon the scope of advancement of the society. How far can we go? In respect of very minor things which may not be very important at the moment, we can say in some foreseeable future they can become very important. So there also information is needed in respect of those, unimportant things as well in the future planning. Here, in the Act, of course, those matters are not mentioned, those items are not there in respect of which information is got to be collected. But, of course, this laws provides, as it happens in respect of all other law, that rules shall have to be made.

The provision is there to make rules with a view to carry out the objects of this Bill. In those rules some of the matters, of course I can mention, can be taken care of and information shall have to be collected in respect of those matters by the Statistical Agent working in the field. Information shall have to be collected in respect of those very urgently and may be as I have just mentioned, there can be so many other things. Complete authority has been given. They have been absolutely allowed or permitted under the law to act freely and get all sorts of informatson where that information is needed to use it for our future economic planning. So, these are the matters For example, as I have just mentioned, we don't have any authority, legal authority, for the collection of important statistics relating to family incomes and expenditures, labour force and population growth, distributive trade, small scale household industries, capital formation, construction activity, etc. etc. I have mentioned that these are some of the points which I would like to refer to at this moment and these matters can be taken care of in the rules because rules have still to be framed under the law otherwise no activity can be carried out under this law. Then the authority will sit, the Government will sit, an appropriate authority will sit and make rules under this law in consonance and consistent with the provisions of the law to carry out the object of this Bill. So, that sort of information has got to be collected. As far as this point is concerned as to why it is not possible for us to enquire about the name female of a because may be under certain circumstances that information is very important, Sir, that authority is there. Actually, the option is given to the lady herself because of customs or the conventions, There are traditions that a particular family debar a particular lady from giving out the name of her husband and so she can't be compelled, and we should not go that far because that will really be an interference in the family affairs or the traditions or the conventions of the individuals. and that can lead to really quite a bit of bickering. So, we have got that scope open, and certainly the question can be asked: What is the name of your husband? And if the lady wants to give the name of her husband, nobody can stop her. But if she says that in my customs, of course, I can't give the name of my husband, then she can't be compelled to give the name. Of course, it is very easy to enquire the name. The information is not going to remain absolutely secret because there might be so many other people standing there who will be quite prepared to give the name of her husband. So it is not that difficult. As far as the practical aspect of the whole thing is concerned it is not a difficult thing. Name will be known. The only thing is that that lady cannot be compelled because in respect of so many other matters the law provides that individual can be compelled to give a particular information. He or she shall have to furnish the information which is needed by the Census Officer under the law acting as a Law Officer. In this case the option is given. Of course, she does not make herself liable for any

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penal action where she refuses to give the name of her husband simply because traditions or conventions of her family does not permit her to give the name of her husband. But that is an easy matter and of purely private nature. I think that should not be very difficult.

There are matters which are going to be mentioned in the rules and in respect of which the information shall have to be collected because that sort of information is needed to form better future economic planning. But private information can be of a different nature. I can quote so many instances but I don't think it is really necessary. Private means a purely private. It is not the private information because certainly one shall have to give the extent and the size of income. That can't be of a private nature because income has got to be declared in so many cases, e.g. for income tax purposes. That is not a private information. Private means that which concerns him and him individually. It does not go beyond that. It does not have any connection or relationship with my dealings with the rest of the world, with my brothers, with my relatives, with the government, with this sort of information and so many instances can be quoted. But, Sir, this point has been made out that the Statistical Agent has not been made liable if, for example, he does not furnish the correct information or he deforces, I should say, in general term, if he defaults in the performance of his duties, then under this law it is said that no punishment has been provided, although punishment has been provided for those private individuals or the public men who fail to give the requisite information to the Statistical Agent. Now, Sir, the position as far as this Agent is concerned is that it is provided in law that this information which he gets from the people is going to be of secret nature. It is purely of a secret nature. He can't reveal this information to the public at large. If the information is of the nature that it should not be revealed than he is bound to keep that information secret and if he divulges that secret then he shall be made liable. Under the law he will be punished. But so far as punishment for other defaultes is concerned, may I submit, Sir, that being a public servant he can be administratively dealt with. So, that point was considered at the time of the Committee stage. It was considered and the concensus at that time was that since he is a public servant, there is no necessity for providing penalty in this law because, being a public servant, he can always be dealt with departmentally, thrown out of service, so much so that any action can be taken against him, and the maximum is that he can be thrown out of service. So, since a provision is there, administrative authority is there against him, if for example, he defaults in the performance of his duties, then there is no necessity for providing any punishment in the Act.

