

total gross premium it should be the net gross premium. Formerly, in the original Act, a deposit of Rs. 3,50,000 was provided. In the amending Bill, it was suggested that this deposit should be increased to Rs. 20 lakhs. After some discussion we decided that instead of Rs. 20 lakhs, this amount should be reduced to Rs. 10 lakhs in the case of those insurers whose premium did not exceed Rs. 1 crore and Rs. 20 lakhs may be prescribed in the case of those whose premium income exceeded Rs. 1 crore. Unfortunately, Shri K. C. Pant was not there; Shri Morarji Desai was there. The matter as to whether it meant the total gross premium or the net gross premium was not thrashed out there and it was left to the draftsmen. I can tell you with all sincerity that this matter as to whether it should be the gross premium or the net premium was not decided.

I would now like to draw your attention and the attention of the House to the fact that there is a gulf of difference between total gross premium and net gross premium. Our intention in the Joint Committee was to help the smaller insurers. The premium income of companies which have gross income of Rs. 1 crore, is actually not Rs. 1 crore. They have got to reinsure, and their net premium income is the gross premium plus or minus, as the case may be, the re-insurance premium. This is a very important point, and this has been missed.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The hon. Member's time is up.

SHRI NAMBIAR: Sir, at this rate, we cannot proceed. This is like the caravan flying.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Do not get agitated. Resume your seat.

SHRI BENI SHANKER SHARMA: I am making a very important point. So far as the bigger insurance companies are concerned, you will be helping them indirectly at the cost of smaller ones and about which my friends have been clamouring so much. For example, companies like the New India Insurance Co., or such other companies will not feel the pinch of this difference, but so far as the smaller and medium-sized companies are concerned,

they will be thrown out of business. One reason for reducing this deposit from Rs. 20 lakhs to Rs. 10 lakhs was that the smaller and medium-sized companies should also be enabled to exist and carry on their business. I submit that this matter was not thoroughly thrashed out in the joint Select Committee. The hon. Minister will agree with me that in fixing the deposit of Rs. 10 lakhs and Rs. 20 lakhs, gross premium should not be taken into account and it is the net premium that should be taken into consideration, that is, the gross premium earned in India minus the reinsurance premium that is paid to the reinsurers.

15.00 hrs.

SHRI NAMBIAR: Sir, I can appreciate your hurry, but the difficulty is that it is such an important Bill with so many clauses that even to understand my argument, even for a person like you who is very much learned, it will take time, because, the whole clause has to be read and the amendment has to be read. Therefore, I request you to show me a little bit of indulgence.

Clause 6 amends section 7 of the principal Act, which is very important. It says that where there is a gross premium return to the extent of Rs. 1 crore, the amount to be deposited is only Rs. 10 lakhs. Previously it was Rs. 20 lakhs, but the Joint Committee reduced it to Rs. 10 lakhs. I am sorry for that.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The hon. member may continue on the next occasion.

15.01 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Forty-First Report

SHRI BHALJIBHAI PARMAR (Dohad): I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Forty-first Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 4th December, 1968."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do agree with the Forty-first Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 4th December, 1968."

The motion was adopted.

15 01½ hrs.

RESOLUTION RE : STATUS OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR—*contd.*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : After extension of time, we have 1 hour and 35 minutes for this resolution. How much time would the Home Minister require ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN) : About 25 minutes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : 10 minutes will have to be given to the mover for reply. That means we have 1 hour left.

Now, Mr. Mukerjee may continue.

SHRI. H. N. MUKERJEE (Calcutta North East) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, on the last occasion, I had just begun my opposition to the resolution moved by my hon. friend, because it asked for the abrogation of article 370 of the Constitution. It is easy and tempting for us to be carried away by the idea of the unity of our country, but it would be wrong to forget that the unity of our country rests upon the recognition of diversity and it is exactly this diversity which has brought about the incorporation in our Constitution of such an article as article 370.

Kashmir is inhabited in the main by our Musalman fellow citizens and I think it is always necessary for us to recall to ourselves the part which the Muslims have played in Indian life and the contribution which they have made. When the Muslims first came to India, they did not come like the British did, as birds of prey and birds of passage. They became part of the soil and this has continued ever since. I remember a Muslim leader having once said something which has stuck in my memory.

He said, when a Hindu dies, his body is burnt and the ashes are thrown into the river to be carried away by the current, God knows where. But when a Muslim dies, he wants six foot by three of Indian soil. He belongs to India in life as well as in death. That is the kind of feeling which animates patriotic people in our country. We know that men like Zain-ul-Abidin of Kashmir and Akbar are heroes of Indian history, irrespective of the community to which they happened to belong.

In Kashmir, there is no getting away from the fact that there is a certain amount of distrust and dislike of some aspects of Indian administration and attitude, but at the same time, there is a great reservoir of goodwill and affection for India and it should be our endeavour to restore that affection to its proper place of consolidation in our politics. I recall, for instance, how Kashmiris at one point of time before the partition used to come to our country for the purpose of trade, particularly before onset of winter. In Amritsar, there used to be the *Kashmirian-di-saral*, which perhaps does not exist today, because they are no longer in a position to come to this country.

We have to tackle the problem of Kashmir, a difficult and delicate problem and nothing should be done to upset the balance which has been set up for the time being.

We are dealing with the problem of India's diversity in different ways as the Home Minister knows very much to his cost. We have the problem of Nagaland which we are trying to grapple as best as we may. We may not be happy with it, but it is there on the map. We have the problem of Mizos who are also a headache of a serious character. We have the problem of Assam re-organisation on which a Bill is going to be introduced soon in this House. We have the problem even of autonomy for the Darjeeling district and in regard to this we were told this morning in reply to Starred Question No. 577 that the Prime Minister does not consider this matter of autonomy to be autonomy to be feasible, but the Home Minister must know that in West Bengal, not only the United Front which includes the Gorkha League, but the Congress Party in that area support autonomy for the people of