

Tuesday,
14th December, 1954

LOK SABHA DEBATES

VOLUME VII, 1954

(14th to 24th December 1954)



EIGHTH SESSION, 1954

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

Part I—Questions and Answers

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LOK SABHA

Tuesday, 14th December, 1954

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS

1113. Shri S. N. Das: Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) the important subjects discussed by the National Development Council at its meetings held recently in Delhi; and

(b) the nature of decisions taken at the meetings?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): (a) and (b). A statement is placed on the Table of the House [See Appendix V, annexure No. 15]

Shri S. N. Das: From the statement it appears that the Standing Committee of the National Development Council has been appointed. May I know what are the precise functions of this Committee?

Shri S. N. Mishra: As is well-known, the Plan is a joint endeavour of the Central and the State Governments. The precise functions of this Standing Committee would be to ensure in a greater measure than is possible for the National Development Council, which is actually a large body, co-operation in the formulation of policies and programmes,—mainly major policies and programmes.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether there was any difference in the conclusions reached by the Planning Commission and this Development Council which met recently regarding the Five Year Plan, or the implementation of the Plan?

Shri S. N. Mishra: There could be no question of any difference arising. It was a sort of consultation and the results of such consultations are always pursued with earnestness by the Planning Commission and the Governments concerned.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether any rules have been framed for the functioning of this Standing Committee as different from the National Council?

Shri S. N. Mishra: No rules are required. The only difference is that while the National Development Council is expected to meet only twice a year, this Committee is expected to meet at least three or four times a year.

Shri N. M. Lingam: May I know, if the National Development Council considered the short-fall in the achievement of the target of the Plan and if so what are the reasons for it?

Shri S. N. Mishra: That was one of the main subjects for deliberation in the National Development Council. So far as the difficulties in the way of the effective implementation of the Plan are concerned, they are so many; for example, the bottle-neck in regard to personnel, the procedural delays, administrative difficulties—I do not wish to name all of them.

HINDUSTAN CABLES LIMITED

***1114. Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to refer to the reply given to starred question No. 1626 on the 7th April, 1954 and state:

(a) when did the Hindustan Cables Limited go into actual production; and

(b) the length of cables of different specifications and value that this factory produced upto the 30th November, 1954?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Production (Shri R. G. Dubey): (a) Regular production started on the 1st September, 1954.

(b) A statement giving the information is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 16.]

Sardar Hukam Singh: We were told in April that experiments had started with unarmoured cables. Has the factory begun armoured cables as well?

Shri R. G. Dubey: It was stated on the previous occasion that the experimental production of unarmoured cables would begin by March, but due to certain difficulties in the lead press that was delayed at that stage.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Is the factory equipped to produce all kinds and specifications of cables, or even after it goes into production we shall have to import any particular kinds of cables from abroad?

Shri R. G. Dubey: So far as the first part of the question is concerned I would say "Yes", because all specifications of cables will be manufactured here. But there are different types of cables. For example there are carrier cables and power cables. We have no idea of manufacturing power cables in this factory. The idea of manufacturing carrier cables is under consideration.

Shri P. C. Bose: May I know the number of workmen working in the factory at present and the number of shifts they are working?

Shri R. G. Dubey: For the present there is only one shift; the number of workmen I cannot give off-hand.

PHARMACEUTICAL INQUIRY COMMITTEES REPORT

***1118. Shri Nageshwar Prasad Sinha:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state what steps have been taken so far towards the implementation of the recommendations made by the Pharmaceutical Inquiry Committee, especially towards the elimination of the menace of spurious, adulterated and sub-standard drugs?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Kanungo): The recommendations of the Pharmaceutical Inquiry Committee are under examination. Comments from State Governments have also been invited. Government expect to issue a Resolution on the subject in due course.

Shri Nageshwar Prasad Sinha: May I know what is the special agency which is utilised for the detection of spurious and adulterated drugs, and whether there is any proposal to form a special agency as recommended by the Committee?

Shri Kanungo: That will be indicated in the Resolution which will be issued.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether any time-limit has been set for the comments to be received from the various State Governments?

Shri Kanungo: No time-limit is necessary. The State Governments will obviously send their recommendations as early as possible.

TRAINING IN STEEL CONSTRUCTIONS

***1119. Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to refer to the reply given to unstarred

question No. 1961 on the 21st April, 1954 and state:

(a) whether any Indian technicians have since been sent or are proposed to be sent to Germany for training in steel constructions and other operations under the German Combine Messrs. Krupps and Demag;

(b) if so, the name of the institutions from which they have been selected; and

(c) the number of persons sent or proposed to be sent?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) to (c). Twenty-five persons are proposed to be trained in Germany in the designing of Iron and Steel Works. Ten of these were selected in India and 15 from Indians at present under training or in employment in Europe. Eight of the 10 selected in India have already left for Germany. In addition, key personnel for maintenance and operations in different Departments of integrated Iron and Steel Works are proposed to be trained in Germany in accordance with a phased training programme. Of these, 23 persons have been selected so far from among Indians at present residing in Europe. The 10 persons selected in India for training as design engineers come from the following organisations:—

- (i) Tata Iron and Steel Co. Ltd., Jamshedpur.
- (ii) Indian Iron and Steel Co. Ltd., Burnpore.
- (iii) Damodar Valley Corporation.
- (iv) Office of the Iron and Steel Controller, Calcutta.
- (v) Tungabhadra Project, Bellary, Andhra.
- (vi) Air-Conditioning Corporation Ltd., Bombay.
- (vii) Mukund Iron and Steel Works Ltd., Bombay.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: What will be the period of training there?

Shri K. C. Reddy: The exact duration of training would be determined

in Germany after these trainees reach that country.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: What will be the expenditure per student there?

Shri K. C. Reddy: So far as the trainees for designing works are concerned, the expenditure will be met by the consultants and that is their responsibility. It is not known what exactly would be the expenditure.

Shri Jaipal Singh: Are there any other training schemes, besides training in steel constructions.

Shri K. C. Reddy: This question relates to training in respect of the steel plant. The hon. Member is putting a general question as to whether there are any other training schemes.

Shri Jaipal Singh: May I make it clear?

Mr. Speaker: It is outside the scope of this question.

Shri Jaipal Singh: It relates to this particular firm. We have seen from the papers that the firm is inviting applications particularly from candidates from the affected area? Is there any truth in these press reports?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I am unable to answer that question, because I do not understand the import of the question he is putting.

INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION IN NEPAL

***1120. Shri Bibhutti Mishra:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the names of articles sold at the Industrial Exhibition held at Nepal under the auspices of the Paropkar Social Welfare Institute, Nepal and the total amount realised from their sale;

(b) the names of the articles which were most liked; and

(c) whether there is good market for any exhibits there?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) to (c). The Exhibition, which was inaugurated on the 13th November, 1954, was to be held

for a period of one month. It is, therefore, too early to furnish the information asked for.

TRAINING TO DISPLACED PERSONS

***1121. Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have impressed upon the various State Governments to afford facilities for training displaced persons as village level workers in the Community Development Projects and the National Extension Service Programme; and

(b) if so, the names of the States which have agreed to provide such facilities?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri J. K. Bhonsle): (a) Yes.

(b) Information is awaited and will be placed on the Table of Sabha in due course.

Shri Gidwani: May I request the Government to see that the information from the State Governments is received as early as possible?

Shri J. K. Bhonsle: Certainly, Sir.

Shri Gidwani: Will Government also make enquiries whether any displaced applicants have been rejected merely because they are not fully conversant with the regional language?

Shri J. K. Bhonsle: I do not really know whether there is such a difficulty. If the hon. Member is meaning Sindhis, who have settled in Bombay State, I can say from personal knowledge that they get on beautifully with snattering of Marathi or Gujarathi, as the case may be.

FILMS

***1122. Th. Lakshman Singh Charak:** Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to lay a statement on the Table of the House showing:

(a) the names of the films both Foreign and Indian which have been declared uncertified by the Central Government from January to October, 1954; and

(b) the reasons for the same in each case?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (b). Only two imported films, namely, "My Son John" and "Cease Fire" have been uncertified by the Central Government. Uncertification in these two cases was on the ground of foreign relations.

HOUSING CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

***1124. Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) how many States have formed Housing Finance Corporations;

(b) what facilities are given to the House-builder by these Corporations; and

(c) whether the Government of India have given or propose to give any aid to the State Governments for this purpose?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) Two.

(b) Mainly financial assistance in the shape of loans at reasonable rates of interest to Co-operative Housing Societies.

(c) So far Central aid has been confined to housing for industrial workers governed by the Factories Act under the Low-income Group Housing scheme recently announced, State Governments will be eligible for Central aid by way of loans for disbursement to others also either directly or through these Corporations.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: What is the total number of houses that will be covered under this scheme?

Sardar Swaran Singh: No target has been fixed that way, but we propose to liberalise it fairly well.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: What will be the specific conditions for the giving of the loan or grant to these Housing Finance Corporations, and may I know whether these Corporations will be autonomous bodies?

Sardar Swaran Singh: It depends upon the constitution as is decided by the various State Governments. A great amount of flexibility is allowed for the State Governments in the matter of the constitution, functions and scope of responsibility of these Corporations.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: What are the States which have formed these Corporations by this time?

Sardar Swaran Singh: They are Bombay and Mysore.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: The hon. Minister has said that loans will be given according to the functions of the Corporations. May I know what is the total amount of loan that the Government of India propose to give to these Corporations?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I would refer the hon. Member to the provision in the First Five Year Plan. It will be possible for the Central Government to give to the State Governments anywhere within that target.

SOCIAL EDUCATION DIRECTORS' CONFERENCE

*1125. **Shri Radha Raman:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether at a conference of Directors of Social Education Organizers' Training Centres and Principals of Developments Officers' Training Centres which had a three-day session recently in New Delhi, any recommendations were made to Government;

(b) if so, what are the important recommendations; and

(c) whether Government have accepted them?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 17.]

Shri Radha Raman: May I know how many Centres Government are maintaining, and in which States, for the training of the Social Education Organisers?

Shri S. N. Mishra: This question has been replied to so many times, and I think this does not relate to the Conference. So I would rather not go into that at the present moment.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know the number of Directors or Development Officers who participated in this, and from which States they were?

Shri S. N. Mishra: I think from all important Training Centres they participated; hardly any was left.

TUNGABHADRA PROJECT

*1127. **Shri T. Subrahmanyam:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been decided to acquire more land in Mysore State under the Tungabhadra Project in view of the raising of the Project level by five feet more;

(b) if so, the number of villages in the Mysore State that would be affected thereby; and

(c) the extra cost of compensation to be paid?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Information on these points will be available only after the work of contour marking, which is at present in progress, is completed. A statement embodying the information asked for will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

Shri T. S. A. Chettiar: May I know whether it is a fact that only 10 per cent. of the water made available from the Tungabhadra dam is being utilised at present?

Shri Hathi: At present the water that is stored is not fully utilised; I think very much less water is being utilised. That is a fact.

Shri Thimmaiah: May I know the arrangements that will be made to settle the villagers when these villagers are affected by the rise in the level of the project?

Shri Hathi: The arrangements which are generally made are either giving them land for land or cash compensation.

Shri T. S. A. Chettiar: May I know how long it will take for the full available water of the present Tungabhadra dam to be utilised?

Shri Hathi: Generally, Sir, the development for full irrigation takes about seven to ten years.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi: May I know why this raising of the project level has been contemplated before the entire project has been developed?

Shri Hathi: It is not a recent decision. In fact this was necessary because of the fixing of spillway gates. This was not a new decision.

CENTRAL MARKETING ORGANISATION

*1128. **Shri Keshavalengar:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government or the All India Handloom Board propose to set up a branch or sectional marketing organisation for the sale of handloom and the like products in the city of Bangalore?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Kanungo): The Central Government have sanctioned funds for the opening of Sales Depots to the Mysore Government. The location of these Sales Depots is for the Mysore Government to decide.

Shri Keshavalengar: May we know when this organisation will be set up?

Shri Kanungo: That is for the Mysore Government to decide, because funds have been already allotted.

FORMER FRENCH SETTLEMENTS IN INDIA

*1130. **Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the steps that Government of

India propose to take to secure the *de jure* possession of the former French settlements in India after their *de facto* transfer; and

(b) how long it will take to secure the *de jure* possession of the French Indian Territory?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) and (b). In accordance with the Indo-French Agreement transferring the administrative control of the former French Establishments to the Government of India, a Joint Financial Commission and a Joint Commission on Education have been set up to determine the rights and obligations of the two Governments. As soon as these Commissions have completed their work, negotiations for the *de jure* transfer of the Establishments will be started. While the Government cannot say how long it will take to complete the formalities, they hope that the *de jure* transfer will be effected as soon as possible.

Shri Krishnacharya Joshi: May I know whether, after the *de jure* transfer, the former French Settlements will merge in the contiguous area or will form separate States?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: It is too early to say that at this stage.

EASTERN ZONE REHABILITATION MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

*1132. **Shri N. B. Chowdhury:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the decisions and programmes formulated at the Eastern Zone Rehabilitation Ministers' Conference; and

(b) the proposals adopted in regard to encouragement of new industries near colonies and settlements of displaced persons and for tackling the problem of unemployment among them?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri J. K. Bhonsle): (a) Statement I giving a summary of the main decisions and recommendations of the

Conference is placed on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 18.]

(b) Statement II outlining the facilities offered for the encouragement of new industries with a view to relieve unemployment amongst displaced persons in the Eastern Region is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 18.]

Shri N. B. Chowdhury: May I know whether Government have received any concrete schemes of setting up industries for the employment of the displaced persons?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): No concrete schemes have been received so far, but we have received enquiries from about a dozen concerns. A questionnaire has been issued and they have been asked to supply the necessary information. After that, the schemes will be duly examined.

Shri N. B. Chowdhury: In the statement it has been mentioned that squatters' colonies in and around Calcutta which came into existence till December 1950 would be recognised. May I know the number of such colonies, and the colonies that were started after December 1950?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: The number of colonies that we propose to regularise is 133. There are, according to the information given by the Government of West Bengal, another 46 colonies which have to be taken into consideration. This matter was discussed at the Rehabilitation Ministers' Conference held last month. Under the Act, if a squatter squatted before 31st December 1950 he is entitled to the provision of alternative accommodation. It is for the squatters in those forty-six colonies to prove to the Competent Authority that they did squat before that date. And if that is proved, they will also be provided the same facilities as the inmates of the one hundred and thirty-three colonies.

Shri N. B. Chowdhury: According to the statement the Chief Minister of West Bengal was asked to formulate a scheme for the rehabilitation of refugees who have come back from Orissa and Bihar. May I know whether such a scheme has since been formulated by the Chief Minister of West Bengal and, if so, what is the scheme?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I presume the hon. Member is referring to the deserters from Bihar and Orissa.

Shri N. B. Chowdhury: Yes.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: Well, that scheme has not been received from the Chief Minister of West Bengal as yet. But I can tell the hon. Member that he is looking into the matter, he has also seen the squatters concerned personally, and also some social workers interested in the problem. When I left Calcutta a few days ago, our impression was that these gentlemen, unless some pressure is brought to bear upon them from outside, will most probably go back to Bihar and Orissa.

AUTOMOBILE MANUFACTURING PROGRAMME

*1133. **Shri Morarka:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether any report has been submitted by the *Ad Hoc* Committee as regards the progress in the automobile manufacturing programme in this country?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Kanungo): The Committee is not expected to submit any such reports.

Shri Morarka: Has this Committee tendered any advice to the Government so far as the manufacture of cars or the price of cars in India is concerned?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): All these matters are placed before the Committee by the Commerce and Industry Ministry from time to time.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: What are the specific recommendations of Dr. Vorwig, the German automobile expert, who was invited by the Government of India, and how many of his recommendations are going to be implemented by the Government?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Dr. Vorwig had submitted his recommendations to the Tariff Commission. If the Hon. Member wishes to see these recommendations, I think a copy of the report has been placed in the Library of the House. So far as implementation of the recommendations is concerned, there was no question of the recommendations being implemented, as these were recommendations made to the Tariff Commission.

Shri G. P. Sinha: May I know what will be the selling price of automobiles manufactured in India? Will they be cheaper than foreign imports in view of the fact that import duty is not levied on them?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It might be more costly than the imported automobile.

CHANDERNAGORE

*1134. **Shri Tushar Chatterjea:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation has been received by Government from the people of Chandernagore about the difficulties arising out of the promulgation of some Indian Union and West Bengal laws in Chandernagore after its merger with West Bengal;

(b) if so, what are the laws referred to and what are the difficulties mentioned; and

(c) whether the Government of India propose to take any action under Section 19 of the Chandernagore Merger Act, 1954 to remove those difficulties?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) Yes.

(b) Representations of some importance related to the excise policy of the Government of West Bengal and to

the extension of the West Bengal Finance (Sales Tax) Act, 1941. It was represented that the application of these laws affected adversely the interests of the business community of Chandernagore and also that the people were not accustomed to the Indian rules and regulations.

(c) Government have brought such representations to the notice of West Bengal Government for their consideration. It is hoped that West Bengal Government will take suitable action. It is therefore, not considered necessary to resort to Section 19 of the Chandernagore Merger Act, 1954.

Shri Tushar Chatterjea: The Hon. Minister referred to certain laws in which Indian Electricity Act and Electric Duty Act are not mentioned. May I know whether these questions are also taken into consideration?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: We have referred this matter to the West Bengal Government.

एकीकृत प्रचार कार्यक्रम योजना

*११३६. डा० सत्यवाली : क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि एकीकृत प्रचार कार्यक्रम योजना के अन्तर्गत ३२ लंड रोवर डिव्हॉं के लिये एक आदंदर दिवा गया था;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि ये डिव्हॉ अब तक नहीं आये हैं और इस कारण योजना का कार्यान्वित होना रुक गया है; और

(ग) अब तक योजना के अन्तर्गत लगाये गये कर्मचारियों पर कितनी राशि व्यय की गयी है ?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Yes.

(b) Six of these Land Rovers which were available ex-stock were received by April, 1954. The orders for the remaining Land Rovers were placed but delivery could not be obtained from the firm concerned owing to their de-

fault in securing customs clearance. The order for Land Rovers was therefore cancelled and Jeeps were immediately ordered in substitution. Five of the Jeeps were received in July, 1954 and the remaining 26 in November, 1954. The Land Rovers made available were utilised to the fullest extent. In the absence of the full quota, only five Regional Officers and 19 Field Publicity Officers Publicity Organisers had been appointed as against the then sanctioned strength of six Regional Officers and 32 Field Publicity Officers Publicity Organisers. The field staff so appointed utilised their own efforts and supplemented them with the resources of the State Governments and local organisations for holding film shows, meetings, discussion groups and distribution of literature. In September, 14 more Field Publicity Officers/Publicity Organisers were appointed. During the last 12 months, the field officers have visited as many as 1,211 places where 900 film shows were also given, attended by 17,72,000 people. They have established contacts and by now fully familiarized themselves with the areas under their jurisdiction. They further covered important fairs including the Kumbh Mela where seven Publicity Centres in different sectors were opened and 1,422 film reels were shown in 201 shows, attended by nearly 3 lakhs of people. The implementation of the scheme under this scheme has not therefore been at a standstill.

(c) The amount spent on the salaries and allowances of the staff in question upto 31st October, 1954 is Rs. 1,18,072.

दा० सत्यकारी : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि आप ने जो स्टाफ इस स्कीम में लगाया था वह य० पी० एस० सी० के जरिये भर्ती नहीं किया गया, और बाद में जब कर्मिशन ने एक सीनिअर अफसर को रिजेक्ट कर दिया तो उस को दोबारा रख लिया गया ?

श्री कर्मरकर : मेरी इन्फार्मेशन के मुताबिक तो दोबारा नहीं लिया गया। चूंकि हमें जरूरत होती है इस तिये एंड हाक एंड्राइंट्सन्ट्स कर दर्ते

हैं, लेकिन हर एक आदमी को य० पी० एस० सी० के सामने तो जाना ही होता है। वह जाते हैं तो कभी कभी उन का रिजेक्शन भी हो जाता है।

TEA

*1138. **Shri N. M. Lingam:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated tea crop for the year 1954-55; and

(b) the quantity of medium and high grade tea included in this estimate?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) 639 million lbs.

(b) Government have no information.

Shri N. M. Lingam: May I know the quantity allowed to be exported and the quantity available for internal consumption out of this ?

Shri Karmarkar: The quantity available for internal consumption is a little more than 180 million lbs. Regarding the quantity exported during 1953-54, it was declared at 437,48,942 lbs. In addition to this, a balance of 112.8 million lbs. from 1952-53 export quota was carried forward after 31st March 1953 for utilisation against special licences issued during April-May, 1953.

Shri N. M. Lingam: Is it a fact that the entire high grade tea is offered for export with the result that the internal prices of tea have gone up?

Shri Karmarkar: The type of tea exported or retained for internal consumption has nothing to do with the rise in prices.

INDIANS SERVING IN SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE

*1145. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to refer to the reply given to starred question No. 796 on the 16th March, 1953 and state:

(a) whether any further negotiations were held with the appropriate

authorities for the recovery of dues of Indians on account of their pay, allowances, funds and rewards, for the services rendered by them to the previous Shanghai Municipal Council; and

(b) whether any Indian has been absorbed in service or other employment?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) The Embassy of India in Peking have sent several reminders to Government of the People's Republic of China; a final reply from that Government is still awaited.

(b) Government have no information.

Sardar Hukam Singh: The last answer also was that the reply was awaited and I presume no reply has been received since then.

Shri Anil K. Chanda: The last reminder was sent to the Chinese Government in July, 1954, and the final reply has not been received.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Had we received any reply to the previous reminders that we sent in 1953?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: Yes, they are considering the matter.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Defence (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): May I point out that this matter relates to the earlier Government in China and it is rather difficult for us to press the successor Government in the same way as we have done the earlier Government. Things have changed in China during the last few years.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Is the Indian Government prepared to consider the case of these persons if they return to India?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: This question has not arisen. As a matter of fact, about two months ago when I went to Shanghai I met practically every Indian there and no one wanted to come back to India. If any one wants to come back, I have no doubt we shall consider helping him.

Sardar Hukam Singh: I was referring to those who have come to India and who are going around without any employment.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I can only say that each individual case can be considered. I can hardly give any assurance or undertaking which might cover everybody, but we shall gladly consider individual cases.

DAMODAR VALLEY PROJECT ESTIMATES

***1147. Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the estimates of the Damodar Valley Project have increased from time to time and at present they are double the original figures; and

(b) if so, what are the causes therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main causes are:

(i) Rise in prices since 1945 when the preliminary rough estimates were prepared.

(ii) Subsequent extension of the scope of the scheme.

(iii) Devaluation of the rupee.

(iv) Absence of provision in the original estimates for prices escalation.

(v) Increase in the cost of land acquisition and rehabilitation.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: How many times has the estimate been revised? What is the present position, and what was the original estimate?

Shri Hathi: An estimate which was only very rough was prepared in 1945. Then the first estimate was prepared in 1951, then in 1952 and the latest in 1953.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: What was the original estimate, and what is it now estimated?

Shri Hathi: The estimate of 1951 was Rs. 74.98 crores.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: And the present estimate

Shri Hathi: The present estimate would be Rs. 92 crores.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: Is it going to be further amended or is the estimate going to be increased?

Shri Hathi: That is not likely unless we again expand the scope of the work. Otherwise, it is unlikely.

Shri N. M. Lingam: May I know if the higher cost is due to difference in the schedule of rates adopted now or owing to changes in the project itself?

Shri Hathi: As I mentioned, there are various causes. The original estimate which was made in 1945 was a rough estimate. Subsequently it has risen because of the rise in prices and more wages and also because of the expansion in the scope of the project.

PURCHASE OF KHADI

***1148. Shri Bibhuti Mishra:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are purchasing Khadi only from Madras State; and

(b) if so, whether Government would consider it desirable to purchase Khadi from other States also?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the fact that orders for khadi are given to long-distance agencies and not purchased from the local manufacturers?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I do not know what is meant by local manufacturers and long-distance suppliers. Government purchases are required all over the country and therefore generally they are procured from the nearest available source. If there is any parti-

cular case in the mind of the hon. Member, he may mention it to me, and I am prepared to look into that. Most of the requirements are purchased from the All-India Khadi and Village Industries Board.

Shri Bibhuti Mishra: क्या सरकार अपने स्वर्क के लिए जो सादी खरीदती है, चर्चा संघ की दुकानों से ही खरीदती है?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I have already mentioned that most of the purchases are made from the All-India Khadi and Village Industries Board. I presume that they procure their supplies mostly from these sources.

Shri Bibhuti Mishra: क्या कभी अस्तु खादी मंडारों से भी सादी खरीद ली जाती है?

सरकार स्वर्क मिश्र: जी, नहीं।

Shri N. L. Joshi: May I know the value of the khadi purchased by Government during the year 1954?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I have got some figures which may help the hon. Member. During the year 1953-54 the total value of khadi purchases was Rs. 3,75,234 whereas in the current year from 1st April, 1954 to 9th November, 1954, it was Rs. 24,54,951 and further demands worth about Rs. 6,73,000 by Central Government indents are in hand which are proposed to be covered by khadi.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary rose—

Mr. Speaker: We will go to the next question.

