

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

NATIONAL FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANISATION LIAISON COMMITTEE

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE,
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-
OPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHIN-
DE) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That in pursuance of the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation Resolution No. F. 10-1/65-FAIT, dated the 9th September, 1966, as subsequently amended, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, four members from among themselves to serve as members of the National Food and Agriculture Organisation Liaison Committee for the next term commencing from the date of election, subject to the other provisions of the said resolution".

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That in pursuance of the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation Resolution No. F. 10-1/65-FAIT, dated the 9th September, 1966, as subsequently amended, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, four members from among themselves to serve as members of the National Food and Agriculture Organisation Liaison Committee for the next term commencing from the date of election, subject to the other provisions of the said resolution."

The motion was adopted.

12.46 hrs.

**INDIAN POST OFFICE (AMEND-
MENT) BILL**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND
BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPART-
MENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI
SHER SINGH) : Sir, I beg to move* :

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, be taken into consideration".

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) :
How much time has been allotted for it ?

MR. SPEAKER : Two hours have been allotted but if you like we can dispose of it in 1½ hours.

SHRI SHER SINGH : It is a very innocent and simple Bill. Sir, this Bill seeks to amend section 45 of the Indian Post Office Act, 1898. Under this Act the Central Government can provide facilities for remitting small sums of money through the post office either by means of money orders or by postal orders. The main difference between these two forms of remittances is that while money orders can be sent for any amount not exceeding the maximum of Rs. 1,000 and they are paid at the door of the addressee, postal orders are for small fixed amounts which have to be encashed at the post office or through a bank.

In the case of money orders the Central Government has been vested with authority under the Act to fix the limit of the amount for which money orders may be issued. This limit has been fixed by the Central Government at present at Rs. 1,000. In the case of postal orders, however, it has been expressly provided in section 45 of the Act that no such order shall be issued for an amount in excess of Rs. 10.

It is felt that the existing limit up to which a postal order may be issued is very low. It has been in existence since 1935. The introduction of postal orders of higher denominations will result in some reduction in the work in the post offices without any reduction in the revenue on account of commission accruing on the service.

Secondly, with the fall in the value of the rupee and increase in the money order and postal order traffic the public are now remitting large amount and it would be in the interest of the department and also that of public convenience to issue postal orders of higher denominations. This will not in any way affect the commercial banking service as the amounts concerned are very small.

With these remarks, Sir, I move.

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That the Bill further to amend the

* Moved with the recommendations of the President.