Sir, so far as the amendment of section 21 is concerned, which was carried out at the Committee stage, I would like to clarify one point only that this amendment does not really render the laws which alrerdy exist on the subject absolutely inoperative. That is important. It should not be mistaken that all other laws have been done away. Not at all. Those laws will still operate. They remain and they will remain active. The only thing is that where Council, Federal Council, gives an instruction at a particular case, in respect of certain matters or of certain issues to the subordinate authorities then in that case, to that extent, the laws which already exist will be absolutely inoperative and, so far as the instruction is concened, that will be

effective. That will prevail in spite of the fact that it may be absolutely inconsistent with the existing provisions of the existing law. So far as the instruction from the Federal Council is concerned, it will be absolutely effective and the subordinate authorities shall have to carry out the instruction of the Federal Council regardless of the contrary provisions in the laws which already exist. Thank you very much, Sir.

Mr. Deputy Chairman : Thank you very much. How, I will put the question. The question before the House is :

“That the Bill to constitute certain authorities for the collection and co-ordination of statistics to facilitate economic and other planning [The General Statistics, Bill, 1275], be passed.”

Sorry, this is for consideration.

“That the Bill to constitute certain authorities for the collection and co-ordination of statistics to facilitate economic and other planning [The General Statistics, Bill, 1975], as reported by the Standing Committee, taken into consideration.”

(The motion was adopted)

Now, we take the Bill clause by clause. I will take those clauses first which were not amended by the standing Committee. Now, there is no amendment in clauses 2, 3 and 4.

Mr. Deputy Chairman : The question before the House is :

“That Clauses 2, 3 and 4 form part of the Bill.”

(The motion was adopted)

Mr. Deputy Chairman : The Clauses 2, 3 and 4 form part of the Bill.

Clause 5 is amended by the Standing Committee.

The question before the House is :

“That Clause 5 as amended forms part of the Bill.”

(The motion was adopted)

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Mr. Deputy Chairman : Clause 5 as amended forms part of the Bill.

There is no amendment in Clause 6.

The question before the House is :

“That Clause 6 forms part of the Bill.”

(The motion was adopted)

Mr. Deputy Chairman : Clause 6 forms part of the Bill.

Now Clause 7. The question before the House is :

“That Clause 7 that Clause 7 forms part of the Bill.”

(The motion was adopted)

Mr. Deputy Chairman : Clause 7 forms part of the Bill.

Now Clause 8 as amended.

The question before the House is :

“That Clause 8, as amended by the Standing Committee, forms part of the Bill.”

(The motion was adopted)

Mr. Deputy Chairman : Clause 8 as amended forms part of the Bill.

Clauses 9, 10 and 11 not amended.

The question before the House is :

“That Clauses 9, 10 and 11 form part of the Bill.”

(The motion was adopted)

Mr. Deputy Chairman : Clauses 9, 10 and 11 form part of the Bill.

Clauses 12 as amended by the Committee. The question before the House is :

“That Clause 12 as amended forms part of the Bill.”

(The motion was adopted)

Mr. Deputy Chairman : Clause 12 as amended forms part of the Bill.

No amendment in Clauses 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20.

The question before the House is :

“That Clauses 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20 form part of the Bill.”

(The motion was adopted)

Mr. Deputy Chairman : Clauses 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20 form part of the Bill.

There is no amendment in Clause 21. The question before the House is :

“That Clause 21 forms part of the Bill.”