SINDHI DISPLACED ZAMINDARS

***1149. Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a press report about the conditions of Sindhi displaced Zamindars of Rajasthan and the allegations against the authorities in-charge of allotment of agricultural lands;

(b) whether Government have made any enquiry into the matter; and

(c) if so, the result thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri J. K. Bhonsle): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) All possible efforts have been made to help the displaced persons. Government are satisfied that allegations about corruption and high handedness are unfounded.

Shri Gidwani: May I know who made the enquiry and from whom the enquiry was made? *

Shri J. K. Bhonsle: The enquiry was made by Government officials, from the displaced persons who actually did make those allegations.

Shri Gidwani: May I then ask whether the Government will make an independent inquiry and give an opportunity to the complainants to substantiate them?

Shri J. K. Bhonsle: All sorts of people make allegations without proofs, but if the hon. Member takes that responsibility, we shall certainly make an enquiry.

Shri Gidwani: Are the Government aware that possession of land has not been given to some of the displaced landholders even though it has been allotted to them?

Shri J. K. Bhonsle: It is a gradual process. All lands cannot be given straightway, and those that have been allotted will be given possession of in due course.

REORGANISATION OF U. N. SECRETARIAT

*1150. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian representative during the debate in the Administrative and Budgetary Committee of the United Nations General Assembly on re-organisation of the U.N. Secretariat commented on the appointment of certain categories of persons to influential posts in the United Nations Secretariat; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the representatives of other countries in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) Yes.

(b) The representative of Pakistan took objection to the Indian representative's statement and stated that it was intended to "cast aspersions" on Shri A. S. Bokhari, former Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the U. N. and then designated as the Under Secretary in charge of the Public Information Division of the U.N. Secretariat. He further stated that the fact that Shri A. S. Bokhari had been Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the U. N. should not be held against him, for in that position he had been expressing the views of his government and not his own. The representatives of Norway and Iraq stated that they agreed with the Pakistan's representative on the danger of accepting as a binding principle that persons involved in controversies on behalf of their own countries should be debarred from United Nations service.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether there was any specific instance on which the objection was based?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Defence (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): The objection taken by us was firstly that a person who had taken a very active part in the United Nations in opposition to another country—a very aggressive part—will find it difficult to function in a neutral position later, more especially in a position which is connected with the propaganda and publicity part of the U.N. If it is some other part of the U.N., it does not matter, but a person connected with the actual propaganda part of the U.N. to be one who has been an aggressive partisan publicly and otherwise was a bad precedent. That was our main case.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether there is anything in the rules of recruitment for such services by the

United Nations Assembly which stands in the way of such appointments?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: There are no rules. There are and there can be no rules. There are conventions governing these things, or there ought to be. At present apparently there are not, because the Secretary-General made this appointment.

Shri N. M. Lingam: May I know if, apart from the objections raised by our representative, the Government of India itself expressed disapproval of the appointment of Mr. Ahmed Bokhari, and if it is not a fact that our objections were received too late to be considered by the Secretary-General?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Our representative in New York speaks on behalf of the Government of India. He does not represent some separate entity. It is we who tell him to say what he has to say. The Government of India made clear its opinions informally on several occasions previous to the formal objection.

Sardar Hukam Singh rose—

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

INDIANS IN CEYLON

*1152. **Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether a conference between Planters and Ceylonese officials took place recently to finalise a scheme for payment of gratuities to the persons of Indian origin opting for Indian nationality;

(b) if so, the particulars of the Scheme; and

(c) the reactions of the Government of India to the proposals put forward in the Scheme?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) Government have no official knowledge of this. They have however, seen a press report that such a conference was held early in October, 1954.

(b) So far as Government are aware, the scheme has not yet been finalised.

(c) Does not arise.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know whether Government have enquired from the Acting High Commissioner in Ceylon about this scheme?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: We have no official information about this.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know whether it has come to the notice of Government that the Ceylonese Government are victimising Indians in certain government undertakings, in spite of the fact that it was decided that this victimisation will not take place?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: We have information about four such persons given notice of discharge, and our Acting High Commissioner has already seen the Acting Foreign Secretary of Ceylon in connection with this.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know what reply has been received by the Acting High Commissioner when he approached the Ceylon Government officials?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: This matter is receiving the consideration of the Ceylon Government.

COFFEE PLANTERS

*1154. **Shri Keshavaiengar:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Coffee Planters who are members of the Coffee Board and who own estates of the extent of (i) 5 acres and less (ii) between 5 and 10 acres (iii) between 10 and 50 acres and (iv) 100 acres and more; and

(b) how many planters are there in India who are not members of the Coffee Board?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) (i) 5 acres and less, Nill.

(ii) Between 5 and 10 acres, Nil.
 (iii) Between 10 and 50 acres, Nil.
 (iv) 100 acres and more, 8 planters. Nil.

(b) The total number of registered estates as on 30th June 1954 is 32,848. It is not possible to give the precise number of coffee planters who are not members of the Coffee Board, since the same planter may own more than one estate.

Shri Keshavaiengar: May we know whether Government have framed rules for the election of the members of the Coffee Board, making specific provision for securing representation to the small estate owners, and if so, whether Government will be pleased to lay a copy of those rules on the Table of the House?

Shri Karmarkar: We have not yet finally framed the rules. With regard to the representation of the small growers, I am quite sure that my hon. friend has followed the discussions on the Bill that was recently discussed.

Shri Thimmalah: May I know the total number of coffee planters who are not Indians, and whether any of them is serving on the Coffee Board?

Shri Karmarkar: I have no information on that point. I could not tell him offhand, but I shall try to find out the information on notice.

FIVE YEAR PLAN

*1157. **Shri Morarka:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state the steps proposed to be taken for the rapid and Substantial Stepping up of expenditure on the First Five-Year Plan?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): For increasing the rate of expenditure under the Plan the steps taken and proposed include improvement of procedures, removal of shortages of personnel, strengthening of administration, transfer of financial provisions from heads under which there is likely to be surplus to those where greater expenditure is called for and, generally, continuous watching of the progress of the Plan.

Shri Morarka: May I know the total amount spent upto October 1954, under the Five-Year Plan?

Shri S. N. Mishra: Although I can give the figure just now, yet I would like to refer the hon. Member to the Progress Report that has been published, since that gives all the information. I can give the total outlay during the first three years. It has been Rs. 878-99 crores. I can also give the break-up so far as the States and the Centre are concerned.

Shri Morarka: I wanted the figures upto October 1954. The Progress Report does not give these figures.

Shri S. N. Mishra: For that we would require more time, and the hon. Member will have to wait for the next Progress Report.

Shri Morarka: May I know whether Government expect to spend the remaining sum of about Rs. 1200 crores in the remaining two years?

Shri S. N. Mishra: Although that is our expectation, still there might be shortfall to the extent of 15 per cent.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether those States which have not been able to meet the target of expenditure for the last three years have taken sufficient steps so far to incur expenditure on the different heads?

Shri S. N. Mishra: I think so. Even in the last meeting of the National Development Council, when the deliberations took place on the progress of the Plan, there seemed to have been an increased determination to step up the tempo of the Plan, and so far as 1953-54 is concerned, it would be observed that the outlay would be about Rs. 100 crores more than the revised estimates of the preceding year.

INDIAN STANDARDS INSTITUTION

*1161. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Standards

Institution has laid down any specific standards for any commodities of agriculture or of industry during the last 6 months: and

(b) whether the Institute received any samples for comment or refereeing in cases of disputes?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Yes, Sir. During the period of six months from the 1st June, 1954, to the 30th November, 1954, the Institution has laid down 114 standards for industrial commodities and 13 for agricultural commodities.

(b) The Institution does not, at present, have facilities either for testing or for inspection of goods, but when samples are received for testing, the Institution arranges with various national and State Laboratories for testing such samples. The Institution does not take up refereeing or arbitration in cases of disputes.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know whether the Central Government have any information about the number of standards that have been adopted by the State Governments out of the number that has been given just now?

Shri Karmarkar: I suppose that the standards have been adopted by the industry concerned. I should like to have notice.

Sardar Hukam Singh: By the State Governments?

Shri Karmarkar: I should like to have notice.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know whether any fee is charged for comments or for refereeing?

Shri Karmarkar: We do not do refereeing.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Then, what was the amount that was collected during the last twelve months?

Shri Karmarkar: Does the hon. Member refer to disputes and refereeing

consequent on such disputes? We do not indulge in that pastime.

Shri N. B. Chowdhury: May I know what steps are taken to make the standards known to the cultivators or the growers concerned?

Shri Karmarkar: We publish them, and we expect the States to familiarise those concerned with these publications.

चावल का चोकर

*११६२. श्री विभूति मिश्र : क्या वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग मंत्री यह जिताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने चावल के चोकर को निर्यात करने की अनुमति दी है;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो क्या मिल के चोकर और हाथ से कूटे गये चावल के चोकर की अलग मात्रा निश्चित की गयी है;

(ग) अब तक चावल का कितना चोकर निर्यात हो चका है; और

(घ) क्या चोकर के निर्यात में भारत में चारे की स्थिति पर असर नहीं पड़ेगा ?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) About 2,000 tons.

(d) Export of husk which is an important cattle feed is not allowed.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : क्या सरकार को पता है कि जो अंश उसका यहाँ से निर्यात किया जाता है वह गांवों में गरीबों के जलाने के काम में आता है ?

श्री करमरकर : जलाने के लिए इस्तेमाल नहीं करना चाहिए।

श्री विभूति मिश्र : गांवों में लकड़ी का अभाव है और सारी चीजों का अभाव है। धान को कटने के बाद जो छिलका रह जाता है उससे गरीब आदमी अपना खाना बनाते हैं।

श्री करमरकर : खाने के लिए तो हमारे यहां अग्री ठीक इनिंजाम हैं और जलाने के लिए भी हैं। अगर आनंदबल मेम्बर के पास किसी दिक्कत की कोई इनफारमेशन आयी हो तो हम उस पर सांच सकते हैं। अभी तक तो कोई दिक्कत की इनफारमेशन हमारे पास नहीं आयी है।

श्री विभूति मिश्र : एक टन निर्यात करने में कितना दैसा मिलता है?

श्री करमरकर : उसके बारे में पूर्व सूचना चाहिए।

Shri Altekar: May I know the countries to which the bran is exported?

Shri Karmarkar: Philippines, U.K., and Ceylon. That is for 1952-53 to 1953-55.

Shri Altekar: May I know the value of the bran exported?

Shri Sarangadhar Das: In view of the fact that very often all over the country there is scarcity of fodder for cattle, will Government consider the desirability of never exporting fodder materials but of keeping them in the country?

Shri Karmarkar: I shall convey that suggestion to the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, who is our adviser in this matter.

WAGE STRUCTURE

***1164. Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether the question of giving financial assistance to the Joint Consultative Board of Industry and Labour for carrying out researches on the wage structure in the various sectors has been considered;

(b) if so, with what results;

(c) whether any other organisations in the country are carrying on this work; and

(d) if so, the nature and the extent of help given to them so far?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): (a) and (b). Studies on wage structure will be organised by employers' and workers' organisations on behalf of the Joint Consultative Board as part of their programme of work. Suitable schemes for research may be placed before the Research Programmes Committee. So far no financial assistance has been requested from or given by the Government for any Research schemes of the Joint Consultative Board.

(c) and (d). General studies in the field of labour are carried on in various university institutions. No special assistance has been given to them by the Government. The Labour Bureau under the Ministry of Labour also conducts such studies.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether, in view of the importance of this subject, Government themselves are thinking of having such researches made by any institution?

Shri S. N. Mishra: As I indicated in the reply, the Labour Bureau under the Ministry of Labour also conducts studies.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether this Joint Consultative Board has intimated to the Government its intention of having such researches made by it?

Shri S. N. Mishra: Yes. Last time, when the Board met on 3rd November, they accepted the offer made by the Research Programmes Committee and the Chairman of the Consultative Board had been authorised to think of ways in which this offer could best be utilised.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: May I know if any programme has been drawn up in respect of specific industries in which they will go into the question of the wage structure?

The Minister of Planning and Irrigation and Power (Shri Nanda): It was only very recently that the Joint

Consultative Board adopted this programme. The Board is meeting again in about a month or so when details will be taken up for consideration.

FIVE-YEAR PLAN

***1166. Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

- (a) the extent to which the Five-Year Plan has been expanded further to stimulate employment;
- (b) the schemes or programmes that will be taken up under this expansion; and
- (c) whether priorities will be given to labour intensive schemes?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 19.]

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: From the statement it appears that Rs. 216 crores have been approved under the Plan for this purpose. May I know whether these schemes involving a sum of Rs. 216 crores will be implemented during the First Five-Year Plan or whether some of them will be reserved for the Second Five-Year Plan?

Shri S. N. Mishra: Since these schemes are conceived for the augmentation of employment opportunities, it is our expectation that they would be implemented.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know what is the approximate number of people expected to be employed under these schemes?

Shri S. N. Mishra: That is exactly our difficulty—that we are not yet able to make a quantitative assessment of the employment opportunities. The Planning Commission, I would like to inform the House, is constantly seized of this problem, and we are trying to make an assessment as far as possible. But so far we have not yet been able to make any exact assessment.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know what steps have so far been taken by Government to find out a ratio between employment prospects and the actual unemployment position in the country?

Shri S. N. Mishra: The complete picture can only be known after some studies have been made. One of such studies is being carried on in the Planning Commission. But the more important thing that is now going to be done is that a comprehensive survey of the employment situation in the country would be undertaken by the Indian Statistical Institute in co-operation with the Planning Commission, and taking all these things together, the complete picture would emerge.

The Minister of Planning and Irrigation and Power (Shri Nanda): I may add in answer to that question that so far as the river valley projects are concerned, a scientific study has been made of the employment potential, and I think during the last few months these investigations have been completed in respect of three major projects.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: The hon. Deputy Minister stated that information was being gathered by a certain organisation. I would like to know whether this organisation is only taking up the question of urban unemployment or whether it has also schemes to gather statistics about rural unemployment.

Shri S. N. Mishra: So far as this projected employment survey by the Indian Statistical Institute is concerned, that would cover the entire country. Probably the hon. lady Member has in her mind the survey that was conducted only recently in 23 cities in India, but this survey would cover the entire country.

Shri N. B. Chowdhury: May I know whether the amount now mentioned, which has been provided under the Five-Year Plan, to create more employment opportunities will form a

part of the reported ten-year plan for the removal of unemployment in the country as a whole?

Shri S. N. Mishra: I do not know what ten-year plan the hon. Member has in view, but this problem of giving full employment to the people is, indeed, a long-term problem; it may take ten years, it may take more or even less; that depends on the tempo of development.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know whether any amount has so far been spent out of this addition for the purpose?

Shri S. N. Mishra: Yes. I think a good deal has been spent and a significant amount is projected.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: What is the amount so far spent?

Shri S. N. Mishra: I require notice.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: May I know whether this expenditure and expansion in the Five Year Plan to stimulate employment opportunities is based on the assessment of the magnitude of the unemployment in the country or it is just a step in the darkness?

Shri S. N. Mishra: Unless we have got an exact statistical base for the formulation of an employment policy, probably the hon. Member would always like to say that it is a step in the darkness. But so far as the information we have been able to collect from the different States is concerned, it will be recognised that since the States are the real authorities to give us information in this regard and we think we have been able to formulate these programmes on the basis of their experiences and information and they are bound to produce effect.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

WOOLLEN GOODS

***1115. Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the increase in the import quota of woollen goods has affected the market adversely;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the margin between the landed cost of imported goods and that of Indian goods is considerable and the increase in import duty is not of much avail; and

(c) what steps, if any, are being taken to protect the Indian manufacturers?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). The landed cost of the imported goods is considerably higher than the price of similar goods of indigenous manufacture and the higher rate of duty and consumers' resistance to expensive imported goods are sufficient safeguards for the interests of the indigenous industry. Government are, however, closely watching the position and will take suitable steps when necessary.

PHARMACEUTICAL ENQUIRY COMMITTEE'S REPORT

***1116. Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the suggestion of the Pharmaceutical Enquiry Committee at page 69 of their Report regarding the necessity for revising the agreements of Indian Manufacturers of Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals with foreign firms; and

(b) if so, what steps have so far been taken in this regard?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Kanungo): (a) and (b). The recommendations of the Pharmaceutical Enquiry Committee are under examination and Government expect to issue a Resolution on the subject in due course.

NATIONAL EXTENSION SERVICE

***1117. Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state the total grant made to the

States during the year 1953-54 for the development of the National Extension Service?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): Rs. 103.49 lakhs.

TEACHING OF ASSAMESE LANGUAGE

***1123. Shri R. K. Chaudhuri:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether teaching in Assamese Language either as a compulsory subject or as a medium of instruction has been discontinued in the North East Frontier Agency since 1953-54; and

(b) if so, the categories of schools in which it has been discontinued?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House, when received.

CENSUS OF HANDLOOMS

***1126. Shri Sanganna:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Handloom Census has been undertaken in all the States at the instance of the All-India Handloom Board; and

(b) if so, the progress made in this regard?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Kanungo): (a) and (b). State Governments have been asked to take such a Census and the Central Government have sanctioned funds for this purpose. The work has not yet been completed.

INDIANS DETAINED IN U.S.A.

***1129. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state the number of Indians, tourists and students, who were detained under U.S. Immigration Act in the United States of America since the 15th August, 1947?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): Government have no information.

TEA GARDEN WORKERS

***1131. Mulla Abdullabhai:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the amount secured from the Central Tea Board for the welfare of tea garden workers during the year 1953-54; and

(b) the nature of welfare activities on which it was spent?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (b). A sum of Rs. 1 lakh was provided in the late Central Tea Board's budget for 1953-54 for financial assistance to States for labour welfare schemes. No schemes were received by the Board in time from any State.

CEMENT QUOTA FOR KOSI PROJECT

***1135. Shri L. N. Mishra:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether any demand has been made by the Kosi Project Authorities for allotment of additional quota of cement for the execution of the said project;

(b) if so, the quantity of cement demanded by them and decision of Government thereon;

(c) whether they have given any idea of their total requirements of cement per annum; and

(d) if so, the number of years for which they would need additional and special allotments?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Kanungo): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) About three to four years from November, 1955.

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION IN FARIDABAD

*1137. **Shri Ibrahim:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a Municipal Corporation in Faridabad;

(b) if so, the recurring annual expenditure of the Corporation; and

(c) whether the administration of this Corporation will be done by the Delhi State or the Central Government?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri J. K. Bhonsle): (a) No.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

MIGRATION OF HARIJANS

*1140. **Shri Ram Dass:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Harijans now released by the Pakistan Government from the Lahore transit camp; and

(b) the nature of the scheme that Government have in consideration to rehabilitate them in India?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri J. K. Bhonsle): (a) None since 7th May, 1954.

(b) Does not arise.

INDIANS IN CEYLON

*1142. **Shri Veeraswamy:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to refer to the reply given to starred question No. 570 on the 1st December, 1954 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Indians in Ceylon Government's service have been served with notice of discharge from service;

(b) if so, their number; and

(c) whether the Indian High Commissioner in Ceylon has protested against this action of the Ceylon Government?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) Yes, a number of persons of Indian origin, who have not so far obtained Ceylonese or Indian nationality, have been served with notices of discharge from service.

(b) Their exact number is not known.

(c) The Acting High Commissioner in Ceylon has taken up the matter with the Ceylon Government.

BORDER INCIDENT

*1143. **Shri M. Islamuddin:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to refer to the reply given to starred question No. 857 on the 13th September, 1954 and state:

(a) whether a joint inquiry by representatives of the Government of India and Pakistan was held as suggested by the Pakistan Government; and

(b) if so, the findings of the said inquiry?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) and (b). The joint enquiry will be held on the 22nd and 23rd December, 1954.

TEA

*1144. **Shri K. P. Tripathi:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the average price of tea (both in respect of export and internal consumption) to date in India this year;

(b) how it compares with the cost of production this year; and

(c) how it compares with the cost of production in 1951 and 1952?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Two statements are laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 20.]

(b) and (c). Precise information is not available.

INFORMATION CENTRES

*1146. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) the number of information centres opened to popularise the First Five Year Plan; and

(b) the agency under which they work?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) and (b). Two centres in Delhi State will be shortly opened by the Bharat Sevak Samaj.

N.E.F.A.

*1151. **Shri R. K. Chaudhuri:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the language in which proceedings in Court and offices in the North East Frontier Agency are interpreted to the Officers not conversant with the dialect spoken there, and

(b) whether it is a fact that formerly in the areas now included in N.E.F.A., interpretation was carried on in Assamese?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Shri J. N. Hazarika):

(a) and (b). There are no prescribed languages in which proceedings in Courts and Offices are to be interpreted. The languages normally used were and are Assamese and Hindi and in rare cases English. Officers are encouraged to learn the tribal languages of the area concerned.

E.C.A.F.E.

*1153. **Shri Sanganna:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that E.C.A.F.E. have prepared a manual on investigation and administration of multi-purpose River Projects;

(b) whether the Government of India were consulted in the matter; and

(c) if so, the nature of the suggestions made by Government in this connection?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) There has been no such publication so far as Government are aware.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

ARECANUT

*1155. **Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the price of arecanut before the enhancement of import duty and the price at present?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 21.]

UNEMPLOYMENT

*1156. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether the execution of various development projects under the First Five Year Plan have in any way succeeded in reducing unemployment in the country; and

(b) if so, to what extent?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): (a) and (b). No quantitative assessment is possible at this stage. Replies received from some States indicate that these schemes have relieved unemployment to some extent.

UNEMPLOYMENT

*1158. **Shri L. N. Mishra:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment of the results achieved in solving unemployment problem of the society through its policy of Road Development and expansion of One Teacher School in various States, has been made; and

(b) if so, with what results?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): (a) and (b). The appointment of 59,337 teachers has been approved so far under the scheme for educational programmes to relieve educated unemployment. For road development, additional schemes costing Rs. 22.5 crores were approved. Employment resulting from these schemes is under study.

COMPENSATION TO DISPLACED PERSONS

*1159. **Mulla Abdullahai:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of displaced persons who had been paid compensation upto date in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Bombay and Hyderabad separately; and

(b) the total amount paid to them?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri J. K. Bhonsle): (a) The total number of displaced persons who have been paid compensation upto the 1st December, 1954 is:—

Madhya Pradesh	821
Bombay	2,324
Hyderabad	3
—	—
	3,148
	—

(b) Rs. 93.56,560.

HAPHLANG COLONY (DHARMAJNAGAR)

*1160. **Shri Dasaratha Deb:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two children died for want of medicine in Haphlang Colony (Dharmnagar), although an approach was made to the Medical Officer of the Government dispensary who expressed his helplessness saying that there was no medicine in stock;

(b) whether it is a fact that on the next day it was found that sufficient quantity of the required medicine was in the stock when enquired by the authority concerned; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri J. K. Bhonsle): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

EXPORT AND IMPORT OF FILMS

*1163. **Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the resolution passed by the Bengal Picture Association requesting Government not to permit the export of Indian Films to Pakistan and the import of Pakistan films to India until Pakistan revises its policy to the satisfaction of the film trade in India;

(b) whether Government have considered their request; and

(c) if so, the decision taken thereon?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) It is considered that the exigencies of the situation can be met by action on the part of producers and distributors in the matter of export and import, on a voluntary basis.

N.E.F.A.

*1165. **Shri Sanganna:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal to rename the Sub Divisions of N.E.F.A. is under the consideration of Government; and

(b) if so, whether any final decision has been arrived at?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Shri J. N. Hazarika): (a) and (b). The Divisions in N.E.F.A. were re-named in January this year after the names of five important rivers flowing through them and one town (Tuensang). There are no fresh proposals for renaming the Divisions.

HANDLOOM INDUSTRY IN MADHYA PRADESH

*1168. **Mulla Abdullahai:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry

be pleased to state:

(a) the amount given as grant to the Government of Madhya Pradesh for the development of Handloom Industry during 1954-55; and

(b) the items on which it will be spent?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Kanungo): (a) Rs. 4,25,395.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 22.]

DISPLACED PERSONS IN TRIPURA

***1169. Shri Dasaratha Deb:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of displaced persons rehabilitated in Machhali Mara colony of Kailasahar have deserted the colony in Tripura;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of displaced persons families which were settled there; and

(d) the number of families which have already deserted the colony?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri J. K. Bhonsle): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

PROTECTED INDUSTRIES

719. Shri V. P. Nayar: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to lay on the Table of the House a statement showing:

(a) the industries so far given protection by Government since the establishment of the Tariff Board;

(b) the names of the industries which enjoy the protection now;

(c) the total capital invested in the industries given protection by Government;

(d) the share of foreign capital in the total capital invested in industries enjoying current protection; and

(e) the estimated profit or loss made by foreign capital invested in protected industries from 1947-48 to 1953-54, yearwise?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) and (b). Two statements giving the required information are attached. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 23.]

