

lawful activities of individuals and associations and for matters connected therewith, be extended up to the 20th November, 1967.*

The motion was adopted.

12.49 Hrs.

(i) TAXATION LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL*

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI DESAI) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Wealth-tax Act, 1957, the Gift Tax Act, 1958, and the Income-tax Act, 1961, and to amend the Finance (No. 2) Act, 1967.

श्री मधु लिमये (मुंबई) : मैं एक बात जानना चाहता हूँ। वित्त मंत्री जी ने पिछले सत्र में भ्रायवासन दिया था कि टैक्स की चोरी करने वाले लोगों की जायदाद जप्त करने के बारे में वह विधेयक ला रहे हैं। मैंने इसको देखा नहीं है। कि यह विधेयक इसके बारे में है या नहीं है। अगर नहीं है तो क्या वह उस विधेयक को बाद में लायेंगे।

श्री मोरारजी देसाई : इसमें नहीं है। वह अलग बात है।

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Wealth-tax, Act, 1957, the Gift Tax Act, 1958, and the Income-tax Act, 1961, and to amend the Finance (No. 2) Act, 1967."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI : I introduce the Bill†.

STATEMENT RE : TAXATION LAWS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1967

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. C. PANT) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the explanatory statement giving reasons for immediate legislation by the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 1967, as required under rule 71(1) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Busi-

ness in Lok Sabha. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1494/67].

12.50 Hrs.

ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL*

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, and to continue the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 1964, for a further period.

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and to continue the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 1964 for a further period."

SHRI RANGA (Srikakulam) : I wish to oppose the introduction of this Bill for very good reasons. This goes much too far beyond the scope of the original Act and is wants to extend it for a further period of two years. We have not had the benefit of any report from Government as to the working of this Act during the past two years. Just because some Ministers, the Chief Ministers of States and the Food Ministers of the States got together and agreed with the Government of India for its extension, Government want to introduce this Bill here.

In the present Bill, very important amendments are sought to be made. In the past, it was confined to items like food-grains, edible oilseeds or edible oils. Now, the Bill seeks to extend this Act to any essential commodity and it would be left to the arbitrary decision of Government here as well as in the States to decide which commodity is to be treated as an essential commodity. That itself is a very 'mischievous provision.

Further, so far, a person could be brought within the mischief of this Act only if he contravenes any order. The court has got to be satisfied that he has actually committed the offence and he was conscious of doing that. Now, this Bill seeks to bring everybody within its mischief, irrespective

* Published in Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 14-11-67.

† Introduced with the recommendation of the President.