(The motion was adopted)

Mr. Deputy Chairman : Clause 21 as amended forms part of the Bill.

Now question before the House is :

“That Preamble, Clause 1 and Short title form part of the Bill.”

(The motion was adopted)

Mr. Deputy Chairman : Now, No. 5, Rana Mohammad Haneef Khan.

Ch. Mohammad Haneef Khan : Sir, I beg to move :

“That the Bill to constitute certain authorities for the collection and co-ordination of statistics to facilitate economic and other planning [The General Statistics, Bill, 1975]. be passed.”

Mr. Deputy Chairman : The Motion moved is :

“That the Bill to constitute certain authorities for the collection and co-ordination of statistics to facilitate economic and other planning [The General Statistics, Bill, 1975], be passed.”

No opposition ? No speeches ? Do you want to say something ?

Ch. Mohammad Hanif Khan . No, Sir, except Thanks.

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House

Mr. Deputy Chairman : Now the question before the House is :

“That the Bill to constitute certain authorities for the collection and co-ordination of statistics to facilitate economic and other planning [The General Statistics, Bill, 1975], be passed.”

The Bill stands passed.

Now No. 6, Malik Mohammad Jaffar.

THE DIVORCE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1975

Malik Mohammad Jaffar (Minister of State for Minorities Affairs & Tourism : Sir, I was to move for suspension of the rules so that the Bill could be taken into consideration at once but the Leader of the House has asked me that the Members consider that this Bill may be taken into consideration on Monday. So if that is the consensus in view of the Members, I have no objection to that and I think in view of that, this motion will not be necessary if it is taken on Monday.

Malik Mohammad Akhtar : Suspension will be there in any case because today notice is there but we can defer it to Monday.

Malik Mohammad Jaffar : Today is Saturday and tomorrow is Sunday and then Monday.

Mr. Deputy Chairman : There are some requests from some Members that they have booked their seats, and they want to leave tomorrow. Those who are living nearby it is easier for them to go and come back but those who are not living nearby it is difficult for them to confine to their rooms.

Malik Mohammad Jaffar : We can proceed ahead, Sir, because this Bill was introduced in the National Assembly, and certain amendments were made by the Standing Committee of the National Assembly. Then, Sir, the Standing Committee of the Senate, and you are a Member of the Committee, has gone minutely into the Bill and I don't think there will be any long debate. It will take a few minutes.

Mr. Deputy Chairman : There would have been a suggestion for postponing the debate if there would have been some lengthy debates. Actually, I have been the Member of that Committee. Mr. Masud and other colleagues can tell you that the Committee has gone into the details. The Committee sat on this Bill for about seven days. So, I do not think that there will be lengthy debates.

راؤ عبدالستار : سر! ممبران کا یہیں خیال تھا۔

جناب ڈپٹی چیئرمین : آپ سب ممبران سے پوچھ کر بتا دیں مجھے کوئی اعتراض نہیں ہے۔ سینٹر کھومو اور غلام رسول صاحب کھڑے ہوئے ہیں اور کئی ممبران نے

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 reservation بھی کروائی ہے۔ اگر آپ سب کا consensus ہے تو مجھے کوئی اعتراض نہیں ہے۔

Yes, Senator Ghulam Rasul Siddiqi.

Mr. Ghulam Rasul Siddiqi : It may be suspended and should be taken up today.

Malik Mohammad Jaffar : Yes, I will take. Sir, I beg to move that the requirement of sub-rule (2) of rule 83 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Senate, 1973, in regard to the Bill further to amend the Divorce Act, 1869 [The Divorce (Amendment) Bill, 1975], as reported by the Standing Committee, be dispensed with.

Mr. Deputy Chairman : The motion moved is :

“That the requirement of sub-rule (2) of rule 83 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Senate, 1973, in regard to the Bill further to amend the Act, 1869 [The Divorce (Amendment) Bill, 1975], as reported by the Standing Committee, be dispensed with.