(c) to (e). Information is being collected.

CAST IRON PIPE INDUSTRY

720. Shri V. P. Nayar: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to lay on the Table of the House a statement showing:

(a) the amount of capital invested so far in the Cast Iron Pipes manufacturing Industry of India and the installed capacity of the Industry;

(b) the figures of production for 1947-48 and 1953-54;

(c) which are the organised units in the industry and what are the figures of production in respect of each, yearwise since 1947-48;

(d) the number of labourers employed in 1947-48 and 1953-54; and

(e) what is the average output per worker in 1947-48 and 1953-54 and what is the percentage of wage bill on the cost of production per ton in the above years?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) Government have no information regarding the capital invested in the Cast Iron Pipes Manufacturing Industry as all such units also produce other foundry products. The total annual installed capacity of organised units for the manufacture of Cast Iron Pipes including specials and fittings on a single shift basis is about 81,500 tons.

(b) A statement is attached. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 24.]

(c) A statement giving the names of organised units is attached. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 25.] Under Section 7 of the Industrial Statistics Act, 1942, information regarding production of individual units cannot be disclosed without the previous consent in writing of the respective owners.

(d) and (e). Not available.

WIRE AND WIRE NAIL INDUSTRY

721. Shri V. P. Nayar: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to lay on the Table of the House a statement showing:

(a) the total amount of capital invested in the wire and wire nails making Industry (organised sector) so far with percentage of foreign capital invested, if any;

(b) the production of the industry in 1947-48 and 1953-54;

(c) the number of organised units of production and their names;

(d) the number of labourers employed in 1947-48 and 1953-54; and

(e) what were the main items produced in the above two years and in what quantities?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):
(a) to (e). A statement is attached. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 26.]

TIN PLATE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY

722. Shri V. P. Nayar: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to lay on the Table of the House a statement showing:

(a) the total amount of capital invested in the Tin Plate Manufacturing Industry so far;

(b) the respective shares of Indian and foreign Capital in the investment as on the 1st July, 1954;

(c) the production in 1947-48 and 1953-54 (in tons) and estimated value of production in each of the above years;

(d) the number of labourers employed, and the average production per worker in the above two years; and

(e) the average price of tin, steel, sulphuric acid, pink meal, palm oil consumed by the industry in the two years?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):

(a) to (e). A statement is attached. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 27.]

TEA ESTATES

723. Shri Nanadas: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tea estates with an area of above thousand acres owned by Indians and foreigners, separately; and

(b) the number of tea estates with an area of above 500 acres but less than 1,000 acres owned by Indians and foreigners, separately?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):

(a) and (b). The information required is not available.

TEA COMPANIES

724. Shri Nanadas: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sterling tea companies in India which are registered in U.K.;

(b) the number among them which own tea estates with an area of over 1,000 acres; and

(c) the number among them which own tea estates with an area of over 500 acres but less than 1,000 acres?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):

(a) 128.

(b) 100.

(c) 109.

ILLEGITIMATE IMMIGRANTS

725. Shri Krishnacharya Joshi: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of persons who were deported from Ceylon to India during 1954 so far under the Illicit Immigration Act; and

(b) the steps taken by Government in the matter?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Defence (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) Upto 26th October: 840.

(b) A concerted drive is maintained.

(1) to dissuade unwary people from emigrating illicitly; through publicity by means of (i) handbills, (ii) pamphlets, (iii) radio broadcasts, etc.; and

(2) to apprehend potential illicit emigrants and their touts and abettors through frequent raids conducted by a Special Officer and Special Police Force appointed for the purpose.

Rewards are given to informants. Information regarding organization for illicit emigration, etc., is also systematically collected from deportees. Close liaison is maintained between Emigration, Police, Customs, etc., authorities; coastal areas are patrolled; and strict vigilance is maintained in areas notorious for such traffic.

UNEMPLOYMENT

726. Th. Lakshman Singh Charak: Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States who have given their suggestions for eradication of unemployment in their respective states; and

(b) the number of unemployed persons in the country, State-wise, ending October, 1954?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): (a) A statement showing the names of States which have worked out schemes to relieve

unemployment is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 28.]

(b) The only information regarding the number of unemployed persons, State-wise, is that available in the Live Registers of the Employment Exchanges. The Statement for October, 1954 is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 29.]

GRANTS TO ANDHRA STATE

727. Shri C. R. Chowdary: Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) the amount that has been allocated to the Andhra State for Community Project Development and National Extension Blocks for the year 1954-55;

(b) the amount spent to date on the various Projects Schemes; and

(c) the amount of voluntary contributions, if any, received either in kind or in cash?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): (a) The allotment of funds is made for a 3-year period. The phasing of expenditure for each year is made by the State Governments. The provision made in the State Budget for 1954-55 is not available.

(b)

For 2 Community Rs. 13.51 Lakhs.
Projects (1952-53)

For 2 Community Rs. 0.06
Development
Blocks (1953-54)

For 22 N. E. S. Rs. 1.77
Blocks (1953-54)

} Upto
June
1954

TOTAL Rs. 15.34 Lakhs.

(c) Rs. 5.20 lakhs.

उपभाषाये

728. सेठ गोविन्द दास: क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा

करेंगे कि आल इण्डिया रेडियो की दिल्ली स्टेशन से सितम्बर, १९५४ तक ऐसी उप-भाषाओं में कितनी वार्तायें और लोक गीत प्रसारित किये गये हैं, जिन में बहुत थोड़ा साहित्य है या बिलकुल साहित्य नहीं है ?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keshkar): A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 30.] It may be added that fifteen minutes each are allotted to Haryana and Braj Bhasha everyday in Delhi's rural programmes.

TEXTILE MILLS IN AHMEDABAD

729. Shri Nanadas: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of profits made by the Ahmedabad textile mills during the years 1952 and 1953;

(b) whether there are any textile mills in Ahmedabad that sustained losses in the above period; and

(c) if so, their number and the reasons for their incurring such losses?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):

(a) to (c). Information is given in the statement below.

STATEMENT

	1952	1953
Total number of mills	67	67
Number of mills about which information is available.	46	52
Number of mills which made Profits.	36	33
Total amount of profit.	Rs. 2,85,32,300 approx.	Rs. 4,22,62,900 approx.
Number of mills which suffered losses.	10	19
Total amount of loss	Rs. 49,24,200 approx.	Rs. 1,60,30,000 approx.

The main reason for the losses incurred by the mills as detailed in their annual accounts are stated to be (i) high price of African cotton bought by the mills; (ii) subsequent slump in the market; (iii) introduction of Provident Fund Scheme and other labour benefits; and (iv) increase in the Dearness allowance to labourers during these years.

MATCH FACTORIES

730. Shri Keshavaiengar: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the total number of match factories in India in 1951-52, 1952-53, 1953-54 and 1954-55 respectively?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):

1951-52	.	.	.	147
1952-53	.	.	.	147
1953-54	.	.	.	138
1954-55 (upto November 1954)				138

STAFF ARTISTES OF A.I.R.

731. Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Staff Artistes of the All India Radio are eligible to join the General Provident Fund Scheme;

(b) whether they get any Dearness Allowance; and

(c) if so, the percentage in each case?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keshkar): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Their remuneration contains an element of Dearness Allowance but they are not given an allowance as such.

(c) Does not arise.

GRANTS TO MADHYA PRADESH

732. Shri N. A. Borkar: Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount allotted for local development programme to Madhya Pradesh during the first three years of the Plan;

(b) the categories of subjects on which these sums were spent;

(c) whether the amounts sanctioned were fully utilised;

(d) if not, the amount of such unutilised money;

(e) the authority on whose recommendation the schemes were submitted and approved; and

(f) the machinery through which, the working of the approved schemes was checked up?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): (a) The programme was inaugurated in 1953-54. An allocation of Rs. 14.90 lakhs was made for that year.

(b) Water supply, improvements to agriculture and sanitation, construction of roads, bridges, culverts, school and dispensary buildings etc.

(c) and (d). The Central grant utilised on completed works was Rs. 1,20 lakhs. Information regarding Central grant utilised for works in progress has not been furnished.

(e) By the State Government after scrutiny by District Advisory Committees.

(f) Additional Deputy Commissioners and other Revenue Officials.

FIREWORKS AND CRACKERS

733. Shri C. R. Iyyunni: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the number of firms manufacturing crackers, sparklers and other connected fireworks in India in 1952, 1953 and 1954;

(b) how many of them are using power-driven machines;

(c) how many of them are run by manual labour; and

(d) how many of them are small concerns with a small number of labourers?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):

(a) The number of explosives factories for which licences have been granted by the Explosive Department are as under:—

Year	No. of factories
1951-52	.. 979
1952-53	.. 1,061
1953-54	982

About 75 per cent. of the above factories manufacture only crackers, sparklers and other connected fireworks. In addition, about 1,000 small fireworks and/or gunpowder factories have been licensed by District authorities under the Explosives Rules, 1940.

(b) and (c). Most of them are run by manual labour.

(d) 99 per cent. are small concerns.

PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

734. Sardar Iqbal Singh: Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of petroleum required for internal consumption per year;

(b) the names of the countries from where petroleum is imported; and

(c) the quantity imported, country-wise during 1953-54?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) to (c). The information asked for by the hon. Member could be derived from the tables in the two following

publications which are available in the Library of the House:—

- (1) "Accounts relating to the Foreign (Sea, Air and Land) Trade and Navigation of India for March, 1954".
- (2) "Customs and Excise Revenue Statement of the Indian Union for March, 1954".

LARGE SCALE INDUSTRIES

735. { Shrimati Tarkeshwari
Sinha:
{ Shri L. N. Mishra:

Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to refer to the reply given to starred question No. 1443 on the 29th September, 1954 and state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has decided to reserve the development of the Large Scale Industries in the Public Sector by the Central Government and not by the State Governments;

(b) whether the Assam State has been allowed any exemption in this regard; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): (a) No, but the Planning Commission have intimated that proposals for large-scale industrial projects to be taken up by State Governments will require special justification if they are to be approved for inclusion in the Second Five Year Plan.

(b) Since there is no reservation, this does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

INDUSTRIAL HOUSING SCHEME—BIHAR

736. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether any financial assistance in the shape of subsidies and loans was given for the construction of houses for workers of the coal, iron, cement and sugar industries in Bihar under the subsidized Industrial Housing Scheme of 1952;

(b) if so, the amount so far given as subsidies and loans for constructing houses for the workers of the above mentioned industries to (i) the Government of Bihar, (ii) Employers and (iii) Co-operative Societies; and

(c) the number of houses constructed so far and their cost of construction?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) The Subsidized Industrial Housing Scheme does not contemplate assistance industry-wise. However, financial assistance has been given to certain employers running Iron, Cement and sugar industries in Bihar.

(b) (i) The Government of Bihar has been given a total loan of Rs. 45 lakhs on an *ad hoc* basis (during 1952—54) in furtherance of the Bihar State Industrial Housing Scheme.

(ii) Assistance to Employers has been sanctioned as follows:—

	No. of tenements	Estimated cost	Loan	Subsidy
(1) Tata Iron & Steel Co., Jamshedpur.	500	Rs. 23,58,500	Rs. Nil.	Rs. 3,37,500
(2) Rohtas Industries Ltd., Dalmianagar.	200	4,52,000	1,69,500	1,13,000
(3) New Savan Sugar & Gur Refining Co. Ltd. (Siwan)	32	80,000	27,120	18,080

(iii) Co-operatives: No application for financial assistance under the scheme has been received from any co-operative society in Bihar.

(c) 500 tenements have been completed so far. 32 tenements are in various stages of construction. Construction of 200 tenements has not yet been taken up. The actual cost of construction will be known when the projects have been completed in all respects, and audited accounts are furnished by the firms concerned.

ABDUCTED WOMEN

737. Shri L. Jageswar Singh: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the number of abducted women and children of Pakistan nationality still to be recovered from India, and the number of the same so far recovered;

(b) whether Pakistan has received back all the abducted women and children so far recovered; and

(c) whether any Pakistani abducted women have refused to return to Pakistan?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Defence (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) and (b). The hon. Member presumably desires information in respect of Muslim abducted women and children. The number of such abducted persons recovered in India from 6th December 1947 to 30th September 1954 is 22,648. Of these 20,006 have been sent to Pakistan and the remaining 2,642 have been restored to their relatives in India. It is regretted that it is not possible to supply the figures of abducted persons yet to be recovered in India, as the work of recoveries is done on the basis of clues received from various sources which frequently result in overlapping of names etc. and make it difficult to calculate the total number of cases of abduction.

(c) Yes.

HOTEL IN DIPLOMATIC ENCLAVE

738. Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to open a high-class hotel in the Diplomatic Enclave;

(b) whether any official was deputed to U.S.A. to negotiate with American hoteliers in the matter;

(c) the probable cost of running this hotel; and

(d) the need for invoking the assistance of American hoteliers for this purpose?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Defence (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) Government are considering a proposal regarding the establishment of a hotel in Chanakya Puri (Diplomatic Enclave) to meet the increasing requirements of suitable accommodation for distinguished visitors and delegations from abroad. The hotel would also cater for the needs of tourists who find it extremely difficult to secure adequate accommodation at reasonable rates during the heavy season.

(b) No.

(c) Details have not been worked out.

(d) Does not arise.

DIESEL TRUCKS

739. Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether negotiations between TELCO and Daimler-Benz to manufacture Mercedes-Benz diesel trucks in India have been successfully completed;

(b) if so, the estimated amount of capital of the respective parties that will be invested;

(c) the time that will be taken for the complete manufacture of diesel trucks; and

(d) the approximate annual output of the Tata-Mercedes-Benz combine?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Out of the estimated capital outlay the German firm propose to invest about 30 per cent.

(c) According to the programme of manufacture submitted by Messrs. TELCO, they will be establishing complete manufacture within a period of four years.

(d) Under the Collection of Statistics Act, Government is precluded from disclosing such information relating to individual firms.

MILK POWDER

740. { **Shrimati Tarkeshwar Singh:**
 Shri G. L. Chaudhary:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to starred question No. 1304 asked on the 24th September, 1954 and state:

(a) whether Government have any scheme under consideration for establishing milk powder factories in the country;

(b) if so, the nature of the scheme;

(c) the number of factories Government propose to start during the course of the First Five Year Plan;

(d) whether Government have had any talks with private enterprisers so far, in this connection; and

(e) if so, with what results?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):
(a) to (e). Government have examined the question of establishing a milk powder industry. No detailed schemes have been worked out so far.

TECHNICAL STAFF IN A.I.R.

741. Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Technical Assistants and Assistant Engineers employed under the A.I.R.;

(b) how many of them have been given permanent appointments; and

(c) whether their appointments were made through the Union Public Service Commission?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) Technical Assistants—251; Assistant Engineers—168.

(b) Technical Assistants—23; Assistant Engineers—87.

(c) Yes, excepting two Technical Assistants. The Union Public Service Commission has agreed to the continuance of one of the two pending regular recruitment. The case of the other is pending with the Union Public Service Commission for regularisation.

C.P.W.D. STAFF

742. Shri S. C. Samanta: Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether C.P.W.D. Staff at present is sufficient to cope with all the works of the various departments of the Government of India; and

(b) the names of the Ministries from which complaints were received that budgeted building grants lapsed as C.P.W.D. could not take up the works in time?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) The C.P.W.D. is on the whole adequately-staffed to cope with all the works of the various departments of Government.

(b) No such specific complaints have been received from any of the Ministries. An examination of the

factors leading to the lapses of building grants indicates that such lapses are due more to budget provision being made before the other requisite formalities are completed, non-availability of sites, delay in the issue of administrative approval, furnishing details of requirements and occasionally expenditure sanction by the Ministries concerned than to the inadequacy of the C.P.W.D. staff.

SECOND FIVE YEAR PLAN

743. Shri N. Rachiah: Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state the expenditure likely to be incurred on the Irrigation and Power Schemes of the Mysore State to be executed under the Second Five Year Plan?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): Expenditure likely to be incurred on the irrigation and power scheme of the Mysore State under the second five year plan will only be known when this plan has been finally formulated. At present, new schemes proposed by the State Government, are under the examination of the Technical Committee on Irrigation and Power.

COTTAGE INDUSTRIES

744. Mulla Abdullabhai: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to lay a Statement on the Table of the House showing the amount advanced as loan and subsidy to the States of Madhya Pradesh and Hyderabad for the encouragement of the Cottage industries during the last three years (year-wise)?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): A statement is attached. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 31.]

HANLOOMS IN MADHYA PRADESH AND BOMBAY

745. Mulla Abdullabhai: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the number of handlooms in the States of Madhya Pradesh and Bombay at present in working order; and

(b) the number among them which use hand-spun yarn and the number of those which use mill-made yarn?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) and (b). According to figures given in 1951 by the State Governments, the number of handlooms in Bombay and Madhya Pradesh were about 1,97,750 and 1,05,000 respectively.

It is not possible to say how many are in working order and the number which use hand-spun yarn and which use mill-made yarn.

FIVE YEAR PLAN

746. Mulla Abdullabhai: Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some additional amount has been given to the Madhya Pradesh Government for new irrigation schemes to be executed during the First Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the amount actually given and the names of the new schemes?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): (a) and (b). Loans under the special minor irrigation programme amounting to Rs. 146 lakhs have been sanctioned for Madhya Pradesh. A statement giving the particulars of schemes approved is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 32.]

केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग का वाणिज्यपूरी डिवीजन

747. श्री सूर्य प्रसाद : क्या निर्माण आवास और संभरण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग (सी. पी. डब्ल्यू.

ठी०) के चाणक्यपुरी डिवीजन का सरकारी सामान प्रायः चोरी हो जाता है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो १९५२, १९५३ और १९५४ में कुल कितने मूल्य का सामान चोरी गया; और

(ग) क्या चोरों को पकड़ कर सजा दी गयी है?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) Some materials mostly G.I. pipes were stolen in the Diplomatic Enclave Division.

(b) 1952—Rs. 101/3/-.

1953—Rs. 571/7/-.

1954—Rs. 1,378/15/-.

(c) In 1954 one of the thieves was arrested, prosecuted and convicted.

उत्तर प्रदेश को अनुदान

७४८. श्री भक्त दर्शन: क्या योजना मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि केन्द्रीय सरकार ने उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार को राज्य की विभिन्न विकास परियोजनाओं को कार्यान्वित करने के लिये लगभग बारह करोड़ रुपये का अनुदान दिया है; और

(ख) यदि सच है, तो ऐसी इत्यक परियोजना के लिये क्या राशियां रखी गयी हैं?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): (a) and (b). The information is being collected.

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LOK SABHA DEBATES Dated 27/11/20/
(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

2803

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, 14th December, 1954.

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair.]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

11.56 A.M.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

APPROPRIATION ACCOUNTS, DEFENCE SERVICES, 1952-53 AND COMMERCIAL APPENDIX THERETO AND AUDIT REPORT DEFENCE SERVICES, 1954.

The Minister of Revenue and Defence Expenditure (Shri A. C. Guha): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of each of the following papers, under article 151(1) of the Constitution:

(i) Appropriation Accounts of the Defence Services for the year 1952-53. [Placed in Library. See No. S-483/54.]

(iii) Commercial Appendix to the Appropriation Accounts of the Defence Services for the year 1952-53. [Placed in Library. See No. S-484/54.]

(iii) Audit Report, Defence Services, 1954 (including Report on the Appropriation Accounts of the Defence Services and the Commercial Appendix thereto for the year 1952-53). [Placed in Library. See No. S-485/54.]

CORRECTION OF ANSWER TO STARRED QUESTION

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): The statement, "My colleague tells me that the appointments were made in consultation with us", made by the Prime Minister in reply to a supplementary by Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha arising from question No. 862 asked in the House on the 13th September 1954, was inaccurate as subsequent enquiries revealed that the appointments of U.N. Observers are not made by the U.N. Organisation in consultation with the Government of India. Monthly lists of Military Observers and staff of U.N. are, however, received by us. I therefore, seek the permission of the House to correct the earlier statement which may be substituted by the following:

"My colleague tells me that the appointments were not made in consultation with us."

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

STATEMENT RE: ORDER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): On Tuesday, the 7th December 1954, I announced on the floor of the House the order of Government business for the remaining part of the session. As some unavoidable delay has occurred in introducing the Prevention of Disqualification (Parliament and Part 'C' States Legislature) Amendment Bill, 1954, this Bill will be put down for consideration and passing after the voting of the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of Andhra.

[Shri Satya Narayan Sinha.]

As it has since not been found possible to provide for the reference of the University Grants Commission Bill in this session to a Joint Committee, it is proposed, time permitting, to provide for the consideration and passing of the Tea (Amendment) Bill which was passed by the Rajya Sabha on 30th November, and laid on the Table of this House on 2nd December 1954. I find that according to the present time allocation order, adequate time for this short and non-controversial Bill will be available on Saturday, the 18th December, 1954.

—
TEA (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Tea Act, 1953, be taken into consideration."

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair.]

Hon. Members who have read the contents of the Bill will realise that the scope of this particular measure is to raise the cess on exports now being levied for the purpose of the administration of the Tea Act and for the functioning of the Central Tea Board from Rs. 2 per 100 lbs. to Rs. 4 per 100 lbs. The existing rate of Rs. 2 per 100 lbs. yields about Rs. 85 lakhs a year, which is more or less enough to cover the expense of the Tea Board, and a certain amount of limited propaganda for our tea in foreign markets.

12 NOON.

Sir, the House would recollect that, when it passed the Tea Act some time back last year, it had laid down as part of the duties of the Board under section 10(2)(b) to promote by such measures as it thinks fit, better working conditions and provisions for the improvement in the amenities and incentives of workers. It has not been found possible to undertake this task to any considerable extent largely because of the paucity of funds

available. The Tea Board has, in the past, made certain attempts. In fact, I think, all along they have allocated about Rs. 4 lakhs since 1951-52. They could not set up an organisation for this purpose or even investigate into the condition of workers. They had to depend very largely on State Governments' co-operation. The net result is that a very large quantum of even this amount of money is not being spent. It is the intention of Government to take up this obligation laid down on the Central Tea Board under section 10(2)(b) seriously and chalk out a plan for rendering so much aid and facilities to workers as is possible.

It is with this object, primarily, that we are coming before the House to raise the cess from Rs. 2 to Rs. 4. I would like once like to say that in our view the Rs. 85 lakhs or so that might be realised by the increased cess is not intended for the pure and simple purpose of providing amenities and facilities for workers; it may even be spent on rehabilitating the smaller gardens and for development of the tea industry as a whole, even for which purpose the existing funds available allow no room.

Hon. Members may very well ask: "We are passing this measure. How is it going to be spent?" A programme will have to be made for the purpose, so he included in the Budget and the approval of the House sought for the purpose of appropriating a particular amount for: (a) providing amenities and facilities for workers, and (b) for the purpose of affording facilities to the smaller tea gardens. I am particularly mentioning this fact, because my hon. friend Shri N. M. Lingam, when we were discussing this question in a different context the other day, drew my attention to the need for some effort on the part of Government and the Central Tea Board for the purpose of rehabilitating smaller gardens.

Sir, the measure before the House is comparatively simple. The objects

are fairly well known and for any appropriation of the funds available we will have to come back again to the House and obtain its approval to the Budget that we lay before the House.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved.

"That the Bill further to amend the Tea Act, 1953, be taken into consideration."

Shri Tushar Chatterjee (Serampore): Sir, on reading the Statement of Objects and Reasons of this Bill I find that this Bill should be considered as a welcome measure in so far as the increment of cess is sought for providing improved conditions of labour. From that point of view we welcome this Bill, particularly because the condition of the tea labour is pretty well known to all of us. What horrible conditions the tea labour has to suffer have been well known for a long time. I only refer to what one of our hon. friends Shri K. P. Tripathi wrote in some of the daily papers. He drew a very vivid picture of the horrible condition of tea labour. He said:

"The conditions of the tea labour can be better termed as sub-human conditions."

He cited so many examples, and said:

"Tea workers cannot have two square meals a day. They cannot have even a noon meal. The houses that they occupy are occupied not by one family. The houses are so poor in number that more than one family has to live in such houses and so all sorts of evil practice develop. No protection against bad weather and no provision for canteen and crecheries. 80 per cent. of the tea labourers are affected by hook worms. Schools exist, no doubt, but only in name; actually tea labourers' children cannot get the facility of such schools.

Hospitals are there no doubt but proper help is not given."

Sir, this is the description given by one of our hon. Members. So there is no controversy about the point that much has to be done to improve the condition of the tea labourers.

But, my point is this: This cess at the rate of Rs. 4, I think, is not enough. The huge profit that the tea estate-owners reap is well known and I think a provision should be made so that in case of necessity a higher rate of cess can be obtained.

Then, I want to raise another important point here. In the Statement of Objects and Reasons it is said that one of the objects of this Cess Fund that is being created is to provide for amenities of labour. Now, simply stating that one of the objects is providing amenities to the labour is not enough in our view. There must be a fixed provision that such and such a part of the Fund shall be utilised for improving the conditions of labour. Unless that fixed provision is made, we doubt that a larger part of the Fund may be utilised, not for the good of the labour, but for the good of the so-called industry. I mean by "so-called" that a larger part may be utilised, not for the good of the employers. Therefore, I think a fixed provision should be made saying that a particular part of the Fund should be utilised for the betterment of the conditions of the labour.

