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इस भाग में भिन्न पृष्ठ संख्या दी जाती है जिससे कि यह अलग संकलन के रूप में रखा जा सके।
Separate paging is given to this Part in order that it may be filed
as a separate compilation.

LOK SABHA

The following Bill was introduced in Lok Sabha on the 19th November, 1973:—

BILL No. 89 OF 1973

A Bill further to amend the Press Council Act, 1965

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Twenty-fourth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Press Council (Amendment) Act, 1973. Short title and commencement.

(2) It shall be deemed to have come into force on the 27th day of September, 1973.

34 of 1965. 2. In section 5 of the Press Council Act, 1965 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act), for sub-section (1A), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:— Amendment of section 5.

“(1A) Notwithstanding the expiry of the period of office specified by sub-section (1), the Chairman and other members holding office as such on the 30th day of September, 1973, shall continue to hold such office until the 30th day of June, 1974:

Provided that nothing in this sub-section shall apply to a member—

(a) who ceases to be a member before the 30th day of June, 1974, by reason of the provisions of sub-section (2); or

(b) whose term of office expires before that date by reason of the provisions of sub-section (3); or

(c) who is deemed to have vacated his seat before that date by reason of the provisions of sub-section (3A); or

(d) who is deemed to have vacated his office before that date by reason of the provisions of sub-section (4).”.

Repeal
and
saving.

3. (1) The Press Council (Amendment) Ordinance, 1973, is hereby 2 of 1973. repealed.

(2) Notwithstanding such repeal, anything done or any action taken under the principal Act, as amended by the said Ordinance, shall be deemed to have been done or taken under the principal Act, as amended by this Act.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

In pursuance of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee of members of Parliament on the Press Council, the Press Council Act, 1965, was amended in March, 1970, to provide *inter alia* for the setting up of a Nominating Committee consisting of the Chairman of the Council of States, the Chief Justice of India and the Speaker of the House of the People for nominating the Chairman and certain other members of the Press Council in accordance with the procedure laid down in that Act.

2. The Press Council was reconstituted on the 1st October, 1970, on the basis of the nominations made by the Nominating Committee. There were certain criticisms about the composition of the Press Council as so reconstituted. The members of the Nominating Committee felt that it would not be desirable to expose their respective offices to any possible criticism and that it would be advisable to save their offices from being drawn into political or other controversies. They, therefore, suggested that the Act should be suitably amended to provide for an alternative machinery for the selection of the Chairman and members of the Press Council. This suggestion has been accepted by the Government.

3. As the present composition of the Nominating Committee was adopted in pursuance of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee of members of Parliament, it is proposed to consult members of Parliament representing different parties and shades of opinion in order to arrive at a consensus on the machinery that should be set up for the nomination of the Chairman and members of the Press Council before action is taken to amend the Act for the purpose. The term of office of the Chairman and members of the Press Council was to expire on the 30th September, 1973. As it would take some time for discussions to be held with the members of Parliament and for the amendment of the Press Council Act, it was considered necessary to extend the term of office of the Chairman and members of the Press Council. As Parliament was not in session, an Ordinance was promulgated on the 27th September, 1973, extending the term of office of the Chairman and members of the Press Council up to the 30th June, 1974.

4. The Bill seeks to replace the aforesaid Ordinance.

NEW DELHI;

The 6th November, 1973.

I. K. GUJRAL.

PRESIDENT'S RECOMMENDATION UNDER ARTICLE 117 OF THE
CONSTITUTION

[Copy of letter No. 12/27/73-Press, dated the 9th November, 1973 from Shri I. K. Gujral, Minister of State in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to the Secretary, Lok Sabha.]

The President of India having been informed of the subject matter of the Press Council (Amendment) Bill, 1973, recommends under clause (3) of article 117 of the Constitution of India the consideration of the Bill in the Lok Sabha.

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Clause 2 of the Bill which seeks to substitute sub-section (1A) of section 5 of the principal Act by a new sub-section proposes to extend the term of office of the Chairman and members of the Press Council from the 1st October, 1973, to the 30th June, 1974. Provision had already been made in the current year's budget for Rs. 3.9 lakhs towards the Press Council of India out of which Rs. 1.9 lakhs will be spent for the remaining period of this financial year. This amount would, in any case, have been incurred if the same or some other Chairman and members had been re-appointed or appointed to their respective offices. In this view of the matter, no additional expenditure, either recurring or non-recurring, would be incurred if the Bill is passed and brought into operation.

S. L. SHAKDHER,
Secretary-General