The motion is not opposed, therefore, I put the question. The question before the House is :

“That the requirement of sub-rule (2) of rule 83 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Senate, 1973, in regard to the Bill further to amend the Divorce Act, 1869 [The Divorce (Amendment) Bill, 1975], as reported by the Standing Committee, be dispensed with.

(The motion was adopted)

Mr. Deputy Chairman : The Rule is suspended.

Yes No. 7.

Malik Mohammad Jaffar : Sir, I beg to move that the Bill further to amend the Divorce Act, 1869 [The Divorce (Amendment) Bill, 1975], as reported by the Standing Committee, be taken into consideration at once.

Mr. Deputy Chairman : The motion moved is :

“That the Bill further to amend the Divorce Act, 1869 [The Divorce (Amendment) Bill, 1975], as reported by the Standing Committee, be taken into consideration at once.”

Yes ? It is not opposed. Please explain it.

Malik Mohammad Jafar : Sir, this is a simple piece of legislation aimed at bringing out a reform in the public interest and, I think, it should not be controversial. As it is known to the honourable Members, the Law is applicable to certain family matters of the Christian Community. It is applicable to Christians only, and the matter is covered by the Law which was passed in 1869. This is a matter of divorce, the question of nullity of marriage, separation, the maintenance of children.

I would make it clear at the outset that the present Government is committed to the object or protecting the rights of the non-Muslim minorities in Pakistan, and the object is to safeguard all their interests. That is by there is provision in the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Paksstan, besides other provisions, that the personal laws of the minorities will be protected, and pven we will be Proceeding to bring the present legal Act into conformity with the Injunctions of Islam. There is a safeguard in the Constitution that those provisos shall not adversely effect the personal laws of the minorities. So, the law does not bring about any change in the substance of the Act of 1869, that is, the ground for which divorce can be sought in a Court or a degree of nullity can be obtained, or the proviso for the age, for the maturity of the minor children, and their rights of maintenance and all those things. They are imtact. They are not changed. That can, of course, be changed but only if our Christian brothern want such a change. At present, the change. is only for the procedure, particulary the jurisdiction, the forum before which such cases can go, the degree, the mortogae, nullity of marriage and like subjects.

Now, Sir, when the Law was originally passed in 1869, the situation was such that foreign rulers were also involved in this litigation, and their personal cases were also decided. Actually, it was a measure to sufeguard their interests that the jurisdiction was given to High Court and District Courts. There was a provision, as you know, of dispute of this nature between the Indians, for instance, of that time, now Muslims or even the Hindus in Pakirtan, that are decided by the Courts under the general procedure of the jurisdiction of the Courts. Then, of course, appeals can be taken to higher Courts. But in this case there is a special provision that the cases were to be decided, in the first instance of the trial by the High Court and then the number of judges was also fixed. Then there wase also this additional provision that the final decree for dissolution of marriage was to be confirmed by the High Court and that was necessary.

Now, Sir, that situation is no longer here. In the first instance all citizens of Pakistan are equal before the law and, therefore, they should have the same rules for having their disputes decided by the Courts. Secondly, the puestion which is more important is that our Christian brothern in Pakistan come mostly from a poor section of the society and if those provisions were to continue, what will happen? Sir, you are a lawyer and my other friends here are also lawyers, and they know that litigation at the High Court level costs more, in the first instance, because, of lawyer's fees which are higher in the High Court than in lower Courts, and it takes more time. Confirmation is also unnecesary.

Now, the change that we have tried to bring about in the Law is that disputes of this nature between the Christian will be tried like those of all other citizens, in the first instance, by the Court of the Civil Judge and then, of course, the decree, no sooner than it is operative, it will become final. When the Civil Judge decides all decrees are final. The right of appeal has not been taken away here also. If the party is aggrieved by the orders of the Civil Judge, then it can go in an appeal before the District Judge. There can also be an appeal filed in the High Court, and if conditions laid down in the Constitution are satisfied there can also be an appeal before the Supreme Court. So, these are the objects of this reform. Of course, then there are consequential matters because if you see the amendments it will be noticed that many sections stand amended and that is because of consequential changes because other sections connected with this object have also to be changed.