In this connection I want to raise another point. We have some experience of the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund. Although a good fund has been created there in the name of the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund we know that in respect of housing conditions not more than 35 per cent. of that Fund has been spent although a very large number of coal mines labour is suffering

[Shri Tushar Chatterjea]

from want of houses. The whole Fund is not utilised and even the number of houses that are constructed are not being availed of by the coal mines labour. This has happened in the case of the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund and so I feel that if such a thing happens here also, then the loud claim of providing for labour amenities will only be in words. Therefore, I want the hon. Minister to be particular about this point in spending this Fund.

But the more important point that I want to raise is something else. While welcoming this Bill I also want to raise this question. I want the hon. Minister to be particular about this point. Why is it that instead of enforcing the normal labour laws for enabling the labour to get better amenities, this backdoor method is being adopted? I refer to the Plantation Labour Act. So far as I have read from the Plantation Labour Act, if the Plantation Labour Act is applied in toto, all sorts of amenities that the tea labour requires can be provided through that Act. But we know that for a long time this Plantation Labour Act has been kept in abeyance. The employers object to the Act. Due to the employers' Objection, Government fumbled, and Government hesitated to apply it and under the pressure of labour demand, Government implemented it only the other day and that too in a restricted manner.

Shri A. K. Gopalan (Cannanore): There are certain things which are placed for the consideration of the Minister. But if the Minister does not hear them, he cannot give an answer to those points. The Member who is speaking and making points so that the Minister may give an assurance or something like that. I hope that if the Minister, attends to

the speech, he could give those assurances.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I find that one hour—12 NOON to 1 P.M.—has been allotted for the disposal of all three stages of this Bill. Ten minutes have already been taken away. I find very many hon. Members—in front of me, to my right and to my left—are interested in this subject and they want to speak. The representatives of the parties must assess the time that would be possibly taken by their Members, and not impose that work on the Chair who is not a party to this business. Of course, hon. Members in the lobby or in the Advisory Committee think that the Bill could be over in a trice, but here, in the House, I have to satisfy all hon. Members, and within the limited time at the disposal of the House for this Bill, I have naturally to exclude so many Members from the list, much to their chagrin. Therefore, I would advise hon. Members to sit in groups with their leaders, study the matter and think out the appropriate assessment of time and then begin to speak. I find that this is a subject of importance and also of interest. The hon. Member who is in possession of the House is developing good points. Therefore, I am very much reluctant to ask him to sit down, but I am bound by the time limit allotted. There is only one hour for all the stages of the Bill and for all sections of the House. Therefore, hereafter, whichever representative comes on behalf of a particular group, will look into this matter deeply, and if he wants equal opportunities and curtailment of time for each Member accordingly, he himself must ask the Member belonging to his group to sit down without imposing the obligation on me.

Shri Tushar Chatterjea: The Plantation Labour Act provided for these things: medical facilities, canteen facilities, recreational facilities, educational facilities, housing facilities,

provision for umbrella, rain-coat, etc. My point is this: when the Plantation Labour Act provides for all these facilities, why not first of all enforce this Act strictly. Instead of doing that, by the back-door, you are creating some fund for the labour welfare. If this is the process adopted, then I think the employers will always try to evade the existing labour laws. The employers are doing so now. I now refer to the Maternity Benefit Act. I know there are several instances in tea gardens where actually, even the most meagre maternity benefit is not offered to the female labour. Why not the Government enforce this law very strictly? If they do so, it will actually better the conditions of labour.

Then, I refer to the Minimum Wages Act. The persistent demand is raised from the tea garden labourers that the existing rate that has been fixed is inadequate. So, on that score also, the Government must take some steps. Now, we all know that tea estate-owners behave in a cruel and inhuman manner with their tea labourers. Only the other day, I put a question about the tragic death of 200 labour families in the Tundu tea gardens. The Manager behaved in such a cruel manner. In spite of the flood, the labourers were forced to live downstairs where the flood-water came and swept the 200 families away. We wanted the Government to make an enquiry. The Government did not make any enquiry. This is the way in which the estate-owners behave with the tea labourers. So, unless and until the attitude of the tea estate-owners is changed, which can be done by compelling them to follow the existing labour laws, I think this sort of back-door way of providing for the amenities of labour is not a good policy of the Government. If this back-door way is always followed, then I think the tea estate-owners, as they are doing now, will always be inspired to evade the labour laws. With these critical observations and

suggestions, I shall welcome this Bill.

Shri N. M. Lingam (Coimbatore): As the hon. Minister said just now, the measure is a very simple one and also it is a very welcome one. But I think this occasion is appropriate for reviewing the working of the Tea Board. The Tea Board has been very ineffective so far.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is this the occasion for that?

Shri N. M. Lingam: Yes, because the additional levy is to augment the funds of the Tea Board.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is for providing amenities for labour. Is the hon. Member afraid that the whole thing might be misused?

Shri N. M. Lingam: Yes. Now, the Tea Board has been confining itself to propaganda in tea. The latest report of the Board made available to us gives only a two-and-a-half page narrative of the activities of the Board. One cannot know from this report the details of the activities of the Board. The Indian Tea Licensing Committee and the Rubber Board and the Coffee Board have given a detailed account of their activities. They have given the statement of receipt and expenditure. But it is unfortunate that the Tea Board has given only a summary which does not convey much. But it is seen from the report that the bulk of this fund has been utilised for propaganda. Rs. 25,48,000 have been utilised for internal propaganda and Rs. 53,50,000 for propaganda abroad. I would like to say a few words about propaganda in this connection. Hitherto, the functions of the Tea Board and the Tea Licensing Committee were separate. The Tea Board was engaged purely in propaganda whereas the Tea Licensing Committee was regulating the extension of tea cultivation. The result has been that while one body was doing propaganda for increased consumption of

[**Shri N. M. Lingam**]

tea, the other body went on restricting tea cultivation, with the result that we face a situation today where there is a wide gap between supply and demand. Now, under the new Tea Act, it is good that both the functions have been brought under the purview of one body. But then, I began to doubt the utility of propaganda hereafter, because the Tea Board has been doing propaganda for a long time now, and the whole country has become tea-conscious. Again, propaganda is a very airy thing and large sums of money are spent on it. Then again, about the nature of the propaganda, I have to say a few words. The quality of tea that is prepared by way of propaganda by the Tea Board is very inferior. I should even say that it is not tea, whatever else it may be. A wayside tea-shop even in a remote countryside serves better tea than that served by the Tea Board. If the tea now served by the Board is passed on as Indian tea, it is doing a definite disservice.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Are there no tea-tasters in India?

Shri N. M. Lingam: No. Unfortunately very few. The principal activities of the Tea Board have been neglected. Tea planting, marketing, sales technique, broking, and research are according to me the major items among the functions assigned to the Tea Board. But, not much seems to have been done along these directions. Even the very minor grievances brought before the Tea Board such as the difficulties experienced in broking by the Indian brokers, have not been solved adequately. I think it is time that the Board bestowed its attention to these and remove the difficulties experienced by the Indian tea brokers in matters of credit facilities, etc.

The hon. Minister was also good enough to say that one of the functions of the Board was to set up a corporation or to make available

credit facilities for the rehabilitation of small growers. I am glad a beginning is going to be made because under the International Tea Agreement, the small grower had a raw deal. I want to bring to your notice one particular aspect of the matter. We are at the end of the present regulation period. We have to renew the International Agreement if we want to restrict the cultivation of tea beyond 1st April, 1955. Till now even the permissive acreage under the Agreement has not been utilised. It comes to about 40,000 acres. Even if we are a signatory to the agreement hereafter, the permissible acreage will be another 40,000 acres; our country will have about 80,000 acres yet to be cultivated. It is inconceivable that even without any restriction the country will be able to utilise this acreage. I see there is no point in India continuing to be a member of the International Tea Agreement. The only result that had come out of India's being a member of that International Tea Agreement is that the small growers were hit hard. The only estates which could have afforded the facilities for expansion are the big estates. They made the rules for the expansion of small estates so stringent that they could not make any appreciable headway. I am glad the hon. Minister's attention has been focussed on this problem and that he wants to see that the Tea Board, with its increased funds, rehabilitates the small tea garden owner. I shall reserve my other comments to the clause by clause discussion. With these words, I give my whole-hearted support to this Bill.

Shri Barman (North Bengal Reserved—Sch. Castes): I wholeheartedly support this measure by which the tea cess is being raised from Rs. 2 to Rs. 4 per hundred pounds. Government have given two things in the Statement of Objects and Reasons. The first thing is all round development of the tea industry. The second

is the better working conditions to the labour. I do not doubt, as Shri Tushar Chatterjea doubted, that Government is by this measure, taking upon itself the responsibilities and obligations which are primarily the responsibilities of the tea garden owners, namely, bettering the conditions of the tea garden labourers. I would like to know which part of this responsibility is being taken by the Government upon itself and which part will lie with the tea garden owners according to the Plantation Labour Act. There may be some suspicion in the minds of people that at a time when the tea industry is having its boom period and making enough income, they may just give a little more—Rs. 2/- more per hundred lbs.—and try to shift upon Government their responsibility of bettering the conditions of labourers. This is the time when the Plantation Labour Act can be enforced with all the force. Formerly there was depression and though the Act was passed, the tea garden owners could not be forced to do their duty. Now that there is a boom period, they should do their duty towards the labourers. It may be that they are trying to evade the responsibility by just saying to the Government, 'You are now receiving about a crore of rupees in addition and so you should have the duty of ameliorating the conditions of the labourers'. I hope Government cannot be duped in that way. I should like to tell the Government that this is the proper time when they can enforce this and force the owners of tea gardens to do their duty towards the labourers.

Another point which I wanted to mention is this. After Independence, there was a proposal in the Central Tea Board to construct a godown, warehouse and also a tea auction room at Calcutta so that India could be a world centre of tea trade. There was a proposal in the meeting of the Board that about Rs. 80 or Rs. 90 lakhs would be required for such works and that if Government would

give that money as a loan, that money would be repaid by raising a cess. Now the Government is raising the cess and having an additional revenue of more than Rs. 80 lakhs. I would ask the Government to consider whether a portion of this sum could be spent towards the scheme that was at that time proposed. It would be a very good day for the tea industry and also for the Government of India to have such a scheme. It will bring them more revenue and the money that is now going into the pockets of the British middlemen will come to the Government of India and the Indian Businessmen. I would just invite the attention of the Government to this aspect of the question also.

Shri K. P. Tripathi (Darrang): I rise to support this Bill. I am rather surprised that the Bill has come so late because I read in the papers today a report that the price of tea in England has risen so high that they might as well produce a cabinet crisis. In the last August Session, the Chairman of the Planters' Association in Calcutta made a statement that the industry was suffering from price inflation. It will be realised that this is an industry which is entirely dependent on export. If the prices rise very high, there is always the danger that it may drop. Therefore, for the good of this industry, it is very essential that there should be price stabilisation. From that point of view, Government, the Central Tea Board as well as the industry should always have it in their view so that the prices may not rise in a boom; the price must be stabilised. Boom is always followed by a slump and when a slump comes as it does in the structure of the economy which we have, the result is always that the labour has to bear the brunt of the slump. The profit boom is enjoyed by the planters whereas the slump comes down upon the labour. This sort of thing is dangerous. We always protested against this sort of

[Shri K. P. Tripathi]

partnership. There must be some agency in this country, whether it be the Government or employers, to take upon itself the responsibility of stabilising the prices in such a way so that this sort of recurring boom and slump may be avoided and we might progress steadily from prosperity to prosperity. But somehow or other this was not done. So I had begun to feel that perhaps the Commerce and Industry Ministry had gone to sleep. But luckily they have come forward with this measure. They have provided for two things here. They are going to provide for smaller gardens. That is a very necessary step. You will remember, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, that in the last crisis, the smaller gardens went to the wall; many of them were closed and about 60,000 labourers were thrown out of work. The Central Tea Board thereafter conducted an enquiry. That enquiry has also proved that some fund is necessary for bringing these smaller gardens up. How shall it be done unless there is some fund. In the last crisis we were going from door to door, from the Finance Minister to the Commerce Minister and back again, trying to get some funds. After three or four months of time the only thing we got was an assurance and a guarantee. That guarantee was not accepted by the employers, and nothing happened. We hoped that this price boom at least will be utilised by Government for pumping some extra money which has come into the hands of the industry, so that a fund might be created which might be called an equalisation fund, for the purpose both of financing the smaller gardens and having a pool for the purpose of price stabilisation and wage stabilisation. But nothing has been done.

It will be realised that tea is enjoying a price which is the highest ever attained by that commodity. Even today I may tell the House that there are gardens in Cachar where

wages have been reduced. The other day in the Rajya Sabha in answer to a question it was stated that the restoration of it was being considered. What a strange thing that when tea is enjoying the highest price ever attained, the workers are getting low wages and even the cut in their wages is not restored? Our Commerce Minister gave an assurance during the crisis in 1952 that labour interests will not be touched, and yet this was the first thing to be touched. Therefore, I would think that our Commerce Ministry may consider the matter and plan out a scheme so that such a contingency may not arise in the future at least. But I am sorry to say that he is merely tinkering with the problem. He has not looked at the problem in all its entirety. This was undoubtedly the opportunity when he could have pumped out some money from the industry so that on a future occasion this industry would not be able to blame the Ministry. The Ministry could as well have said: "You threw out labour during the last crisis; now it is our duty to make sure that such situation may not arise in future." The whole country would have applauded him. But he has not thought on those constructive lines. He has thought in a smaller way; he has pumped a very small amount.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, if you compare the profits of the tea industry from 1949 onwards till 1954, you will find that there has been a consistently rising graph of profit except in 1952. Even in 1952 which was the year of crisis, according to the industry itself, 80 per cent. of the gardens made a profit. In other industries when 80 per cent. of the industry makes a profit, it is not regarded as crisis at all. But in this industry it was regarded as a crisis. From April 1952 prices began to rise and the crisis was over. They have been rising continuously and steadily. Today the prices know no bounds, so much so people are going over from tea to

other drinks. But no attempt has been made to see that we have a stable market in the world. By a fortuitous combination of circumstances last year and even this year we got a good market. But those conditions may not remain. What would then happen if a crisis were to come again? Therefore, I would appeal to the Labour Minister, who luckily for us is present here, and the Commerce Minister to put their heads together and finalise a policy whereby in the plantation industry which is mainly dependent on exports there might be stabilisation of wages for the labour.

The Plantation Act has been passed, but nothing has been done to implement it, except three sections which entail a very small percentage of the cost involved. When is it going to be implemented. Before it is implemented whether crisis might come and the Government may say: "Oh, a crisis has come; how shall we implement it?" Therefore, cold-storage it further. I think that would be an unfortunate state of affairs. When prosperity comes to the industry, it is psychologically the right time to implement the Act. After all the Act was passed, not with a view to its being put in the cold-storage, but it was passed for being implemented, and the disgrace which obtains in the plantations might be wiped out. But that has not been done. I have with great sorrow to speak here in this Parliament year in year out about tea workers and yet we feel that nobody listens; as if, we were talking to the walls. I hope it shall not happen again. I hope the wisdom which is in the Congress Party, the wisdom which is in the Ministers opposite, will be pooled together for the purpose of evolving a policy in the plantation industry which will provide for stabilisation of prices and wages.

A quotation was given by an hon. Member. It was not my statement. It was a quotation from the report of an enquiry conducted by Dr. Lloyd

George and others. Those reports were made in 1948. After that the tea industry, labour and Government unanimously decided that there shall be a Plantation Act. So, that was not a unilateral action of ours. The provisions of that Act were agreed to by the industry itself in 1948. It is now 1954. Shall it now be said: "Oh, it was a fortuitous enactment; the industry did not agree, therefore it is now difficult to make the industry agree?" It cannot be said so. On the contrary, it must now be admitted that an Act, the provisions of which were unanimously agreed to, should have been implemented. I hope that Government will now be alive to its responsibilities that when an Act is passed it has to be implemented. The right time to implement it is when the industry is in prosperity. That time is now. That time will move away, because of the lack of any systematic policy on the part of the Commerce Ministry with regard to the stabilisation of prices. I request both the Commerce and Labour Ministries, because of the assurance given in 1952, that labour interests should not be neglected. I request them to evolve a policy whereby the Plantation Act might be implemented and a pool created so that prices and wages might be stabilised, and these recurring booms and slumps might be prevented.

Shri A. M. Thomas (Ernakulam): Sir, the object with which this Bill has been brought is a move in the right direction. I was surprised at the latter part of the speech of my hon. friend Shri Tushar Chatterjee. He said it is a back-door method: that is providing labour amenities from the fund that is collected out of this cess. Sir, that is the very criticism that has been levelled by the capitalist producers, who have been saying: "There is the Plantation Labour Act: why do you resort to these back-door methods to collect funds from us and utilise it for labour amenities?" So, I am sorry that my hon. friend Mr. Chatterjee has fallen into the trap that has been

[Shri A. M. Thomas]

laid by the producer-capitalist interests.

What is intended by this Bill is only to provide a fund to supplement the work that has been done by the Plantation Labour Act. I find that the Tea Board has a Labour Welfare Fund. I do not know how that Labour Welfare Fund has been utilised. I hope that the hon. Minister in his reply will tell us how that fund has been utilised. It cannot be disputed that the normal medium for the enforcement of labour amenities is the implementation of the Plantation Labour Act. There is no doubt with regard to that. The provisions of the Plantation Labour Act should be implemented. The fund that we are going to provide is not in substitution at all of the amenities that are intended to be provided by the Plantation Labour Act.

My friend Shri Lingam referred to the propaganda aspect and said we need not do so much of propaganda as we do now. I beg to differ from him. I can concede that the type of propaganda that may be necessary may be a little different. But it is very difficult to agree with the point of view that has been urged by Shri Lingam.

Shri N. M. Lingam: I referred to internal propaganda only.

Shri A. M. Thomas: Yes. A sum of Rs. 23 lakhs is being spent on it now. But I think it is an expenditure in the right direction. It may be said that the type of propaganda that has to be done and the type of stuff to be sold might be different. But you cannot say you should get rid of internal propaganda altogether.

I beg to bring to the notice of the Government one object with which we dropped out of the International arrangement and entered into agreements for propaganda with the various countries like U.S.A., Canada, West Germany and Ireland. It was for doing propaganda for Indian tea. We must exert a little in the direction

of doing propaganda for Indian tea. That is not being done at all by the propaganda machinery that is now being set up in the various countries.

I think this is a measure which was long overdue, especially since the industry could bear the additional cess. I support the Bill.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi (Nellore): I desire to seek some more clarification from the hon. the Commerce Minister. Since he has already thought of and passed orders to increase this export duty from two rupees to four rupees per 100 lb. he must have also worked out a plan for the expenditure of the enhanced amount. He has not revealed to us what amounts will be expended on each of the items which are going to be taken up by the Government in furtherance of the idea of giving further assistance to the tea trade here.

I find from the papers that the consumer's price has been fluctuating and increasing from month to month. The consumer's price in Calcutta was Rs. 1-9-3 in August 1953 and in August 1954 it has risen to Rs. 2-2-7 per lb. That shows there is an enhancement of 22 to 23 per cent. within the last one year, and the question is to what extent this export duty would be able to help the consumer's interests in India.

As far as the propaganda that is required in favour of tea in India is concerned, I do agree with Shri Lingam that further propaganda in India may not be necessary and the sum of Rs. 23 lakhs that is being spent today on internal propaganda might be reduced and the amount thus saved diverted to some other channel.

I have noted in the press today that there has been a slump in tea in the United Kingdom which is one of our biggest foreign markets, and in 1953 the dealers there were not able to pay dividends because there was a slump. If that is correct I would like to ascertain from the hon.

Minister whether this export duty on tea, enhanced by a hundred per cent, would not adversely affect our external market, especially in the United Kingdom.

I would also like to ascertain from the hon. Minister what amount of money he is likely to allot for the development of the propaganda machinery, both internally and externally and what amount he is going to spend on the maintenance of the staff which is supposed to be already very heavy.

In the end I would ask whether he has got any intention to set apart a definite proportion or percentage of this income for labour amenities. If we put all this money into one pool it may or may not be possible to extend the benefit of these amenities to labour which seems to deserve much. On the other hand it is desirable to see that a particular percentage of this cess should be earmarked and put down as a non lapsable fund, so that for labour amenities it can be drawn upon whenever it is necessary.

I would therefore request the hon. Minister to clarify in terms of rupees, annas and pices his programme for utilisation of these funds and this enhanced revenue to the several aspects which he has got in his mind.

Shri K. C. Sodha (Sagar) rose—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There is no time.

Shri Punnoose (Alleppey): Can we extend the time by fifteen minutes more?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: How can I? I am bound by the order of the House.

Shri K. C. Sodha: I have to express my doubts.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Subject to the limitation of time.

Shri K. C. Sodha: Yes.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There is no time now.

Shri K. C. Sodha: I may have to move my amendment. If my doubts

are removed by the hon. Minister now, I may not move my amendment and thereby I will not take time then.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I will give an opportunity to the hon. Member, if there is time, to move his amendment.

Shri K. C. Sodha: If the hon. Minister removes my doubts I will not be put to the necessity of moving the amendment.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Even for this talk there is no time.

Shri Damodara Menon (Kozhikode): I want to ask one or two questions.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He may put them.

Shri Damodara Menon: The Tea Board was reconstituted only recently. I want to ask the hon. Minister whether this recommendation for the enhancement of the cess has been made with the approval or in consultation with the new Tea Board. I am raising this point because these Commodity Boards that have come into existence must have some functions. And if in a matter like this concerning labour welfare as well as providing money for development purposes etc., which everybody would welcome, this amount is going to be handed over to the Tea Board, what schemes they and what amounts they want for development purposes are matters which lie in their sphere. Therefore, I want to know whether before bringing in this House a recommendation for the enhancement of the cess, this normal consultation with the new Tea Board has been made.

Another point is this. My friend Mr. Thomas was saying about propaganda in West Germany, U.S.A. and Ireland by the Government of India. And he asked the hon. Minister whether the propaganda is done for Indian tea. I want to know why it is not possible for us to carry on propaganda for Indian tea in foreign

[Shri Damodara Menon]

countries. We were members of the International Tea Market Expansion Board and we withdrew from that Board because that Board was doing propaganda for not only Indian tea but for tea in general. If after coming out we are spending moneys abroad for doing propaganda generally for tea, what is the purpose of our coming out of that Board? We are spending about Rs. 50 lakhs and we may spend in future more on this. Are we going to spend this money for propaganda for tea of other countries? About this matter also I hope the hon. Minister will provide some clarification.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Now Mr. Sodhia may put his question.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: The hon. Minister just now said that he was going to take away from the functions of the Tea Board the function relating to welfare of labour. I would like to know whether he is going to do it by amending the Act and taking away this duty from the Tea Board or in some other way.

Now the second thing is that under the parent Act it has been provided that all collections minus the cost of collections will be made over to the Tea Board. The amount collected has now increased and I want to know how the Government are going to utilise the extra amount that they are making, because under the present Act it may go to the Tea Board.

The third point is that out of the 15 or 16 functions that have been allotted to them under the present Act, many of them have been neglected altogether. Therefore I am not in favour of giving any money to the Central Tea Board. They have refused to perform any of the functions laid down under the Act.

Therefore, such a Board does not deserve any increase to its funds and I have tabled the amendment simply to condemn the present activities of the Board and to bring out that they ought to fulfil the functions that

have been laid down for them under the Act. I want to know what they have been doing to remove the difficulties of the workers when it is well known that the tea market is controlled by the foreigners and it is the foreigners who are dominating the poor workers. My request to the hon. Minister is that he should see that the Indian interests in the plantations are not let down by the activities of the Board.

It is on these points that I wanted to speak.

Shri Punnoose: I would like to know, while it is one of the specific duties of the Board to look after the amenities for labour, whether the hon. Minister or the Board have in mind any plans for amenities for labour.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: A number of questions have been asked and I shall answer them to the best of my ability.

If the hon. Member refers to Section 26 of the Tea Act, he will find that the Government is not obliged to hand over the entire proceeds to the Tea Board. What it says is, as much of the proceeds as possible should be handed over. The maximum amount indicated is the amount of the collections. It does not mean that the entire money should be handed over, unless it is sanctioned by Government.

In regard to the general question of functions of the Board, it has been said that section 10(2)(b) is redundant and is the same as the provisions contained in the Plantations Labour Act. It may be that there is a certain amount of redundancy. The hon. Member, Shri Tushar Chatterjea, will certainly realise that whatever is obligatory on the tea gardens to do in respect of labour, Government would insist on their doing that. Whatever they cannot do, that will be taken up by the Tea Board. There must have been some intention in the minds of

the framers of the Tea Act who put in this particular obligation on the Tea Board that they should look after the question of amenities and facilities for labour. It is only the residue that would be dealt with. The whole amount of Rs. 85 lakhs would not be enough if the Tea Board is to take up the entire responsibility. I am not asking for an appropriation of the amount now. The amount has to be collected first. In the budget we will have to ask for so much money for the Central Tea Board. At that time I shall probably be in a position to give you an idea of how much has got to be spent on labour amenities. At the present moment we have got plans up to Rs. 10 lakhs. Perhaps it may be increased further when we finalise the budget.