Then, Sir, when the Bill was received from the National Assembly it was referred to the Standing Committee and the Standing Committee of the Senate, as becoming of the Upper House, has gone minutely into the provisions of this Bill and has made certain changes in the Bill as passed by the National Assembly, and those amendments are also before the House. This is all I wanted to say on this. Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Chairman : Any other speech ? Any Member wants to speak ?
Yes, Senator Asifa Farooqi.

مس آصفہ فاروقی : جناب چیئرمین ! The Divorce (Amendment) Bill پاکستان کی عیسائی خواتین و حضرات کے ایک پرانے مطالبے کو پورا کرتا ہے۔ 1869ء سے لیکر 1975ء تک یعنی تقریباً سو سال کے عرصہ تک عیسائی یہ مطالبہ کرتے رہے ہیں جو کہ غریب اور پسماندہ طبقے سے تعلق رکھتے ہیں کہ ان کے ازدواجی معاملات کے مقدمات کی سماعت کا اختیار سول ججز کو دیا جائے۔ عوامی حکومت کے برسر اقتدار آتے ہی وزیر اعظم پاکستان نے یہ محسوس کیا کہ عیسائیوں کا یہ مطالبہ پورا ہونا چاہیے اور دوسری چیز Divorce Act میں amendment یہ ظاہر گرتی ہے کہ جس طرح قائد عوام کو اکثریت عزیز ہے اسی طرح انہیں اقلیت بھی عزیز ہے۔ ایک طرح یہ ہماری حکومت کی اس پالیسی کے عین مطابق ہے جس کا مطمح نظر Justice at the door ہے۔

جناب چیئرمین ! مسلم فیملی لاز کے بعد یہ اشد ضروری ہو چکا تھا کہ Divorce Act میں amendment کی جائے۔ میں آپکی وساطت سے جناب وزیر اعظم پاکستان اور اپنے وزیر ملک محمد جعفر صاحب کو مبارکباد پیش کرنی ہوں کہ آپ نے Divorce Act میں amendment فرما کر اپنی پارٹی، عوام کے ساتھ اور اقلیتوں کے ساتھ جو وعدہ پورا فرمایا ہے اس پر ہم سب فخر کرتے ہیں۔ شکریہ۔

Mr. Deputy Chairman : No one else ?

So I put the question to the House. The question before the House is :

“That the Bill further to amend the Divorce Act, 1869 [The Divorce (Amendment) Bill, 1975], as reported by the Standing Committee, be taken into consideration at once.”

(The motion was adopted)

Mr. Deputy Chairman : The motion is adopted.

Now I take the Bill clause by clause. The Standing Committee has suggested amendments in clause 2, 3, 4, 5 and then 25 of the Bill. I will put all the clauses together. Now the question before the House is :

“That Clauses 2 to 25 form part of the Bill.”

Mr. Ahmad Waheed Akhtar : Not ‘2 to 25’ because there are amendments in certain clauses and there are no amendments in certain clauses. How can all be put together ?

Mr. Deputy Chairman : I wanted to bring to the notice of the House that these clauses are amended by the Committee. Under the Rules we are not obliged to put the amended clauses separately. In order to avoid any possible confusion, in the earlier Bill, I had put the amended clauses separately. I think, we can do that in this Bill as well.

Now the question before the House is :

“That Clauses 2, 3, 4 and 5 form part of the Bill.”

(The motion was adopted)

Mr Deputy Chairman : Clauses 2, 3, 4 and 5 form part of the Bill. We need not say ‘as amended’ because it is an amendment proposed by the Committee ; that forms part of the record otherwise. Now the question before the House is :

“That clauses 6 to 25 form part of the Bill.”

(The motion was adopted)

Mr. Deputy Chairman : Clauses 6 to 25 form part of the Bill.

Now the question before the House is :

“That the Preamble, Clause 1 and Short Title form part of the Bill.”