Mr. Damodaran said that the Tea Board has not been consulted. If the Hon. Member refers to the Act he will find that there is a declaration under the Collection of Provisional Taxes Act there. Nobody is taken into confidence in respect of such Legislation excepting the few people concerned. If we consult somebody else in regard to this matter, possibly all the export would have been finished by the time we start collecting the tax. So, in the matter of revenue collection, consultation is a thing which is very improper.

The point raised by Mr. Lingam has been dealt with adequately by Mr. Thomas. Mr. Lingam says no propaganda is necessary for internal consumption. It is completely wrong. We are producing 650 or 640 million lbs. of tea and we cannot depend on foreign countries for its consumption? Our internal consumption has to rise. We must be able to consume at least half of it, so that for the other half we may depend upon foreign countries. I do apologise for the type of propaganda that has been carried on as I wonder it is not satisfactory. We should do more of it. We must make people more tea-conscious so that we can have an internal market for at least half of the produce.

1 P.M.

Mr. Tripathi raised a number of points, but I will deal with only one, namely, whether the law of diminishing returns would operate because of high prices as we depend largely on the foreign buyer of tea. Perhaps it would. But it cannot be suggested that the buyer will take to something cheaper than tea—unless he is going to drink hot water—which will give him that little cheer that he gets from a cup of tea? I am very conscious of this fact, because, after all who drinks tea in the foreign country? It happens to be the common man. It is not the rich man. We want our customers to be preserved for us. I have tried to tell the people concerned in the other countries that I am prepared to co-operate if there is to be any price control; but I am afraid they found it rather difficult politically and otherwise. So far as I am concerned, my mind is quite clear. We do not want to make more money than is absolutely necessary. Though we might lose a part of our export revenues we do not want to mulct the consumer in the foreign country who, I pointed out, is not always a rich man. And I am quite prepared to co-operate with any Government in controlling the price of tea if that Government asks for it. But, if because of short supply and because of the operation of the law of supply and demand the prices rise to 7 sh. a pound and if I control prices at this end somebody else at the other end will make the money. On the other hand, if our tea planter makes that money, a part of it at any rate seven annas in the rupee comes to us by way of income-tax. There is at least that. Therefore, I cannot do anything more than express my wish to co-operate with other countries.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: Why does not the International Tea Board function in this connection?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I do not think it is within their scope at all. As a matter of fact, the Government of each country has to deal

[Shri T. T. Krishnamachari]

with this matter. The International Tea Board cannot deal with it.

So far as expansion is concerned, I can assure the hon. Member Mr. Lingam that if we continue to be in the International Tea Agreement, no let or hindrance will be put to our capacity to expand. As it is, we have got about 40,000 acres, unutilised and if we are going to have more acreage under tea than at present, a revision of the Agreement which will expire in 1955 will give us enough elbow-room for purposes of expanding as much we want and as much we can.

So far as advertising Indian tea is concerned, I am afraid, the hon. Members are taking a very narrow view of things. If we are collaborating with the tea trade in another country, we can only advertise tea. If you want to advertise Indian tea, you have got to go on your own and do it—and it does not pay to do that kind of thing, because we do get a certain amount of co-operation from the other Tea interests. There is no rivalry actually, except perhaps in the United Kingdom where Ceylon does a certain amount of advertising on its own. In other countries, there is no advertisement carried on to any large extent for the tea of any particular country.

We are in fact at liberty to spend more money on Indian Tea: we could have advertisements separately; but a common effort with the tea trade in the various countries is made on the ground of increasing the consumption of tea, so that everybody will get the benefit, and we will undoubtedly get a larger share of the benefit because we are the biggest producers of tea. And that is the proper way to look at it. There is no use saying: "You have not done anything for Indian tea". If you have Darjeeling brand or Nilgiri brand, we can go and advertise it. Nothing prevents us from doing so, but it must be done entirely on our own. We cannot get the tea trade in other countries who deal in tea as such to col-

Hospital are there no doubt, but proper help is not given."

I think I have said all that I have to say and I would finally like to remind hon. Members that this is not an appropriation Bill. This is merely a question of levying a tax. When the time comes for me to present the demands for my Ministry, I shall endeavour to supply hon. Members with as much information as they want in regard to the disposal of the amount so collected.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Tea Act, 1953, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: So far as the amendments are concerned, I have no time. I think I will treat as if there will be no amendment, but there has been enough discussion on these amendments.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I do not know if one amendment which is of a consequential nature.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Government's amendment is always allowed.

Clause 1.—(Short Title)

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: In view of the fact that my hon. friend the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs has suggested that the second Tea (Amendment) Bill will also be introduced, I do not know if this will be necessary. Anyway, by way of abundant caution, I beg to move:

In page 1, lines 3 and 4, for "Second Amendment" substitute "(Amendment)".

Long Title

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I beg to move:

In page 1, omit "further".

Perhaps I might have to reverse this process when I bring in the other Bill.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

In page 1, lines 3 and 4, for "(Second Amendment)" substitute "(Amendment)".

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

In page 1, omit "further".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2.— (Amendment of section 25, Act 29 of 1953).

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: So far as Shri Tushar Chatterjea's amendment is concerned, it is out of order, because he wants to raise it, and he says "at such rate not less than four rupees". As he knows, any tax ought not to be increased without the sanction of the President. "Not less than four rupees" means it is the minimum. It is not "not exceeding four rupees".

Regarding the other amendment, I only want to impress upon the House that there is not much of substance in it. The amendment is "not exceeding four rupees" instead of "four rupees". If power is given to the Government to impose tax at the rate of Rs. 4, it is open to them to impose a tax at a rate less than Rs. 4 also.

The question is:

"That clause 2, clause 1, as amended, the Title, as amended, and the Enacting Formula stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2, clause 1, as amended, the Title, as amended, and the Enacting Formula were added to the Bill.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy (Mysore): May I say a word?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We have exceeded the time allotted by five minutes. I would urge upon hon. Members, whoever is on the Advisory Committee, to take note of it. It is rather embarrassing for me not to allow Members to speak. I would certainly have called Mr. Gurupadaswamy—he comes from Mysore—and other hon. Members, particularly businessmen like Shri Tulsidas, to make their own contributions.

Shri Tulsidas (Mehsana West): I did not want to speak at all.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I shall remember their names, but more time must be allowed in such matters as this. It is for the Business Advisory Committee.

INDIAN TARIFF (THIRD AMENDMENT) BILL

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Kanungo): I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Tariff Act, 1934, be taken into consideration."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: On behalf of Shri T. T. Krishnamachari. Otherwise, the hon. Ministers may give notice in their own names. Very well.

Shri Kanungo: Sir, this Bill seeks to amend the Indian Tariff Act, 1934, by.....

Shri A. M. Thomas (Ernakulam): The time-limit may be fixed.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: From 1-10 to 2-10 P.M.

An Hon. Member: Five minutes each.

Another Hon. Member: Ten minutes each.

Shri Kanungo: This Bill seeks to amend the Indian Tariff Act, 1934, by making certain changes in the First Schedule to that Act in order to give effect to Tariff Commission's recommendations. As the House will have noticed from the Statement of Objects and Reasons attached to the Bill, the Commission's recommendations involve the grant of protection for the first time to the automobile leaf spring industry, the withdrawal of protection to the sewing machines, the pickers and the zip fasteners industry and the temporary extension of protection to ten industries for a period of one year pending a review by the Commission.

I shall first deal with those industries which will be de-protected from the 1st January, 1955, namely, the sewing machines, the pickers and the zip fasteners industry. Copies of the Tariff Commission's reports on these industries and of Government's Resolutions thereon have already been laid on the Table of the House. I need not, therefore, go into the details of these industries and shall make only a passing reference to some of the important aspects which have led Government to take this step.

It is a matter of great satisfaction to me that the sewing machines industry has justified the protection which was granted to it about 7½ years ago in April, 1947. The record of this industry during the period of protection has been one of steady progress. Production has increased, quality has improved and imports have declined. The industry has not only been able to consolidate its position in the internal market but has steadily improved its position in the export market also, as will be seen from the following statistics. In 1951 we exported 6,164 machines, in 1952 8,119 and in 1953 we reached the five-digit figure of 10,863. The fair ex-works price of a domestic machine (Rs. 105) is lower than the

landed cost ex-duty of a foreign machine imported from the cheapest sources (Japan), viz. Rs. 146. The industry has now grown to that stage where it is no longer in need of protection and can stand on its legs. The Commission has recommended that protection may be withdrawn from 1st January 1955, and Government have accepted it, and the necessary provision has been made in the Bill. Sewing machines will become subject only to revenue duties with effect from the beginning of the next year.

In the case of the pickers industry, the Commission's investigations have indicated that the fair-ex-works prices of indigenous pickers are lower than the ex-duty landed cost. This favourable position in respect of cost should, in the Commission's opinion, enable the domestic industry to develop an export market, provided it maintains a high standard of quality of its products by strict adherence to the ISI specifications. The Commission has recommended that protection to this industry should be discontinued from 1st January 1955, and Government have accepted this recommendation. As protection was initially granted in April 1949, the industry would be enjoying protection for five years and nine months.

I now pass on to the zip fasteners industry, whose position, I regret to say, is not very satisfactory. The Commission has come to the conclusion that the domestic manufacturers did not make good use of the protection granted to them. The quality of the products has not come up to satisfactory standards. A comparison of the fair-ex-works price of the local products with the ex-duty landed cost of imported fasteners from the cheapest source indicated a protective duty of the order of 165 per cent. *ad valorem*. The Commission did not consider that there was any justification for imposing this heavy burden on the consumers and has recommended that protection to this industry be withdrawn from 1st

January, 1955. Since protection involves some sacrifice on the part of consumers, a protected industry owes a duty to the public to make the best use of protection. Since an independent tribunal has given its verdict that the zip fasteners industry has not acquitted itself well during the period of protection, the industry does not deserve sympathetic consideration at the hands of Government. The industry will, therefore, be deprotected, but the existing rate of duty, namely 66-2/3 per cent. *ad valorem* will be continued as revenue duty. Government will, however, be prepared to review the position if in future the zip fasteners industry is established on a more satisfactory basis and applies for protection again.

I shall now deal with the automobile leaf spring industry, to which protection will be granted for the first time. The House is aware that while making its recommendations on the protection of the automobile industry, the Tariff Commission considered that it was necessary to examine the case of each ancillary industry separately. They are taking up the cases of these industries one by one, and have submitted their report on the leaf spring industry. Copies of the report, and of Government's Resolution thereon, have already been placed on the Table of the House.

Leaf springs form an important component of a motor vehicle; almost the entire weight of the vehicle is carried by the front and rear springs. After careful investigation, the Commission has recommended that the existing revenue duty of 50 per cent. *ad valorem* on leaf springs and parts thereof should be converted into an equivalent protective duty till 31st December 1956. This recommendation has been accepted by Government, and the Bill seeks to implement it. I may add here that the acceptance of this recommendation does not involve any additional burden on the consumer.

Now, I come to the industries whose protection is due to expire on 31st December 1954, but the Commission has not been able to carry out its review. These are starch, glucose, dioxide, artificial ^{and} ~~soda~~, ^{and} ~~sodium~~ chloride, titanium artificial silk mixed fabrics, alloy tool and special steels, iron or steel machine screws, iron on steel baling hoops and grinding wheels. In all these cases, the Commission has recommended that protection be continued temporarily for another year, pending submission of their reports. The Bill, therefore, seeks to extend the period of protection for these industries till the end of December 1955. Short notes on these industries have already been circulated to the hon. Members. I need not dilate on them at this stage, as the House will have an opportunity again for full discussion, when the reports on these industries become available, and Government bring forward legislative measures for implementing their decisions.

I feel I need not take up the time of the House any longer.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Tariff Act, 1934, be taken into consideration."

First, I shall call upon Shri V. P. Nayar, for he has tabled an amendment. There will be a time-limit of ten minutes for each Member.

Shri V. P. Nayar (Chirayinkil): The purpose of my amendment is not as much to have the duration of the present protective tariff up to the date I have mentioned, as to bring within the scope of the discussion certain facts about the industries sought to be so protected.

I shall confine myself only to one or two items, to which protection is proposed to be extended till 31st December, 1955. You know the Tariff Commission has made an inquiry, and it is on the basis of that that the sago and tapioca globules,

[Shri V. P. Nayar]

starch and other tapioca products, now enjoy protection. This Bill seeks to extend the protection in respect of starch, farina and sago flour.

If you go to the Tariff Commission's Report, you will be surprised to find—I have pointed that out once before—that the Tariff Commission in inquiring into the details of these things has not inquired into certain very basic questions. For example, you will find that when the Tariff Commission admits that Travancore-Cochin has over 5½ lakhs of acres—I dispute those figures, because according to me, it is more than 7 lakhs of acres—.....

Shri A. M. Thomas: The Board of Statistics figure is 14 lakhs of acres.

Shri V. P. Nayar: No. Eight to nine lakh acres. Is that not so?

When they admit that about 1.5 million tons of tapioca globules are produced in Travancore-Cochin and also say that the industry has its relationship with the raw materials, i.e. tapioca root, you will be surprised find that the public hearing over this was held at a place in Bombay. You can imagine how a tapioca grower from Travancore-Cochin or Malabar or any place near Salem could go and depose before the Tariff Commission, which was sitting at that time in Bombay. That shows in what fashion the Tariff Commission has gone into this question. If you go through the import statistics, you would find that a considerable quantity of starch is even now imported. If you go through the internal prices of tapioca, you will find that there has been unprecedented fall in the price of tapioca.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What happened to sago in Calcutta?

Shri V. P. Nayar: I shall come to that later. I know this much that there was a case in the Supreme Court, but I do not know what happened about it.

Last time, when a similar Bill was considered on 21st December last year, Shri Karmarkar admitted:

"I am quite sure that the Ministry of Food and Agriculture who are concerned with this matter will surely take cognisance of the views expressed on the floor of the House."

You will remember that then we pleaded that some arrangements must be made by the Government of India to stop the price fall in tapioca. But what is the present position?

The Travancore-Cochin Government appointed a committee to inquire and go into the details of tapioca. Dr. P. J. Thomas who conducted the inquiry recommended that the minimum prices for tapioca should be somewhere between 9 pies and 12 pies per lb. I am informed that today the price of tapioca is about 3 pies per lb. so that for one anna, you get four lbs. of tapioca. You can imagine from this the extent of price fall in respect of this commodity, which is grown in millions of tons, and on the price of which the economy of my State, of Malabar and of certain other places in South India depend to a very large extent. This Government, although it seeks to protect the subsidiary industry, does not do anything in this regard.

It will be interesting to note that sometime ago, on the 24th August 1954, Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh, in answer to a question by Shri Singhal assured the House—I am saying this because last time, Shri Karmarkar told us that the Agriculture Ministry would look into it—that the Central Government would take suitable measures if the prices fell below the economic level. Here is a commodity on which several hundreds of thousands of people live and the price of which has registered a fall which is unprecedented. Here the Government come and say that they are

protecting a part of it by extending protection to the sago industry. This is not the attitude in which the Government ought to take this question up. I understand that certain representatives of the growers of Travancore-Cochin have come to Delhi to represent to the Commerce and other Ministries. I would ask the hon. Minister who is here to discuss with them and find out what is the position. I was going through their memorandum—I do not know whether Government are aware of that—that even in the matter of internal freight, when you transport tapioca starch and maize starch from one place in India to another by railway there is a discrimination. I am told that this discrimination is also seen in the case of freight in ships. According to my information, maize starch can be shipped at Sh. 103 for 18 cwts. while tapioca starch can be shipped at Sh. 115 for only 13 cwts. So that you will find that five cwts. more of maize can be shipped at a cost of Sh. 12 less than the freight which has to be paid for tapioca starch.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is not greater care required for transporting tapioca?

Shri V. P. Nayar: No. Not at all. It has come to stay because there has been some oversight or because cereals and pulses have been classified and this would have come under that. I do not know where the snag is, but it is a fact, that maize sago and other things can be now sent from one place to another on the railway at Rs. 2-13-1 per md. while tapioca starch has to pay Rs. 3-11-1 per md. I would ask the hon. Minister to take this up. It is not a question merely of coming forward and moving an amendment to the existing legislation.

Then you will also find that Government can do something to protect the tapioca growers' interests. You know that Travancore-Cochin has been incurring a daily expenditure of Rs. 1 lakh for subsidising food.

Now, the Government of India have assured us that we will have enough supplies of rice. Owing to a variety of reasons, the tapioca prices have fallen. What have the Government done? Have the Government done anything for the export of this product? It is very easy to say that the textile mills are under the thumb of my hon. friend, the Commerce Minister, as he very often says. In war days when there was a scarcity of food material, I remember that the textile mills were asked to compulsorily take tamarind starch, in order to save food material, for their requirements. Tamarind seeds were not primarily consumed as human food. Therefore, I know that textile mills had been asked to get a portion of their demands met by tamarind starch. Now, here is a product; the price of tubers has gone down terribly and my hon. friend, the Commerce Minister, can very easily ask the textile industry to confine at least a certain percentage of their purchase of starch to tapioca starch, at least to the extent to which they are forced now to import starch from foreign countries, and then fix up a quota for tapioca starch.

Shri A. M. Thomas: No import is allowed now.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Of industrial starch?

Shri A. M. Thomas: No import now.

Shri V. P. Nayar: I would like Shri Thomas to verify the account of sea trade. It is declining, but I know that at least in Madras, starch is still imported for the manufacture of kumkum at considerably low rates from Singapore and other places. I have actually seen them in the godowns.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram (Visakhapatnam): What is the article he is referring to?

Shri V. P. Nayar: Kumkum.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What is the red substance that is there?

Shri V. P. Nayar: That is some chemical dye.

I am speaking subject to correction; my friend, Shri Kanungo, can tell us whether they have published any notification totally banning the import of starch. If there had been a total ban on the import of starch, my friend, Shri Thomas, will realise that this particular legislation would be superfluous. You are fixing an import duty and you are maintaining that import duty for a period up to the 31st December 1955 only because you have not banned the import completely. If the import had been banned, there was no question of an amending legislation keeping up the existing tariff wall till the 31st December 1955.

We are spending ever so much under the Planning Commission. In their report, you will find that crores of rupees are ear-marked for development of small-scale industry. My State and the neighbouring places in the Malabar district, produce the maximum amount of tapioca. I ask the hon. Minister whether Government have contemplated so far the setting up of any factory which can consume the starch which can be produced to ensure a fair, high price to the tapioca growers. It has come to stay; there is no question of changing the six or seven lakh acres over to some other cultivation. It has to be done. We are importing a considerable quantity of glucose. The hon. Minister knows that the Tariff Commission has also gone into that and submitted their report. We require liquid glucose which is partly made here. We also require the other type of glucose. Why is it that Government have not been able to set up a factory in the growing area or in some other suitable place, by which the tapioca roots can fetch a fair, steady price? It can also be ensured thereby that the article which is so very vitally required for the pharmaceutical industry,

for the confectionary industry, for even so many other small industries, is produced from indigenous sources.

I would also request the hon. Minister to seriously consider the question of giving some subsidy until conditions are restored to their normalcy. It is not as if Government cannot give any subsidy. Government have the means for doing it, and there is a very strong case for giving subsidy to the tapioca growers. It is not as if hundreds of thousands of tapioca plantations have come into the hands of one or two individuals. You have recently been to my State. You will find that almost every patch of land on either side of the road will be planted with tapioca. You know they take a lot of interest because this plays a very important part as a cash crop and also as an alternative in times of food crisis. I therefore request that the hon. Minister may please consider whether Government can take some steps, some positive steps, by which a subsidy could be paid to the tapioca growers, to the cultivators, until such time as the starting of industries under the auspices of Government or by Government's recommendation so that the tapioca growers can be ensured a fair, steady price for all times. Until that is accomplished, I urge the Government of India to go to the help of the tapioca growers, because we have found that the Travancore-Cochin Government has done precious little about it. I think they have not even cared to answer the questionnaire sent by the Tariff Commission. So that it is a matter also for the Centre, especially in view of the assurance given by the Food Minister that the Government of India would step in when prices went below the economic limit. Here is a case in which prices have gone four times below the economic limit. I therefore once again urge upon him to have the matter discussed thoroughly with the Members of Parliament who come from those places, from those tapioca growing areas, and also with representatives

of the growers who are presently in Delhi, and have very quick steps taken in order to mitigate the hardship which is caused by the policies of Government to the tapioca growers of my State.

Shri Tulsidas (Mehsana West): Sir, I do not want to make a very lengthy observation on this Bill because this Bill is a very small and good measure for giving protection to different industries. In this, about 13 industries are involved. There are three industries which are discontinued to be protected. There is one industry in which the Tariff Commission has made a report and in the case of the other 10 industries they are being extended for a period of one year, but there have been no Tariff Commission Reports. This, in my opinion, is a very undesirable practice because from year to year we hear about the extension of the protection without Tariff Commission's Reports. This House would naturally be interested to know what the Tariff Commission's views are on the protection which is extended.

I find that the Tariff Commission is rather taking a very long time for giving their reports whenever any industry is submitted for their examination.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: On the contrary, it is more swift than it should be.

Shri Tulsidas: But, the Tariff Commission is a Commission which must work quite in time and must give the report as early as possible whenever any industry is submitted to them. I know that there are certain limitations. The Tariff Commission naturally takes a very comprehensive survey of the whole industry and so on. I have been always feeling that the Tariff Commission must be strengthened. There is a provision according to the Act that the Tariff Commission should not consist of more than 5 persons including the Chairman. We are on the threshold of the Second Five Year Plan. We

want to increase our industrial potential in the country, not only of the large-scale industries but also of the small-scale industries. Therefore, it should be proper that the Tariff Commission must be in a position to give to the Government reports as soon as any industry is referred to them. It may be, that, we are required to increase the strength of the Tariff Commission. They may require instead of 5, 7 members. Why should not the Government come forward and amend the Act to increase the number of members on the Tariff Commission?

Thus, every year coming forward for extension of protection from year to year, does not give any protection. In my opinion there is only a very short-term protection and the industry would like to know what is the long-term protection. It may be that next year the position may be different. After all, they do not know where they are.

Now, there is also the other aspect. The Tariff Commission gives report not merely for the protection by way of increase in tariff, but there are, ancillary suggestions also which are made. They are, I am sorry to say, not properly looked into. I can give you examples of a number of cases in which the Tariff Commission has given ancillary suggestions and they have been always, if I may say so, ignored. I will give you an example. One of the non-fiscal measures of assistance which the Tariff Commission recommended was with regard to reduction in freights and rates structure and preference in purchase of stores. Even with regard to— to give an instance—the automobile industry, the Commission recommended the implementation of the recommendations of the Motor Vehicles Taxation Enquiry Committee's Report, of reduction on taxation, reduction of freight rates etc. But, nothing substantial in this direction has yet been done. This is another aspect.

I can also cite that in a number of cases where the Reports are made, they are not submitted to the House

[Shri Tulsidas]

within the period according to the Tariff Commission Act, that is, within three months it must be submitted to the Parliament. There is a proviso of course, whereby the Government can extend this period on account of difficulties. But, I am afraid, too much advantage is taken of this proviso because in a number of cases, after the Commission made the reports, they have been submitted to this House after a considerably long time. Power and Transformer Report came after 7 months; Cement Prices Report came after 6½ months; Sericulture Industry Report came after six months and so on. I think too much advantage should not be taken of that proviso. We should have the Report as soon as it is submitted to the Government within the time prescribed under section 16(2).

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: What about the businessman's lobby?

Shri Tulsidas: Let them come to a decision and indicate what is in their mind.

There is another aspect. If the Government feels that this examination by the Tariff Commission should take more time, then I say, there is no other alternative but to have resort to giving powers to the executive to increase the import duty or reduce the import duty, or to have the quantitative import control. Either of these things must function; otherwise the industry is always kept in the lurch to know what protection the Government is going to give them.

Sir, I have a certain experience with regard to a particular Committee of which I was member—the Import Control Enquiry Committee. I know there are difficulties. I can just give one example. Here is the question of soda ash. Now soda ash industry has to be looked not merely from the point of view of the industry as such, but the articles which the industry produces are also raw material to other industries and therefore, those industries which consume this raw

material have also to be considered. It has to be considered whether the protection which is given to this industry is more than what it should be given, or is it that other industries might suffer on account of the protection given to this industry; whether we have to increase import of other goods and so on. They are difficult problems, but a reasonable balance can be struck and in that respect the quantitative restriction of import policy must be an instrument in the hands of the Government. I know, under the GATT which is at present discussed in Geneva there is a certain amount of restriction, but, in a country like ours which is undeveloped and which has still to develop considerably, particularly with the balance of payment position of this country, this quantitative restriction is an instrument in the hands of the Government, in spite of GATT restrictions, and that should be utilised if this speeding up of the Tariff Commission's Reports is not adhered to. That is my feeling and I hope the hon. Minister will look into it.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I think the House will join me in congratulating the hon. Deputy Minister for the dexterity with which he has stated his case, being the maiden performance as Minister in charge of the Bill.

My hon. friends Shri V. P. Nayar and Shri Tulsidas have made a number of points with respect to the implications of this Bill, and I do not want to repeat the arguments used so far. But, I think this House is entitled to satisfaction on a very important constitutional and procedural point. You, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, would recall that when the first amendment to the Tariff Bill was brought here by my hon. friend's colleague Shri T. T. Krishnamachari two years ago, I raised this question of composition, powers and competence of the Tariff Commission to deal with questions of that character. My hon. friend Shri Tulsidas made reference to inordinate

delays with respect to submission of reports by the Tariff Commission. I have before me a complete tabular statement of the number of industries remitted to the Tariff Commission, and sometimes you see that it does not take even six weeks to complete an enquiry. I consider that this sort of disposal of enquiries remitted to the Tariff Commission is not in the interest of the country. You would recall, I hope, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, that when I made this point nearly two years ago, the Commerce Minister agreed with the suggestion made, namely to strengthen the personnel of the Tariff Commission and if necessary to divide the Tariff Commission into *ad hoc* groups for immediate disposal of enquiries. I would like to know from my friend what steps have been taken specifically to strengthen the composition of the Tariff Board.

While saying this, Sir, I would like to draw your attention to another point. There has been a tendency on the part of Government to permit members of the Tariff Board to vacate office and accept other employment. I consider it a very very dangerous thing. An experienced man—this type is really very small now in this country—has been lost to the Tariff Commission. My hon. friend the Minister knows to whom in particular I am referring to. Also there is another danger here. Sir, I am not anxious that mere college professors should be elevated to the position of members of the Tariff Commission. The House would recall that, when for the first time an Administrative Officer from the Bombay Government was appointed as Chairman, there was a lot of criticism in this House. On a balance, I think, an Administrative Officer, perhaps, is better placed to discharge the functions assigned to him as a member of the Tariff Commission, than a mere college professor. If you analyse the names of the gentlemen who are members of the Tariff Commission, you will see that the requisite experience, ability and scientific knowledge necessary for the sifting of data and arriving at con-

clusions which are capable of guiding government decisions is not available among the personnel of the Tariff Commission. Most of them are my personal friends, and I know them, and indeed, I do know most of them. I am not reflecting upon their integrity or character. That has not been doubted. But are they properly equipped? Are they capable of discharging their duties? Believe me, sometimes more than a score of enquiries are remitted to this Tariff Commission within one year. How can they dispose of them?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Does the hon. Member suggest any cadre or any training school for them?

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: If necessary, Why not?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is not in a spirit of joke that I enquired. Probably you want a separate cadre of men, a category of professional people from whose ranks these people could be drawn to the Tariff Commission.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: I quite appreciate the spirit in which you have made those remarks. I entirely agree with the Chair. I shall make a concrete suggestion. Why don't they take business executives, as an experiment? Surely, why don't they take business executives on the Tariff Commission? Have they not done so with reference to the Industrial Finance Corporation and other State bodies which have come into existence in recent years? But that is a question which has got to be investigated properly. But the main point is: the statutory limitation of five members for the Tariff Commission is insufficient to deal with the task entrusted to the Commission. The result is, as Shri Tulsidas has complained, in the case of certain enquiries the Commission takes too long a time and in the case of certain other enquiries, the investigations are too perfunctory, with the result that the competent

[Dr. Lanka Sundaram]

advice which is expected of the Tariff Commission is not available to the Government and ultimately to the country. When this matter was discussed with him the hon. Minister gave an assurance, a definite assurance nearly two years ago that he would try to strengthen the personnel, and that when the time comes for strengthening the personnel of the Tariff Commission, adequate examination would be made about the suitability of the members to be selected.

Now, I would like to spot-light here only one point. Here, in the Bill, we have ten industries in particular with reference to which the hon. Minister sought to extend the protection time. I would definitely say, without any compunction at all, that this sort of legislation is trying to circumvent the Constitution. I agree that my friend, the hon. Deputy Minister, is helpless, when he found that the protection has expired and that the enquiry was not completed. Government then could make up its mind whether the protection should be continued or not. So, the best course is to postpone it for one year! This sort of legislation is not good as far as the country's interests are concerned. I beg to say with all humility that it is actually circumventing the provisions of the Constitution. I cannot take up the position that I will refuse to vote for this Bill, because I know the helplessness of the Minister. He does not know what he has to do, and he tried to move, as Shri Tulsidas has said, by bringing in what you call an enabling Bill about protection for different industries for different periods. In fact, I am inclined to request the hon. Minister to accept the amendment which will be moved at the proper time by Shri V. P. Nayar. Why do you require one year more for this Bill? Why not you ask the Tariff Commission to complete its enquiry in six months' time? Why do you saddle the consumer with the cost of protection without knowing exactly whether the protection is

justified in the circumstances? What I am making out is not a political or a light-hearted argument. It is a very definite point to be remembered by the Government and this House, before this Bill is assented to. I repeat that the Minister should consider the amendment reducing the time sought to be taken for extension of the protection given to these ten industries. You will see that these industries are of disparate character. Each one of them must be decided on merits. But, on the other hand, you find a sort of back-log of protection programme just heaped up on this House, on the spur of the moment, simply because Government is unable to make up its mind. I consider that this matter has got to be looked into. I have no disposition to oppose the Bill because I know it has got to be gone through for the sake of extension of protection. Now, this has come here three times—these amendments to the Tariff Act—in the present Parliament. Government, I hope, will certainly take steps early enough (a) to ensure that the personnel of the Tariff Commission is strengthened and (b) that adequate advance notice is taken of the time factor—when the tariff protection is going to expire in respect of certain industries—and make adequate enquiries justifying the need for protection before asking the House for extension of protection.

Shri Jhunjhunwala (Bhagalpur Central): The points which I wanted to make out have already been covered by the previous speakers, but they are so important that if I take a few minutes of the House by placing the same from my point of view, it will be quite justified. As has been pointed out by my hon. friend, Shri Tulsidas, every year the Government comes up before the House saying that protection should be extended or discontinued in respect of certain industries; without having the report of the Tariff Commission and placing the same before the House in order to judge and find out whether that protection is justified or not, it is difficult for the House to proceed with the matter.

Secondly, as has been pointed out by my hon. friend, Shri Tulsidas, in respect of the industries to which protection is being granted, the man who starts the industry does not know, and is not in a position to judge as to how long this protection will continue, and so, he cannot work with full attention and energy.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: He cannot plan out.

Shri Jhunjhunwala: I thank my friend. He cannot plan out that is a proper expression. He should be enabled to proceed with certainty. These are the two things which the Government should look into. Before they come with any other Bill of this nature in future, they should see that Parliament has got the Tariff Commission's report before it. Or, just as has been pointed out, Government should take executive power and their department should study the problem, whether protection should be given to a particular industry or not. This is not a good procedure but at least if we have the report of the department, we will be able to judge whether protection should be given to any industry or not.

We have got the Five Year Plan, and shortly we shall be having another Plan. We shall be starting more and more industries, and the Tariff Commission should be fully equipped so as to give its full attention to the Plan. As has been said by my hon. friend, Dr. Lanka Sundaram, the Tariff Commission is so much overworked that at times they cannot do full justice, while sending their recommendation, and this aspect namely, whether they are fully justified in recommending protection or not becomes a question. So, they must be fully equipped with sufficient staff to give sufficient attention to all the problems which are presented before them.

Now, under the GATT, we are under an obligation not to raise the tariff protection duty on particular articles, unless we negotiate beforehand. If the Government or the Tariff Commission does not take proper action, does not give the report in time or does not

review the position of those articles—whether any further protection for those articles is necessary or not—we shall go on losing our foreign exchange and we shall not be able to develop our industries also. Take the case of dye-stuffs. We are importing dye-stuffs to the extent of Rs. 10 crores a year and for the last one year or so, we have not ordered any. What has the Tariff Commission to say on this point? I understand it is more than a year now, and the Tariff Commission has not reported on this. This is a very important thing. Under the GATT obligations, we cannot increase duties as such, we have to see that at least the reports on these items are truly made and particularly looked into. If the Tariff Commission cannot look into these things, the Government should have a department which should look into those points and give reports so that negotiations can be carried on with GATT to enable us to increase duties on these items.

There is one other point regarding which I have got a representation, and that is in respect of a village industry in my State—the button industry in Champaran. The protection for this button industry has been discontinued. Unfortunately, I have not got those facts and figures. They say that because this protection has been removed, the industry will die. I shall pass on that representation to the Commerce Minister. It is not with me at present. Government should look especially to these village and small-scale industries which are developing in villages and districts and see that they are properly protected.

Shri A. M. Thomas: I would have followed the lines that have been adopted by the three previous speakers had it not been for the urgent necessity of bringing to the notice of the Government one or two burning questions of my State. My friend, Shri V. P. Navar has touched on that question. I would also wish to supplement his remarks by certain other facts.

One of the provisions in the Bill provides for the extension of the period of protection till the 31st of December

[Shri A. M. Thomas.]

1955 to ten industries which the Tariff Commission are enquiring into. Among those ten, we find two items, viz. starch including sago flour and farina and glucose. About these, I wish to offer a few remarks.

My friend, Shri Nayar, has told the House that the conditions now existing in the tapioca industry of my State are really distressing from the point of view of the tapioca growers in the States of Travancore-Cochin and Madras. It is alarming also if it is viewed from the economic point of view of the two States, especially of Travancore-Cochin. When we are attempting to give protection to any industry, what is to be enquired into and examined is the possibility of internal development of that industry so as to reach self-sufficiency and if possible examine the possibilities of development for an export market. I submit that nothing substantial has been done in the matter of this industry which I have pointed out and so I join with my friend Shri Tulsidas Kilachand in charging the Government with omission to implement the ancillary recommendations that are generally made by the Tariff Commission. We find from the note that has been circulated by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry that with regard to starch industry including sago flour and farina the number of existing units is only 18. The estimated domestic demand is 55,000 tons per annum whereas the actual production in our country in 1951 was near about 8,793 tons. In 1952 it was about 7,762 tons but in 1953 there is an improvement and the production was about 17,193 tons. In 1954, up to August it has been 26,349 tons. I should think that the possibilities of expanding this industry internally have not been exploited properly.

I would like to bring to the notice of the Central Government the Tapioca Enquiry Committee's report. It was a Committee constituted by the Government of Travancore-Cochin and presided over by no less a person than Dr. P. J. Thomas who was Financial Adviser

to the Government of India and who was also Chairman of a Committee constituted prior to the Kanungo Committee to enquire into the conditions of the handloom industry. I should think that proper value should be attached to the recommendations contained in that report. My friend just referred to the acreage of tapioca cultivation in my State. According to Government statistics it is 5,40,649.7 acres in Travancore-Cochin alone. According to the statistics collected by the Board of Statistics in Travancore-Cochin by a speedy sample survey method, the figures for Travancore-Cochin will come to about 14,25,917 acres. The importance of tapioca cultivation from the point of view of the economy of my State is self-evident from these figures. The total production of rice from that State is about 2.7 lakhs tons. The total production of tapioca from six lakhs of acres has been pointed out to be about 7.6 lakhs tons. When we take the valuation of these two crops we find that it will come to about twenty and odd crores of rupees if a reasonable price is got for the tapioca. This is double the value of the rice that we have got in that State. So, it will be found that it has got a substantial place in the economy of the southernmost State. It contributes to the food supply and also the national income of that State.

I want to emphasise one aspect which is quite relevant to the discussion: the industrial possibilities of tapioca in relation to the industries to which we give protection. It is unfortunate that this valuable raw product is not put to any proper industrial use. The chief industrial use of tapioca is for making flour, starch and starch products like dextrin, sago, glucose and power alcohol. Good biscuits, it is stated, can be manufactured from this. I would particularly refer to chapter 7 of the report, which I have referred to, in which it has been stated:

"During World War I, when Dr. S. G. Barker was the Director of Industries, Travancore State, an elaborate scheme was prepared for

the manufacture of tapioca flour on a large scale, and machinery for this was ordered from Java." But nothing took place after that.

An Hon. Member: What happened to that?

Shri A. M. Thomas: I am very glad that the hon. Minister in charge of the cottage industries is piloting this Bill and he would do well to take note of this. I may refer in passing that it is found here that there are tremendous possibilities of an export market for the tapioca products. In fact clean tapioca has an extensive world market. It will sell readily anywhere. Imports of tapioca flour into the United States of America amounted to 280 million lbs. in 1946. Although Brazil was the main supplier, Indonesia had also a part in it. There are possibilities of even capturing the United States market by our country. Dr. Thomas also refers to the industrial possibilities and refers to the possibility of manufacturing starch which is important for the textile industry. It can be used in textile sizing, for colour printing of fabrics, for paper making, for manufacture of adhesives, for making moulded articles, etc. Even in leather industry it can be used. It can also be used in laundry work and in pharmaceutical and violet preparations. These are the various uses which this raw material can be put to. I am drawing attention of the Government specifically to this aspect.

My friend, Mr. Nayar, referred to a point. The price of tapioca per lb. has fallen to three pice. The economic price according to this Committee—my friend had stated quite correctly—will be from 9 to 12 pice. Frantic telegrams are reaching all the Members of Parliament from that State and the Government also with regard to the deplorable conditions that now exist among the growers of tapioca. It has also been stated that it is possible to export a considerable quantity of starch so that the present distress may be alleviated. I can understand that we are not self-sufficient in the matter of starch. But the price of the maize starch has fallen down in value to such an extent that the tapioca starch is not

at all in demand. I understand that there is demand for this starch in foreign countries and I would suggest that Government might allow exports of substantial quantities of starch, even as a temporary measure, so that the growers might get reasonable price for the tapioca tubers.

I just now referred to the industrial possibilities of tapioca. I understand that representations have been made to the Central Government for starting a factory for the manufacture of starch and sago on a small scale as a cottage industry. That is why I said earlier that I am glad that the hon. Deputy Minister who is in charge of the cottage industries is piloting this Bill. One memorandum states:

"It has been stated by Shri S. N. Rao who is one of the greatest textile experts in India, that tapioca starch is better than maize starch in many respects in its application to the textile industry. As stated by him in his article in the *Textile Journal* in its issue of August 1954, the tapioca starch on account of its property of penetration and adequate surface protection and its shorter boiling time and its ability to form a smooth non-scaly and elastic film, is sure to replace the maize starch in its application in the textile industry. Further, the value of tapioca starch has been recognised even by more advanced countries like the U.S.A. where, as against the 800 million lbs. of corn starch and 20 million lbs. of potato starch locally produced, 300 million lbs. of tapioca starch are being annually imported at a higher rate than the rate ruling for corn starch. Thus it can be seen that the tapioca starch industry has unlimited scope for development."

2 P.M.

I read only one paragraph from the representation that has been made to the Central Government just to emphasise the importance of the statements contained in their representation. I trust that Government would bestow its attention on this aspect.

[**Shri A. M. Thomas**]

Last time when the Tariff (Second) Amendment Bill came up for discussion, seeking to give protection for the sago industry, the importance of developing the tapioca industry was mentioned and the hon. the Commerce Minister, Shri Karmarkar, who piloted that Bill gave an assurance that the various suggestions made would be forwarded to the Food and Agriculture Ministry for appropriate action. Sir, I beg to submit that in these matters there is no proper Co-ordination between the two Ministries—the Food and Agriculture Ministry and the Commerce and Industry Ministry. These are matters on which the early attention of Government must be bestowed. Suggestions sent to one Ministry lie there for considerably long time, and nothing is done either on a long-term basis or even on a short-term basis within a reasonable time. Here is an instance in which the two Ministries should jointly find out some methods by which the vast population of my State can be protected.

With these observations I welcome this Bill. Though it is a non-controversial measure, the aspects that I have now placed before the House, I hope, will be given due and weighty consideration.

Shri Kasliwal (Kotah-Jhalawar): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, it is unfortunate that we are discussing this Bill in the absence of any report from the Tariff Commission. This Bill proposes to extend protection to ten industries. In respect of most of these ten industries there was discussion last year also. There was one important point which I raised at that time and I propose to raise again: the question relating to the rated capacity of these industries.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, you will see that out of the ten industries, there are seven which are producing much below their rated capacity. Their rated capacity is very high and they can meet and they are capable, of meeting the entire domestic demand,

but their production is extremely low with the result that today we have to import large quantities from abroad.

Take the case of the starch industry itself. My hon. friend Mr. Thomas just now said that the estimated domestic demand was 55,000 tons per annum? But what was the actual production? 17,000 tons. The rated capacity of only eight units working at present was 43,000 tons. Take the case of the glucose industry. The estimated domestic demand is 3,500 tons; the rated capacity is 5,300 tons; in 1953 the actual production was 102 tons; in 1954 the actual production is 130 tons. Take the case of the calcium chloride industry. The estimated demand is 800 tons; the rated capacity is 2,600 tons. But what is the actual production? The actual production in 1953 was 649 tons; in 1954 January to June 219 tons. Similarly, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, take the case of the Titanium dioxide industry, alloy tool and special steels industry, iron or steel machine screws industry, iron or steel baling hoops industry. The rated capacity is there. But why are these industries not producing up to their rated capacity? I made this insistent enquiry last year from the Commerce Minister and he gave an assurance that enquiries will be made into the rated capacity of these industries. He said that at the present moment an enquiry was being made into the engineering industry. We do not know what enquiry has been made into the engineering industry. I want to know from the Deputy Minister whether he proposes to make any enquiry into these industries which are producing far below their rated capacity.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: Is it the hon. Member's point that these industries are keeping their production low to qualify for this benefit?

Shri Kasliwal: I cannot say I am really unable to say. But I make this query: why should protection be given to such industries who refuse to produce up to their rated capacity.

There are three other industries which I must say are producing up to their rated capacity, especially the artificial silk, the grinding wheels industry and the soda ash industry. I want to say a word about the soda ash industry. There are only two units working in the country: the Tatas and the Dharangdhara Works. In their Report the Programme of Industrial Development the Planning Commission said that it is very important that the soda ash industry should be given a fillip. They said that some more units should be established. But what do we find? Although four years have passed, no unit has been established. As the Report of the Planning Commission said it is necessary that the development of new units should be actively encouraged and supported by the State. But up to date no step has been taken to develop the soda ash industry. I hope the hon. Minister will keep this particular point in mind.

As against this, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, so far as the grinding wheel industry is concerned, the rated capacity of one unit is sufficient to meet the needs of the country. I find that two more units are now coming up. I do not know why these two more units have been permitted, especially when these two units which are going up have a large foreign capital. That is all I have to say.

Shri V. B. Gandhi (Bombay City-North): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, we in this House can give our general support to this Bill. The Bill divides itself into three parts: one part deals with the granting of protection to the leaf spring industry; another part deals with the extension of protection for a further period of one year to certain other industries,—ten in number; and the third part deals with the withdrawal of protection in respect of three industries.

Now, Sir, so far as the protection granted, or proposed to be granted, to the leaf spring industry is concerned, we heartily support the measure. Leaf spring industry, Sir, is a very important industry in the automobile field

and we are glad that this industry is now going to have a more or less certain future before it. The development of this industry will fill an important gap in our programme of producing a complete automobile in this country with all parts made in India.

Now, coming to the other part which deals with ten industries, in respect of which protection is going to be extended for another period of one year, I must say that it is not very creditable to a Government to have such a long list year after year to place before this House and ask the permission of the House to continue protection. This is rather acting blindly. (**Dr. Lanka Sundaram**: Helplessly.) In this connection I add my voice to the case made out for increasing the Tariff Commission personnel, the case as made out by three speakers who preceded me, namely Shri Tulsidas, Dr. Lanka Sundaram and Shri Jhunjhunwala. It is not so much against the existing personnel; I would like it to go on record that the examination and the reports as made of these industries by our Tariff Commission are of very high quality. What the Commission suffer actually from is probably they are under-staffed, they probably need additional personnel. I have my own doubts whether the suggestion made by Dr. Lanka Sundaram is practicable. I mean his suggestion with regard to an effort to be made to draw on business executives for filling the personnel of the Commission. He referred to the Board of the Industrial Finance Corporation. I do not think that analogy can be stretched too far, because the Board of the Industrial Finance Corporation meets only occasionally, probably once in two months or three months, whereas the work that the personnel of the Tariff Commission is called upon to do requires continuous day-to-day work. Anyway the difficulties should not be allowed to keep us from taking active measures to add to the strength of the Tariff Commission.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: What about the College professors? Are they to continue every time?

Shri V. B. Gandhi: I do not mind if College professors of a suitable standard are taken up in a kind of a secondary cadre and trained, along with the present personnel.

Anyway I hope Government is not holding back this very desirable move only on the score of cost, because the cost is being paid by the industries as well as by the community so long as this kind of under-staffing of the Commission continues. Here in this Bill are ten industries. Their fate is in the balance. They do not know whether their protection is going to be continued or whether it is going to be withdrawn or whether it is going to be modified. That is a very unsatisfactory state of things for important industries, such as we find included in the list of these ten industries, to be in. And the cost is also, I think, unethical in this sense that if some of these industries are industries in respect of which ultimately the decision of the Commission is to reduce or to abolish or to withdraw protection, then that protection should have been withdrawn now and not a year from hence, and during this period of one year the community would have paid and the industry would have gained, I think, in a manner in which it did not deserve to gain. It is in this sense that both the industry as well as the community is paying for this inaction on the part of the Government. It is a very urgent problem and my plea to the Government would be that serious attention should be paid to this deficiency in the present set-up of our Tariff Commission.

Shri Kanungo: I am extremely obliged to all the hon. Members who participated in the debate, because on the whole the purpose of the Bill has been supported by and large.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: Small consolation to you!

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya (Muzaffarpur Central): There is nothing perfect in this world.

Shri Kanungo: As Mr. Gandhi has pointed out, the Bill has got three

parts. Regarding the first part, namely protection given to the leaf springs industry, there is a unanimity of opinion. So I need not dilate upon it.

Regarding de-protection of the three industries there has been no comment, and the facts being in the possession of the House from the reports and resolutions placed before it I take it that it has got the support of the whole House.

Regarding the third part, namely extending for a year protection to the ten industries which are enjoying protection at the moment, I must agree that there is great force of argument on that. But the House has to remember that the complexities of our problems are so many that perhaps this was not anticipated at the time when this particular procedure was undertaken. Parliament in its wisdom has decided that it will consider subjects on the advice of an independent tribunal. Whether the tribunal is adequate or inadequate, that is the point that has to be decided. There is considerable force in the argument that when ten reports become arrears there is need for examining this question.

But in extending this protection for one year, I suppose the House is not doing any violence to itself or to the industries. After all, based on the report of the Commission, the House has considered and granted them protection for a given number of years. If a report could have been available within the stipulated time, then the matter would have come to the House whether the protection should be continued or discontinued. But I think extending by a year that protection, in most cases, will not be unfair, for the simple reason that it is maintaining the *status quo*. If a particular industry was very bad—which I hope will not be amongst the ten, or there might be one or two—then it will be certainly hitting the consumer to a point. This position merely indicates that protection when granted must be for a sufficiently long period to assess

its results, or there must be a continuous enquiry going on—a sort of Tariff Commission working two shifts or three shifts, whatever it is. These are the two alternatives. And these points have got to be considered by Government. Certainly it is not a satisfactory thing either from the point of view of the Government or from the point of view of the House. But it certainly does not bring in that amount of uncertainty as has been made out by some of the hon. Members. Who are the parties mostly interested? Apart from the consumer—I suppose the consumer is the most interested because he has got to pay higher or lower prices for it—the two parties mostly interested are the producers and the importers. Now, the time-lag between a particular measure and its implementation either for de-protection or protection is sufficiently long to enable them to plan their production or import policy. In the matter of imports, I suppose judging from the opinions expressed by the Import Advisory Committee, the position is satisfactory and it has met with the approval of the body of importers as a whole. Most of the licensing periods are on a half-yearly basis. Therefore, the conditions are improving steadily.

As far as Dr. Lanka Sundaram's proposition that it is a violence upon the Constitution is concerned, I do not express any opinion on that, but I may agree to a certain extent that it would have been fairer if the reports could have been made available in time.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: Tweedledum and tweedledee.

Shri Kanungo: Yet, the speaker himself has admitted that the work which is loaded upon the Commission is such that it is physically impossible for them to turn out the work expected to them. Of course, the House knows, judging by standards five years back, the Commission has been provided with a certain amount of specialised staff for helping them, but as I have said earlier the position requires review and serious considera-

Another point which was made by Shri Kasliwal was about the rated capacity and actual production in the zip fasteners industry which is being deprotected by this particular Bill. A study of the report will show that there is ample rated capacity for production in that particular industry, but the industry has not been able to produce anything. There are several factors. There are demand factors, consumer resistance factors, and hundred and one factors; and of the most important things is to rationalise the management of the units. If the management is not rationalised—and I lay emphasis upon that—the capacity there cannot be utilised fully. Of course, it is desirable that whatever productive capacity there is must be utilised to the full, as that will be getting an economic return for the investment from the capital point of view. By and large I suppose we are progressing in that direction.