(The motion was adopted)

Mr. Deputy Chairman : The Preamble Clause 1 and Short title form part of the Bill.

Next item No. 8.

Malik Mohammad Jarar : Sir, I beg to move :

“That the Bill further to amend the Divorce Act, 1869 [The Divorce (Amendment) Bill, 1975], be passed.”

Mr. Deputy Chairman : The motion moved is :

“That the Bill further to amend the Divorce Act, 1869 [The Divorce (Amendment) Bill, 1975], be passed.”

Mr. Deputy Chairman : It is not opposed. Would you like to say something in the third reading ?

ملک محمد جعفر : جناب والا ! میں صرف یہ کہنا چاہتا ہوں کہ میں مس آئینہ فاروقی صاحبہ کا بیٹنوں ہوں جنہوں نے ایک ضروری امر کے متعلق ذکر کیا ہے جس کے متعلق ذکر میں نے نہیں کیا تھا۔ وہ یہ ہے کہ خود عیسائی عوام، غریب عوام کی طرف سے یہ دیرینہ مطالبہ تھا کہ ان مقدمات میں تصدیق کے متعلق یہ تبدیلی عمل میں لائی جائے۔ لیکن اس سے میں اب یہ سمجھتا ہوں کہ یہ بات ضروری ہو گئی ہے کہ میں ایوان کو یہ بھی بتاؤں کہ جو خاص تبدیلیاں ہم نے اس ترمیم کے ذریعے قانون میں کی ہیں یہ صرف پرانا مطالبہ نہیں تھا اس کے متعلق گورنمنٹ نے بل ڈرافٹ کرنے سے پہلے عیسائیوں کی مختلف تنظیموں سے ان کی رائے معلوم کی تھی۔ ان تنظیموں میں۔ ان کے تمام فرقے شامل تھے اور بڑی بڑی تنظیموں سے پوچھا گیا تھا۔ عیسائیوں کی تمام تنظیموں نے اس ترمیم کی تائید کی۔ یہ اس لیے ضروری سمجھتا ہوں کہ ایسا نہ سمجھا جائے۔ کسی کے دل میں خیال نہ پیدا ہو کہ ہم نے انکی رائے معلوم کرنے کے بغیر یہ تبدیلی کی ہے۔ یہ procedural قسم کی تبدیلی ہے۔ ان الفاظ کے ساتھ میں آپ کا شکریہ ادا کرتا ہوں۔

Mr. Deputy Chairamn : The question before the House is :

“That the Bill further to amend the Divorce Act, 1869 [The Divorce (Amendment) Bill, 1975], be passed.”

(The motion was adopted)

Mr. Deputy Chairman: The Bill stands passed.

There is no work before the House.

PROROGATION

Mr. Deputy Chairman: We have received a communication from the President proroguing the Senate, I read it to the House. It says:

“In exercise of the powers conferred by clause 1 of Article 54 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, I hereby prorogue the Senate on the conclusion of its sitting on the 23rd August, 1975.”

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The Senate is prorogued.

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راؤ عبدالستار: جناب والا! اس سے پہلے کہ ہاؤس adjourn ہو - میں آپ کا، چیئرمین صاحب کا کہ دل سے شکر گزار ہوں کہ آپ نے بڑی خوش املوبی سے اس سیشن کو سر انجام دیا۔ میں ممبران کا خاص طور پر کہ دل سے شکر گزار ہوں کیونکہ انہوں نے اجلاس میں بھر پور حصہ لیا۔ اس کے ساتھ مجھے افسوس کے ساتھ کہنا پڑتا ہے کہ اپوزیشن نے اپنے فرائض میں کوتاہی برتی ہے۔ امید ہے کہ آئندہ وہ بھر پور حصہ لیں گے۔

Thank you, Sir.

(The Senate was prorogued)

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Mr. Deputy Chairman: The question before the House is

That in Bill for the Divorce Act, 1975 (The Divorce Bill, 1975) be adopted.

(The Bill was adopted)