Judging from the figures of production of starch, the House will notice that the production is increasing year by year, and in several other industries, the same phenomenon is being observed.

Shri Kasliwal: Glucose is going down.

Shri Kanungo: There might be several reasons for it. When the enquiry is taken up, the Tariff Commission may be able to point out what are the reasons, why this has happened, and whether those reasons could be corrected or not.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: May I interrupt the hon. Minister on a point? On this rated capacity question, is Government prepared to give a direction to the Tariff Commission to make sure that the industry is not keeping production too low to qualify for this benefit and still arrange for imports of the stuff to come in? That is the crux of the problem.

Shri Kanungo: A direction is not necessary. I suppose they have got to judge the totality of circumstances.

[Shri Kanungo]

and recommend to the Government whether protection is necessary or not.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: But the figures given by Shri Kasliwal are clear on this point. No particular industry has stepped up production, proportionate at least to its rated capacity.

Shri Kanungo: It is quite possible that under given circumstances, the actual production may be much less than the rated capacity. That does not hurt very much. It all depends upon the time etc..

Shri Syamandan Sahaya: The time, place and the recipient.

Shri Kanungo: But by and large I will say that the particular industries which we are protecting or de-protecting, and a large number of them which are given temporary protection for a year, or enjoy protection, have proved their worth.

Regarding the point which Dr. Lanka Sundaram and Shri V. P. Nayar made out, as to why it should be for one year, I may say it is for abundant caution. You have the example in the past, that wherever reports are available, Government have taken decisions quickly, much earlier than the stipulated one year period, and they come up before the House with legislative proposals. Therefore, in this particular instance, as soon as the reports are available, Government will immediately take steps. It may be within three months, six months or nine months, but.....

Shri Syamandan Sahaya: If nine months are over, no difficulty after that I suppose.

Shri Kanungo: Therefore, this one year period is asked for simply by way of abundant caution, and we are not asking the House to spend its time on a matter which is not of very great importance at the moment. Though we have asked for this time,

we hope we will be able to do it in a shorter time.

Quite a large amount of time was taken particularly by Members from Travancore-Cochin on the utilisation and price of tapioca. For years tapioca has been the talk of the town, so to say. When we were short of food, people thought that tapioca would carry us through and we started saying that tapioca should not be exported, it should not be used in industry, it should be conserved for food purposes etc. But today, as I understand it—and I think it is correct—and as the Members mentioned it, the prices are going down, and the producer or the farmer of tapioca is being hard hit. I should say that is a problem which is part of the bigger problem of agricultural price. Even if the entire starch requirements of the country would be available from the source of tapioca, that would not be enough to bolster up the prices. The price of tapioca is going down, the price of rice is going down—whether it is good or bad for the total economy is another matter—and if we want to bolster up the price of tapioca, one small effort in that direction might be its utilisation for starch manufacture, but it will not wholly support the price of tapioca. That has got to be tackled from the background of protection for agricultural prices. And, as a matter of fact, judging from the progress in the manufacture of starch we are making in the country, I believe in a very short time we will be producing the entire amount which we need.

Shri Jhunjhunwala has mentioned about the button industry. I would refer him and the House to the Resolution of Government dated 28th November, 1953, in which on the basis of the Tariff Commission's Report, a part of the protection to the button industry was taken out, but the rest of it was maintained.

In regard to glucose, Shri Kasliwal has maintained his stand that protection should not be continued. In their Resolution, Government

have observed that the production of glucose has gone down. Government have also warned that if the conditions do not improve, then it will not be possible for them to continue the protection on glucose, for after all Government owes a duty to the consumers also. National economy is one of the important factors, but it has got to be balanced with the interests of the consumers as a whole. If protection does not give the right incentive, and is not able to raise the right incentive from the people to take advantage of it, then Government have reluctantly got to look into the interests of the consumers and drop it.

Shri Velayudhan (Quilon cum Mavelikkara—Reserved—Sch. Castes): Just like the All India Radio, there is occasional silence.

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya: Silence is sometimes more expressive.

Shri Kanungo: I am sorry for it.

As I have said at the outset, as there is almost practical unanimity on the purposes of the Bill, I submit that the House must accept the Bill.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: Silence is a token of the peroration.

An Hon. Member: The silence was because of Shri Velayudhan who was very eager.

Shri Kanungo: Now, he has missed the bus.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Tariff Act, 1934, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 1 and 2

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Now, we shall take up the clause by clause consideration. There is one amendment by Shri V. P. Nayar to clause 2. But the hon. Member is absent. There are no other amendments to this Bill.

The question is:

"That clause 2, clause 1, the Title and the Enacting Formula stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2, clause 1, the Title and the Enacting Formula were added to the Bill.

Shri Kanungo: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill be passed."

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: This debate, as I have said earlier, need not have been the cause of any controversy. I have said that there is no disposition on the part of any of us here, belonging to either side of the House, to obstruct the progress of the Bill.

Now that the hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry is present here, I would like to have an assurance from Government on two points. One is that the hon. Minister has given us an assurance two years ago about strengthening the personnel of the Tariff Commission. I repeat that demand now, and I want an answer. I want the earlier assurance to be carried into effect, because it has not been carried out so far.

The other point is more important to my mind. The question of rated capacity has been raised in this House times out of number. The short point concerning this Bill is this. In the case of those ten industries for which protection is sought to be granted for another one year, and also other industries, as they will come up from time to time, is it a fact—I am only posing a question—that certain industries which are granted protection are not making efforts to increase their actual production up to the rated capacity, in order to qualify themselves for continued protection? I am sorry I have put it in a very roundabout way, because I am not here prepared to

[Dr. Lanka Sundaram]

charge any particular industry with deliberately cheating Government by keeping production low. An investigation is necessary into this question. If that is the case, the industry concerned will not be, or should not be, entitled to protection. I think this is a matter which has got to be looked into very carefully.

My hon. friend the Deputy Minister gave me a negative answer, when I asked him, why do you not give a directive to the Tariff Commission specifically to investigate into this point, and to make the report completely clear that every effort has been made by the industry concerned to step up the production to the rated capacity, before it is qualified for getting the protection to be continued.

The Minister for Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): Directive to the Tariff Board?

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: My hon. friend the Deputy Minister said earlier, in the course of the first reading, that such a directive is not necessary. I would like the hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry, now that he is present here, to answer this point. Whether a directive is necessary or not is a small point, but the major point is this. Have Government satisfied themselves in the case of every single industry asking for continuance of protection that the rated capacity is sought to be reached? If that is not sought to be reached, what steps are Government taking to ensure that such a position is reached? Otherwise, the consumer is mulcted, and I am sure this House will not be a party to the consumer being mulcted.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I must apologise to this House for not having been here during the earlier discussions. On the two points raised by my hon. friend Dr. Lanka Sundaram, I think I might be able to give some answer.

In regard to the question of the strengthening of the Tariff Commis-

sion's staff, we are trying to strengthen the staff. The question of personnel of the Commission itself is a matter which has been engaging my attention. We found on a survey of the inquiries, that there has been a falling off in new inquiries. I may tell the House the reason why there has been a falling off. There are two ways in which incidental protection has been afforded to industries. One happens to be the regulation of imports partly by Q.R.'s. The other happens to be the large-scale increase in customs duties, which we have effected over the last two years for revenue purposes. That has necessitated, or rather that has occasioned some reluctance on the part of many of the industries to come and ask for protection. Hon. Members would have found even in regard to the industries for which the House is granting protection, in some cases, the revenue duty is higher than even the protective duty recommended. For instance, the Tariff Commission has recommended that the zip fasteners industry be deprotected. Nonetheless, we are still carrying on 66/2/3 per cent. duty on it for revenue purposes, because it is an article which is only—what you may call—a semi-necessity—I would not call it semi-luxury. We do like zip fasteners for various purposes, but I think we could pay a little more price for it in order to augment the resources of the state.

That being so, the quantum of work that we can envisage by means of regular new inquiries is tailing off. The responsibility of the Tariff Commission in order to keep the industries for which protection has been granted at the expense of the consumer is undoubtedly very great, and is one which I have to call the attention of the Tariff Commission to every now and again. I must tell the hon. Member that I am keeping close touch with the Tariff Commission, in the manner in which I could possibly do without impinging on their independence. Recently, before we sent a delegation to the GATT, we got the

members of the Tariff Commission here, we got the members of the Planning Commission we had the delegation to the GATT with us, and all the concerned Departments; and we had a full-dress discussion. I am therefore, trying to the extent of my ability, to get the Tariff Commission integrated with the policies which Government are pursuing. But it is a matter of time. It is very difficult. I do not mind confessing that the work which I probably commenced about two years back is just taking shape now. It takes time.

In regard to staff, what is more important than even the personnel of the Tariff Commission happens to be the staff of the Tariff Commission. Here, we have been having an enormous amount of difficulty in getting technical staff. We cannot afford to pay them as much as private service will pay them. These difficulties have to be faced. You know also the normal method of recruitment; we cannot bypass the UPSC. And the UPSC is loaded with such a lot of work that if we send up a requisition for the appointment of two cost accountants and two technical personnel to assist the Tariff Commission, it takes about a year.

These things are there which impede progress with the larger quantum of work that they have to do. Now and again we are sending them a number of new references by way of price inquiries and that sort of thing. I am keeping in very close touch with the Tariff Commission. There are some changes on the administrative side which I have recommended they should make; I do not say it is a perfect machinery, but we are trying to make the machinery as perfect as possible.

In regard to the other matter that he has raised, that is, the question of rated capacity, whether the industries enjoying protection are using it or not, it is again a matter where progress has been slow. I do not mind admitting it. Progress has been slow merely because of the amount of personnel at my command, and

the degree of concentration that we are able to bring to bear on the problem. It is one thing to be able to send for the industry and tell them 'you are doing wrong' and another thing to get the information for you to enable you to do that. That we are watching with a great deal of keenness. To a very large extent, the Tariff Commission and the Government are depending on the Development Wing that I possess. I must confess that the Development Wing that I have at my disposal is entirely inadequate even to fulfil a moiety of the ambitions that we have in regard to industrial progress in this country. But so far as rated capacity is concerned, I have often times told the House that 'rated capacity' itself is sometimes a very misleading term. In the case of one particular industry, electric bulbs, where for reasons of giving some protection to the weaker units we had, more or less streamlined production all over, we had to go and assess the rated capacity again at the government level, not accepting what the industry had said. We found that we had to bring down the rated capacity in many cases. So I say the term 'rated capacity' is a somewhat misleading term. Nonetheless, I do agree.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: May I interrupt the hon. Minister? What is the machinery available to him today to investigate the actual production conditions inside every industry before it comes before the Tariff Commission, to satisfy himself that the information given is accurate?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: As I said, I am entirely dependent on the statistics furnished by my Development Wing. We have an organisation called the Development Wing attached to the Commerce and Industry Ministry. We have Industrial Advisers. Under them are the Development Officers holding charge of groups of industries. We have Deputy Development Officers concentrating on certain number of industries. I do not mind telling hon. Members that I meet these people at least once in two

[Shri T. T. Krishnamachari]

months or sometimes once in a month. Each man is asked to bring his diary and tell me what industries he visited, what is the nature of the production of a particular industry and so on. These are all done administratively. But I feel that the Development Wing has got to be trebled before I could even take a step forward to fulfil any portion of the ambitions that we have in regard to the industrial future of the country. To a very large extent, even the Tariff Commission is dependent on the information that the Development Wing can give. I cannot start a parallel organisation in the Tariff Commission because Government cannot afford the money. We are trying, as far as possible, to bring these industrial organisations in various Ministries together. I have now a scheme under which the Defence people send 8 or 9 men from their ordnance factories to the Development Wing so that there may be some amount of exchange and we can know more and more about ordnance factory work. We have made available the services of these people to the Supply Department. The amount of work that these people have to do, if one knows the amount of work that they are actually doing—and they do it honestly—is something colossal.

The first question is to build up the organisation. At every stage, my difficulty is that Government salaries are not adequate enough to attract proper material, and I am very happy to say that we had recently a communication from the Chairman of the UPSC who has said, 'I cannot get men for these posts unless you step up these salaries'. That is a fact which we have to face. We are trying to persuade the sister Ministries to give us a little elbow-room. But the thing can only happen if there is a conscious and deliberate recognition on the part not merely of Government, not merely their officers, but also of the hon. Members of the House, that the industrialisa-

tion of this country is a harsh imperative and no sacrifice is too much for getting a move on in respect of industrialisation. I welcome any strong criticism that might be levelled against my Ministry in this House, if that criticism will lead to a strengthening of the Government machinery and to making us get a move forward.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: The House never refused you funds.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Unfortunately, the proposal for funds has got to be processed somewhere else before it comes to this House. But I do welcome this criticism from my hon. friend because I can go back to my own people and tell them: This is the criticism that I have got to face. These are my ambitions, about which, I think, the House will probably tell us something when we discuss the economic policy. I concede completely that what Dr. Lanka Sundaram wants must be fulfilled. The mechanism must be there; the consumer must be protected. I do not suppose anybody in the Government has cried himself more hoarse than myself for consumer protection, very often it might have led to nothing. The will is there, but, I am afraid, the flesh is weak, because we are not able to get the necessary amount of personnel. But, as I said, we should bear in mind what the hon. Members have said and we do hope that by this time next year I would be able to give a better account of what the Tariff Commission and the Commerce and Industry Ministry do in this regard.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Minister of Labour (Shri Khandubhai Desai): I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, as passed by the Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

This is a very small amending Bill and I need not take much time of the House in explaining the Bill, as it has been presented to the House. The House is, no doubt, aware that when we passed the amendment of the Industrial Disputes Act in the November session, the Government gave an assurance to the House that plantation labour which had been excluded from that Bill would be brought under the Act as early as possible, because that Bill when it was brought, was brought in consultation with the tri-partite conference to whom the question of plantations was not referred. Immediately after that amendment became law, the Government called a meeting of the Plantation Committee, on the 31st December 1953, and that Committee unanimously recommended or agreed that plantation labour be brought under the lay-off scheme.

Shri Amjad Ali (Goalpara—Garo Hills): At what place was the meeting held?

Shri Khandubhai Desai: At Calcutta. After the unanimous consent of the Committee was given, Government introduced a Bill in the Rajya Sabha in the Budget Session, and it was passed. But, unfortunately, because of the pressure of work here, we could not bring in the Bill last session and so we are bringing it just now.

The Bill provides that the Act should be applied with retrospective effect from the 1st April 1954, and when the Act is applied in any plantation where the workers are enjoying a position more advantageous to what has been provided in the Act as the

minimum, the provisions of the Act should not have a derogatory effect and they must get that much more advantage. That is all I have to say regarding this Bill. If there are any criticisms that come up, I would reply at the closing stage.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, as passed by the Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Shri Amjad Ali: Sir, the Bill as it seeks to amend the Industrial Disputes Act, to give the benefit of lay-off compensation to the plantation labour is long overdue. The plantation industry is the most important and premier industry in India. When the lay-off benefit was given to the labourers under the Factories Act, 1948 and Mines Act, 1952, there was no reason why this benefit was withheld from the plantation labour.

Then again, I find from the statement of the hon. Minister that it is going to be given effect to from the 1st of April, 1954. I request him to consider whether it is possible to accept the suggestion that instead of April, 1954, it may take effect from the date from which the Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Act was given effect to—it was sometime in October, 1953 I think. It was provided in the Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Act that the provisions regarding retrenchment and lay-off will have effect from the 31st October, 1953. If the Government accept the suggestion, namely, that the Bill will have retrospective effect from 31st October, 1953 that will really give some benefit to the poor plantation labourers.

May I also point out, Sir, that mere passing of the legislation will amount to nothing if the implementation is not seen through. Emphasis therefore should be on the act of implementation and that is very important. The Plantation Act came into force in 1944, but though this piece of legislation came into force due to the insistent demand of the plantation

[Shri Amjad Ali]

labour movement, yet the planters simply resort to various devices to defeat the provisions of the Plantation Labour Act. They evade repairs to the houses of labourers saying that they have to build houses for the labourers but the Act does not say anything of repairs at all. They say to the plantation labourers: "The Act says: new houses will have to be built, but repairs cannot be undertaken because that is not in the Act". The labourers have to live in rains. So, the labourers pass long days in summer and monsoon months in torrential rains. The Act is there but the human element is missing. Therefore, implementation of the measure is the chief thing.

I ask, Sir: "How long it will take to provide housing to the labourers in the plantation area?" The Government had put some targets to supply house for each labourer. Has it come to the target level even now?

Some months ago a tripartite committee met at Ootacamund and made its recommendations. May I ask, why the recommendations have not been put into effect?

Sir, the Plantation Labour Legislation which was passed three years ago for the benefit of the workers has not been put into effect. The delay has no cause. The only possible answer that will be given is that it is under the active consideration of the Government. But, why so long? Where there is a trade union the rights of the labourers are admitted. Where there is none, what happens to the labourers? All manner of obstructions are put. The planters see if there is any loophole to escape through the Acts and evade their responsibility with the result that the poor labourers suffer. For this purpose a definite joint standing machinery of individual industries to settle trade disputes at that level of industry is required so that the representatives of the union and employers can settle the dispute which may arise between them.

Sir, with these words I support the Bill.

Shri Velayudhan (Quilon cum Mavelikkara-Reserved-Sch. Castes): Sir, in the Statement of Objects and Reasons it is stated.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I can hear if it is a matter of doubt.

Shri Velayudhan: It is a matter of doubt, Sir.

Shri B. S. Murthy (Eluru): One doubt or two doubts?

Shri Velayudhan: Sir, here it is stated:

".....subject to the condition that none of the provisions of the Act derogated from the effect of any statutory notifications issued by Governments or of any agreements or contracts entered into between the parties....."

May I know Sir, whether these papers mentioned here are placed before the House. For example it is stated "any statutory notifications". It would have been of great help if these notifications and other regulations issued by the Government are placed before us.

Shri Khandubhai Desai: So far there is none.

Shri Velayudhan: Then, why it is mentioned here?

Shri Khandubhai Desai: In future, if some orders may have to be passed, the workers interests will be protected.

Shri Velayudhan: If it is for that the Bill itself is there.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Now, **Shri Bimalaprosad Chaliha**.

Shri Bimalaprosad Chaliha (Sibsagar-North-Lakhimpur): Sir, the Government deserve our congratulations for coming forward with this piece of legislation. Leaving out the plantation industry from the scope of this compensation provision in the

Industrial Disputes Act was a very wrong thing. The plantation industry provides employment to quite a large number of people in India. In the tea industry alone, I suppose, more than 12 lakhs of people are employed. The labour conditions in India even today are far from satisfactory and it is in the fitness of things that the Government at the Centre and also the Governments in the States are now giving serious consideration to this problem and are trying to ameliorate the condition of the labourers. The difficulties of the labourers for the very small income and their laying-off as now happens in the seasonal factories and also in plantation industry could be well imagined than explained here. Therefore, this piece of legislation will be highly welcomed by the plantation workers and the Government deserves thanks from them.

I have, however, an apprehension. I wonder whether without proper arrangements to meet the situation which arise as a result of fall in prices of the commodities like tea and coffee, how far legislations alone could protect the interest of the labourers. We have some experience in this connection. Although the Minimum Wages Act was in force during the last crisis in the tea industry, in spite of the Minimum Wages Act, in many plantations lesser wages were paid and the Government had to connive at it. Government had to remain mum. Even the trade unions also had to remain mum because they thought that instead of the closure of the tea estates which will result in unemployment of the labourers altogether, it would be better to get something and keep in gardens going. Therefore, I support the idea that was suggested in an earlier speech in connection with the Tea Bill by an hon. Member that the Government should consider about the creation of what may be called a "Price Stabilisation Fund". They may bring out a legislation by which they will compel each plantation owner or company to create such

a fund, when, particularly, the industry is now having a very good time. If such a fund could be created even if the prices go down some wages need not be disturbed and the loss may be made up from this fund. Without such an arrangement, in spite of all the good intentions on the part of the Government, it may be very difficult for them to implement the various ameliorative measures suggested in this Bill and also in the earlier legislations. Therefore, while supporting this Bill and thanking the Government for coming up with this legislation, I draw their serious attention to the need for proper arrangement for the stabilisation of the prices of these commodities.

3 P.M.

Shri Punnoose (Alleppey): As the Minister of Labour said, this is a very simple Bill and one should welcome it. But I cannot agree with the previous speaker in congratulating the Minister on this, especially because the Minister has made a statement now to which we on our part take very serious objection—an objection to the principle contained in the statement. When in October, 1953, the ordinance was passed, giving the benefit of compensation for lay-off and retrenchment, plantation labour was not included in it. In November, 1953, the Bill was brought before Parliament.

Shri Khandubhai Desai: After an ordinance.

Shri Punnoose: Yes. Then, every section in this House—Congress, communists—every section indeed wanted the inclusion of plantation labour also. I think the hon. Minister himself who was at that time a non-official Member of the House was for it, but it was not included. In January, 1954, there was a tripartite committee which decided that plantation labour may be included. Here a serious question of principle is involved. We do support the idea that tripartite conferences and bipartite agreements are necessary and we always want questions to be settled through this machinery. When

[**Shri Punnoose**]

labour disputes come up, tripartite conferences and bipartite agreements are all useful. But is it the policy of the Government of India to legislate for labour, giving them a decent standard of living only after consulting, and after getting the approval of the employers? That is the serious question. We do not want that the claim of the worker for decent living, human living, which is his natural claim that cannot be denied, should be subject to the approval or disapproval of the employer. The Minister of Labour was frank enough to say that they could not bring in plantation labour in the first Bill because there was no agreement from the employers. Now this amendment is brought because it has been agreed to by the employers. I would like the Minister of Labour to clarify the position of the Government. This amendment has been brought now. Why is it that it should not be made retrospective—from the 24th October, 1953? What prevents the Government from doing that unless it is the fear of courting the displeasure of the employer? That again adds to our fear that labour legislation is undertaken only with the approval and the sanction of the employers. Apart from this, we have got serious apprehensions as to the way in which this is going to be implemented, because we have got the bitter experience. For example, in the Plantation Labour Act, as was pointed here a few hours back, there are certain very good provisions, but in fact, the worker is denied the benefit of such provisions. In order to bypass the provisions of the Plantation Labour Act and the provisions of the Industrial Disputes Act, arbitrary dismissal is resorted to by many managements. Complaints have come from Bengal, Assam and indeed from every part of the country with regard to this thing.

Shri Velayudhan: What about our part—Travancore-Cochin?

Shri Punnoose: In Travancore-Cochin State the phenomenon is slightly different. I do not know whether the Plantation Labour Act has been implemented there in full, though the State Government has got the right to do that. There was a notification a few months back that the present Government—the P.S.P. Government—is going to implement the Plantation Labour Act. But my own idea is that it has not been fully implemented there yet. The managements resorting to certain methods. There are a large number of dependants who are kept as casual workers in the estates. When once a worker is entered on the muster rolls, then he has got certain rights. He has got the right of leave with wages, etc., with the result that the managements are keeping a large number of dependants of the present workers as casual labour. They are kept out of the permanent list. An agitation has been going on, but no agreement has been reached and large numbers are kept away from the benefit of the Plantation Labour Act.

There is another feature. Take the rubber estates. In the rubber estates, there are men as well as women tappers. Previously, both the men and the women tappers were getting the same wages. But after the implementation of the Minimum Wages Act, a woman tapper gets Rs. 1-3-0 per day while a man tapper gets Rs. 1-9-0 per day. The Minimum Wages Act, when implemented, went against the interests of the woman workers who do exactly the same work as the men workers. Both the men and women workers tap 250 trees every day, but the woman worker gets six annas less than the man worker. Again, in the Plantation Labour Act, there is a provision for maternity benefit. One should be surprised at the attitude of the managements in the rubber plantations. In rubber plantations, in order to avoid giving maternity benefit, the managements are persistently keeping away women from employment.

[SHRIMATI KHONGMEN in the Chair] All these things have created a very serious situation in the plantations in the whole country especially in Travancore-Cochin State. The Labour Minister should note that in recent weeks there have been many labour disputes cropping up in the estates. I shall just make reference to one instance. There is a company called Malayalam Plantations. This Malayalam Plantations is purely a British company. Its director made a speech very recently in London showing the profits of the company in 1953. This Malayalam Plantations, which has got estates all over Kerala, earned a net profit of £5½ sterlin. In 1954, during the last ten months, the same company has earned a net profit of £11 lakhs. Nevertheless, the company is now refusing the minimum conveniences, the elementary demands, of the workers. For example, for generations it has been the practice that the management is responsible for supplying food for the workers in the estates. The plantation workers live far away from their villages and towns and so the management used to discharge the responsibility of supplying food material to them. Of course, the price of this would be collected from the wages of the workers. But the Malayalam Plantations has now refused to discharge that responsibility with the result that there is a big struggle going on. Why should they do so now? It is because, according to the Plantation Act, if this practice is continued, certain responsibilities would devolve on the management. I wanted to impress upon this House that while these good pieces of legislation are being passed here, steps are being taken by interested parties, the managements or the employers, to bypass these and deny the benefits of these laws to the workers. It is not a question of passing them; it is a question of implementing them. The half-hearted way in which the labour laws had been implemented should be given up. Government should take steps towards the proper implementation of the labour laws.

I conclude by requesting the Minister to make a forthright declaration that the policy of the Government is to enact labour legislations and implement them irrespective of the fact whether the employers agree with them or not. They should make it quite clear that they want to give a decent standard of living to the worker. I would also request that this amendment should be made to have retrospective effect and that Government should take steps to get for the workers the real benefit of labour laws.

Shri B. S. Murthy: It looks as if the Ministry of Labour is a step child of the Government of India.....

Shri Velayudhan: Child labour. (interruptions.)

Shri B. S. Murthy: I am not able to understand Mr. Velayudhan's expression 'child labour'. When all the other Ministries are able to enjoy the tempo of progress, this Ministry has not made much progress. Ever since this Parliament has come into existence with a popular vote, no progress has been shown so far by this Ministry. We are all very sorry that this Ministry is not able to pull its weight with the Government, as has been seen in the case of the bank employee's award, etc.

This is a Bill which has been long overdue. This is a right that has been fought for by the workers of the plantations. When the ordinance was issued, we all expected that the Government would include the plantation labour also in that ordinance. But the Government failed to include it and thereupon an agitation was started. Even then Government did not move. The Government of India moves very slowly as far as the workers' affairs are concerned. I am not able to understand why the 1st day of April 1954 should be fixed....

An Hon. Member: April fool.

Shri B. S. Murthy: I want to use that word but my hon. friend is anxious to use that word himself; perhaps he is able to know it better. 1st April has no sanctity and there is no reason here as to why

[Shri B. S. Murthy]

that day has been fixed. When the ordinance had been issued on the 24th of October 1953, I think the proper thing would have been to take that date and deem that date to be the date from which the plantation labour also would get the benefits which the workers in the mines and factories would be eligible for. I want the Ministry to consider whether this date could not be taken back to October 24th, 1953.

I need not speak about the woeful conditions in which the plantation labour is suffering today. My friends who have preceded me have told many things. I think it is high time. Government appointed a Commission to go into the living conditions of the plantation labour. The planters are making tons of profit but they are not coming forward to give some consideration even to the elementary needs of the plantation workers. They have no houses; they have no clothes. Even when they have to go miles and miles to come to the place of work, no conveyance is provided to them. All sorts of impediments are put on them and so their health has deteriorated. I think it is high time that the Minister who had been fighting for these rights for the labourers came forward with a Commission to go into the conditions of plantation workers so that their living conditions could be adjudged and new proposals might be brought forward.

I have nothing to add except to congratulate the Minister because he has thought it fit, even at this late hour, to bring forward this measure so that the benefit of 'lay-off' might be given to these workers. I am afraid that the clever planters will again try to circumvent the law and to deny the benefit which this Act might confer upon the workers. Therefore, the Ministry must be vigilant and see that the benefit conferred by this legislation is actually given to the workers. If the planters are clever to see that regular labour

is not put on their registers, Government should see that the persons working for a certain period must also get the benefit. With these remarks, I support the amendment.

Shri Velayudhan: I welcome the introduction of this Bill by the hon. Labour Minister. I would like to make a few remarks at this time on certain points raised in the objectives of the Bill. It is said in the Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Bill that the Industrial Disputes Act was amended in 1953 but at that time the plantation labour was not included for the purposes of compensation for retrenchment, lay-off, etc.

Shri Khandubhai Desai: Retrenchment has been included.

Shri Velayudhan: I am saying about lay-off. I do not know why at that time this important issue was not taken into consideration by the Government because the year between 1952 and 1954 was a year of not only retrenchment but also of large scale lay-off, especially in Travancore-Cochin. I remember very well that in many of the factories—almost all the factories—and in the plantations, there was very heavy lay-off. Even now it is going on. There was no remedy or safeguard in the interest of the labour because of the lacuna in the Act. It took one full year for Government even to contemplate a legislation. It was not included in the amending Act of 1953. Then a Conference of Industrial Committee on Plantation met in January 1954. Now, Madam, we are now reaching the lap of 1955. So, it is more than one year since this Committee met and decided that compensation should be paid to the employees who are under the lay-off system. During this time thousands of employees have suffered. Government also should know very well that during this period of one year there was I must say large-scale seasonal retrenchment, for the word lay-off, especially in the rubber, tea

and coffee plantations in Travancore-Cochin. When we visited the plantations in Travancore-Cochin the complaint that we very often heard from labour and the trade unions was that because of this lacuna in the amendment Act of 1953 the managements were taking a lot of advantage, with the result that labour had to suffer a lot.

Let me in this connection bring to the notice of the House that all these difficulties for labour have arisen because of Government's apathy towards two very important Bills—the Labour Relations Bill of 1950 and the Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Bill—the first of which was actually introduced and even passed the Select Committee stage. If only these two Bills had been passed at that time, this retrenchment, or this kind of lay-off would not have taken place and millions of labourers in India would not have suffered. One hears a lot about labour and industrial disputes in the country and Government's stand about them. But at the same time we have not heard anything definitely or precisely on the Industrial Relations Bill or the Industrial Disputes Bill. Both these Bills were brought not by the former Labour Minister, but by his predecessor, Shri Jagjivan Ram, and in spite of our repeated requests that these two measures should be passed into law, they are still lying in the archives of the Government. How many labourers have suffered because of the delay in the enactment of these measures? I would like to tell one thing to the hon. Labour Minister who is a seasoned leader of labour, and in whom I have great hopes, and who I am sure will champion the cause of labour as any other labour leader in the country. I want the two Bills lying idle in the files of the Government to be brought forward and passed into law, so that this lacuna may be rectified. At the same time I should request him to give retrospective effect to the measure now under discussion. The Committee discussed this matter in Calcutta in January 1954; the Gov-

ernment is bringing forward the Bill in December 1954. My request to the hon. the labour Minister is that if this measure is given retrospective effect millions of labourers will be saved from a lot of suffering—not only in my State but all over India.

Shri Keshavaiengar (Bangalore North): I tender my wholehearted welcome for this small measure. It is a very non-controversial Bill. I do not think there is anything very much surprising in the fact that it has sought to be enforced from the 1st of April 1954, because the new financial year comes into force from that date. It is most gratifying to see that Government opened its eyes only on the recommendations of the meeting of the Industrial Committee on plantations held in Calcutta in January 1954. It is a long overdue enactment that was expected of the Government.

Plantation labour is that section of labour which has been very much neglected. In fact, the conditions of life of the labourers in the plantations is very distressing; it is the most unorganised section of labour too. Therefore, it has not been able to make its voice felt very much. I am very thankful to the Government for having brought forward this measure, even though late in the day. Let us not rest content with the passing of this Bill and making the lay-off compensation clauses applicable to the plantation labour. In that part of the country from which I hail there are thousands of labourers undergoing untold hardships under this lay-off system. After this Bill comes into force they will have some relief. These are days when we have got to be grateful for small mercies and I suppose even on that ground, I should tender my heart-felt support to this measure.

Shri P. C. Bose (Manbhum North): Madam-Chairman, it gives me great pleasure in supporting this Bill which is intended to bring plantation labour under this Act. I congratulate the Labour Minister for bringing this Bill, though rather late....

Shri B. S. Murthy: Very late.

Mr. Chairman: It is better late than never.

Shri P. C. Bose: Plantation labour, as the House well knows, is the most sweated and the most miserable labour in India. Since the time of indentured labour in the tea gardens they are suffering untold miseries, untold difficulties. Those who have some knowledge about tea garden labour know how these people live in the wilderness, away from towns and cities and civilisation, and there is nobody to help them. In former days, in the course of enquiry by the Government it was found that they lived as if in concentration camps. The estate owner was the lord of those places, he had no mercy for the labour. I am afraid that a bit of that tradition is still going on.

It is therefore the bounden duty of the present Government and the Labour Ministry to see that their lot is improved to a certain extent. I am glad that this Bill has been brought in today. But what I want to emphasise is this, that it is also the duty of the Government to see that the Bill is properly implemented in the case of plantation labour. Otherwise it will be of no use to those people who live away from the towns and cities.

With these words I support the Bill.

Shri K. P. Tripathi (Darang): I rise to welcome this Bill. This Bill fulfils the promise which Government gave in the last session in which the relevant amendment was passed. In that amendment it was said that plantations had been excluded because they did not form part of the agreement under which the other industries had come. So we had to await a conference. The conference met in Calcutta and unanimously decided that plantations should be brought under its purview. And I am glad that Government has taken steps now to fulfil that promise. In that conference it was also decided that higher benefits than what are contemplated in this Bill, if available to labour

anywhere, should prevail over the benefits provided in this Bill.

May I point out that this problem was discussed in its entirety in the international conference of the I.L.O. which met at Bandoeng? There we discussed and ultimately came to the conclusion that it is very necessary for plantation labour to provide twenty-six days' work in the month, for which the reason obviously was that plantations are scattered over the countryside in huge areas where there is no alternative employment possible. In the South, when I went to Madras and the Nilgiri Hills I found that this labour was tucked up on the summit of the mountain and when they were laid off for two or three days in the week they had no other alternative occupation. After the lay-off period they were expected to go back to the industry and perform their functions with the same efficiency with which they had left off before. You will realise that it is not possible for plantation labour, or any labour for that matter, to function with the same efficiency if he or she is laid off for two or three days in the week. This point was not understood by the employers. When I interceded with them they said it was not possible. But the same employers, in the distribution of profits, had made special reserves called the dividend equalisation reserve. When I asked them, "How do you justify this, on the one side you put dividend equalisation reserve so that every year you might continue to get dividend even if the garden might lose, and on the other hand you make no provision whatever for the labour on which this profit occurs, although the labour is laid off for two or three days?"—because after all plantations are seasonal industries—no reply was forthcoming. And it was out of such considerations that it was decided in that conference that it was necessary to fully protect the wages of plantation workers. That was the decision.

I am glad to hear that thereafter the Minimum Wages Committee of

Travancore-Cochin which finalised the minimum wages decided that minimum wages shall be fixed on the basis of twenty-six working days and, if no work was provided, then wages shall be provided.

Unfortunately the Assam Government did not have such a law when the huge unemployment and lay-off and retrenchment came in 1952. The lay-off and retrenchment passed off and later on, at the end of 1953, the Assam Government also had to pass such an order under the Minimum Wages Act, when it was unnecessary. I am mentioning these things in order to point out how the necessity of fully protecting the earnings of plantation workers exists.

May I point out that there was a Government committee which went into the wages of plantation labour, and you will be surprised to find that it discovered that 72 per cent. of their wages were used for food alone; that was the average figure. You know there are some families which have a larger number of children than others. In those families it was discovered that as much as 90 per cent. of the wages were consumed for food alone. There is hardly any other industry in the world in which such a high percentage of the wages is consumed on food alone. If ninety or eighty per cent. of the wages is consumed on food alone, what about clothes, what about fuel and other things. The answer is not forthcoming from anywhere.

Therefore you can find out how these people are living from hand to mouth. If on the top of it they are to be laid off for a certain period, what happens? Obviously, they starve. Therefore it was discovered by the Lloyd-Jones report that there was so much anaemia, that anaemia was a persistent disease among plantation labour. It was for this reason that we felt it was very necessary to protect the wages of plantation.

In other industries you will realise that wages have been fixed on the

basis of one earner earning for the family. But in the plantation industry wages have been fixed on the basis of the individual. It is supposed that the whole family must earn in order to live, including children. And you know when the whole family has to earn, it cannot put in the requisite number of days. If the child is ill the mother cannot go; if one person in the family is ill the rest of the family cannot go to work. In this way no family in plantation labour ever fulfils the required number of days' work which is necessary. Therefore, if you fix that so much is the earning of a plantation worker for maintaining the minimum number of calories, you will find the earning is far less than what is provided for. It was from this point of view that everyone felt that it was necessary to fully protect the wages of plantation workers. Therefore, we had asked therein, in that resolution of the Bandoeng Conference that there should be full protection for them.

But the House will realise under what circumstances this amendment was originally enacted. At that time in different parts of India different industries were being looked out and a serious problem arose as to how to prevent that. And ultimately there was a tripartite conference in which a unanimous decision was taken, and therefore this amendment was passed. And this amendment succeeded in the purpose for which it was passed, namely to stop lock-outs. Therefore, we thought it would be quite convenient to extend it to plantations. Because in 1952 we discovered there were many plantations which closed, not because they needed closure but because they wanted to keep in sympathy with other gardens which had closed. This question was brought out. We discussed with the employers and the employers discussed with their financiers, and discovered that whenever they found that the amount of loss which occurred to them was more in this way than in the other, they at once switched over and took

[Shri K. P. Tripathi]

work from the labour. We asked: how is it you closed yesterday and now you are opening, has the crisis disappeared? The answer given was: we thought if we did not close the other neighbouring garden will be in difficulties, so we also closed in sympathy. So at that time when the crisis came gardens were closing in sympathy. If this law had been there such a thing might not have occurred at all. Therefore, I am glad that now this law is being put on the statute-book also with regard to plantations, and I have great hope that in future just as other industries have been prevented from locking out, similarly plantations also will be prevented from locking out merely for the sake of locking out. Therefore, it is a very valuable and good measure. We have been looking forward to it and we hope that it will succeed in the purpose for which it is being meant.

In this connection, may I point out that there are certain fundamental problems of the plantation workers? Both of our Labour Ministers are seasoned trade unionists and the country expects very great things from them, and I have no doubt that they will be able to justify the expectations. People are looking forward to the solution of certain fundamental problems which are waiting to be solved not only in respect of plantation workers but in other industries also. Just as they have taken the earliest opportunity to bring this measure before the House and get it passed, similarly, other fundamental issues both with regard to plantation labour and with regard to other labour have been pending, and I have no doubt that they will be bringing forward suitable legislation.

With these words, I have great happiness in welcoming this measure, and I thank you.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy (Salem): I wish only to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to one point.

In the First Report of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation certain things have been pointed out and I find they have not been carried out in this Bill.

Section 38 of the parent Act deals with the rule-making powers, but it does not contain a clause which is usually found in such Acts. Now, there is a set formula which is followed in all sections dealing with rule-making powers. For instance, subsection (2) of section 11 of the Salaries and Allowances of Officers of Parliament Act says:

"All rules made under this Act shall be laid before both Houses of Parliament as soon as may be after they are made."

This formula has been adopted in almost all the Acts—for instance in the Tea Act, the Estate Duty Act etc. A similar provision is not found in the parent Act. It is with respect to this that the Committee on Subordinate Legislation in its report of March, 1954, has said in paragraph 11:

"The Committee, therefore, feel that in order to have proper scrutiny over the delegated legislation, it is imperative that there should be uniformity in the provisions of Acts authorising the making of rules, regulations etc. With a view to achieve this, the Committee make the following recommendations:—

(i) That in future the Acts containing provision for making rules etc. shall lay down that such rules shall be laid on the Table as soon as possible.

(ii) That all these rules shall be laid on the Table for a uniform and total period of 30 days before the date of their final publication.

(iii) That in future the Acts authorising delegation of rule-making power shall contain certain express provision that the rules made thereunder

shall be subject to such modifications as the House may like to make."

This report was submitted to Parliament in March, 1954. This Bill has been prepared in April, 1954, a month after the First Report was submitted. There is again a reference to this in the Second Report of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation in paragraph 29 (submitted to the House in September, 1954).

Shri N. M. Lingam (Coimbatore): On a point of order. Are we discussing the report of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation, or the Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Bill?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: My friend may wait. There is no point of order.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member says it is relevant.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: The relevant portions of this Bill delegating powers for making rules to the executive, have not been framed on the lines suggested by the Committee.

Shri U. M. Trivedi (Chittor): On a point of order. This is not lunch hour and we are not in quorum.

Mr. Chairman: Let the quorum bell be rung. The hon. Member can continue now.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: They have said:

"The Committee recommend that before these Bills are enacted, necessary amendments should be made in the relevant clauses and in the amending Bills which do not touch the rule-making sections of the principal Acts, new clauses making the necessary provisions should be inserted."

My submission is that even when the Bill was framed, the recommendation made in the First Report of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation submitted in March, 1954 should have been taken into consideration and the parent Act should

have been amended suitably. But, if it is too late, all that I would submit is that the hon. Minister may kindly give an assurance on the floor of the House that any rules framed under section 13 of the parent Act would be placed before the House.

ठाकुर बुगल किशोर रिह (मुजफ्फरपुर उत्तर-पश्चिम): सभानंदी महोदया, मैं श्रम मंत्रालय को इस बात के लिये बधाई देता हूँ कि उन्होंने इस प्रकार का बिल ला कर प्लॉन्टेशन लेबर को हजारी की सूची में दीर्घित किया है। यद्यपि यह बिल बहुत पहले आना चाहिये था, फिर भी जगर सुबह का भूला शाम को घर पहुँच जाता है तो वह भूला हुआ नहीं कहलाता है। इसलिये मैं श्रम मंत्री को बधाई देता हूँ।

साथ ही मैं यह कह देना चाहता हूँ कि यहाँ के अलावा कई रंगमंचों से, लेबर मिनिस्टर को और से यानी इनको भ्रतपूर लेबर मिनिस्टर की ओर से यह आशावान दिया गया था कि जब कभी इंडिस्ट्रियल डिस्प्लेस एक्ट के एमेन्डमेंट का सबाल होगा और वह इस हाउस के सामने आयेगा तब उस में वर्किंग बोर्डस्टेस, जिन के सम्बन्ध में इस हाउस में एक प्रस्ताव आया भी था, के लिये भी कुछ न कुछ किया जायेगा। इसी तह से जब 'ले आफ' के सिलसिले में बात-चीत चलती भी तो उस में सीबनल एम्प्लायीब जॉ कि शुगर फॉक्टरीब में काम करने वाले होते हैं, उन के सबाल भी साथ बंधा हुआ कहा गया था। लेकिन उन के सबाल पर विचार नहीं किया गया और उन को इस बिल में रखने की कोशिश नहीं की गई। मैं समझता हूँ कि इन फॉक्ट्रियों में काम करने वाले जो मजदूर हैं उन के सम्बन्ध में इस तरह का सबाल जोड़मर्हा उठता रहता है। अगर हम इस बात पर भरोसा कर के ही कानून बनाने कि जिस बात में इंडस्ट्री के लोग गज़ी होते हैं, मिल मालिक लोग गज़ी होते हैं, उसी को हम कानून के रूप में रखें, तो यह सम्भव नहीं हो सकता है कि मजदूरों के हित में जो कानून मूलायित तरीके से होना चाहिये वह ही सम्भव होगा। मैं यह मानता हूँ कि 'ले आफ' के सिलसिले में या प्लॉन्टेशन के सिलसिले में

[ठाकुर युगल किशोर सिंह]

जो भी फैसला एक मत से हो उस को कानून के रूप में उन को जल्द से जल्द लाना चाहिये, लौकिक साथ ही मैं यह भी कह दूंगा चाहता हूँ कि हमारं श्रम मंत्रालय के इसी पर भरोसा कर के काम करने से मजदूरों का हित नहीं हो सकेगा। इसीलिये जो भी मजदूर छूट गये हैं, जो इस के दायरे में नहीं आते हैं, वर्कमेंस की परिभाषा में नहीं आते हैं या जो सीबनल एम्प्लायीब होने के नाते से आफ के हकदार नहीं होते हैं उन सबको भी इस बिल में शामिल कर लेना चाहिये। तभी मेरा स्थान है कि हम अपना फर्ज अदा कर सकेंगे।

Shri Khandubhai Desai: As far as this small non-controversial Bill is concerned, there has been general support to this Bill. But incidentally some remarks have been made which require some reply from me.

It has been stated that the Bill has been delayed. May I say that as far as Government are concerned, there has been no delay at all. When the original Bill was passed, an assurance was given—that was in November 1953—that immediately Government would bring in this Bill. We consulted both the parties in January, and the Bill was passed by the Rajya Sabha in April 1954. In the Budget Session or the subsequent Session in autumn, this Bill would have become law, but the Business Advisory Committee of this House did not consider it, and therefore, it has been my fortune—or whatever you may call it—to bring this Bill in this Session. So, there has been absolutely no delay at all, and Government have acted very expeditiously in the matter.

Shri Velayudhan: You are very quick.

Shri Khandubhai Desai: And I think Government have carried out their assurance in the very letter and the spirit in which it has been given.

Even if the Bill is passed today—and it is going to be passed, and I have no doubt in my mind with

regard to that—nothing is lost, because it will be retrospectively applied from 1st April 1954.

Shri Amjad Ali: Why not from 31st October 1953?

Shri Khandubhai Desai: I am coming to that. A point has been made that it should have retrospective effect from 24th October 1953. Friends who have made this suggestion do not realise that this Bill provides that this law shall apply to labour covered by the Plantations Labour Act. That Act had been applied from 1st April 1954, and therefore, the Advisory Committee on Plantation Labour has very wisely stated that the Act which this Bill seeks to amend should also be applied from 1st April 1954, on the day on which the Plantations Labour Act had been applied. That is my reason for making it 1st of April.

Certain criticisms were made regarding housing. No doubt, the conditions in most of the Plantations in this regard are not satisfactory. The Plantation Labour Act does provide that houses shall be built for labour. Government have already framed rules and regulations, which have now been finalised, and the State Governments have been empowered to phase the building of houses according to what they think proper, and I may assure this House that the whole Plantation Labour Act is meant to be implemented. The tripartite committee which met in January, and also the one which met in Ootacamund a year back, have unanimously agreed to the phasing of the Act. The most important provisions of the Plantation Labour Act have already been brought into operation, and the provision regarding canteens, medical aid, etc. have been phased. I have no doubt, and I hope, that the other provisions also will be implemented as early as possible. Particularly in view of the fact that the tea industry is making good profits, there will be no occasion on the part of the tea planters to say that they cannot implement the provisions of this Act.

Shri B. S. Murthy made a criticism that no progress had been made during the last seven years.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Last three years.

Shri Khandubhai Desai: Yes, last three years. Plantation labour, as it was about six or seven years back, was in a very bad condition. A square deal had been given to them during the last few years; all the States have appointed Minimum Wages Committees, and the Minimum Wages Act has been implemented throughout. But during the last years, no progress could be made for obvious reasons.

Shri B. S. Murthy: I am right.

Shri Khandubhai Desai: The tea industry, as we all know, is an export industry, and we have got to plan, whether we would like it or not, for our commodity being sold in the foreign market; and therefore, the Plantations Labour Act had to be delayed in its implementation. In the year 1952-53, the tea industry was not in a good condition, and therefore, the progress that the Plantations Labour Act envisaged when it was passed in 1951 could not be made, and we are all sorry for it. As a matter of fact, the Act was meant to be implemented. So, immediately after the industry is looking up a little, Government have brought in this Bill, and they have also decided to implement the whole of the Plantations Labour Act from 1st April 1954. I think the House would not have to complain much about the implementation of any legislation which provides for ameliorative measures as far as labour in the plantations is concerned. No doubt, plantation labour, when compared with other labour, is in a little worse position, but its lot has to be bettered, and with the help and co-operation of this House, I have no doubt that it will be brought up to the level of the other workers very soon.

A point has been made about laying the subordinate legislation like

rules and regulations under this Act on the Table of the House. This Bill was meant only for the lay-off provision, and so a provision to that effect has not been included. But even if it is not there, Government would have no objection to place on the Table of the House whatever rules they make with regard to this legislation.

There are not many other points which require a reply from me. So, I commend this Bill to the House, and I hope we shall be able to complete the passage of the Bill before the expiry of the time that has been allotted to it.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, as passed by the Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Shri U. M. Trivedi: Could we place this motion when there is no quorum? We are only thirty-one in the House, now.

Shri Bimalaprosad Chaliha: You were counting all the time?

Shri B. S. Murthy: Why not keep on the bell ringing, and let us go on speaking.

Shri Velayudhan: This shows the interest taken by Members in labour problems.

Mr. Chairman: Now, there is quorum.

The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, as passed by the Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3

Mr. Chairman: There are no amendments to clauses 2 and 3.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1.—(Short Title and Commencement)

Shri Tushar Chatterjee (Serampore): I beg to move:

In page 1, lines 5 and 6, for "1st day of April, 1954" substitute "24th day of October, 1953".

I do not want to say anything on this amendment now, because I have already had my say.

Mr. Chairman: Amendment moved:

In page 1, lines 5 and 6, for "1st day of April, 1954" substitute "24th day of October, 1953".

Shri Khandubhai Desai: I have already replied to this point. I am sorry I cannot accept this amendment.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

In page 1, lines 5 and 6, for "1st day of April, 1954" substitute "24th

day of October, 1953".

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:
"That clause 1 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Enacting Formula were added to the Bill.

Shri Khandubhai Desai: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

Mr. Chairman: The question is:
"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 15th December, 1954.