

श्री अर्जुन सिंह भदौरिया : (इटावा) : सभापति महोदय, मैं एक नई जानकारी देना चाहता हूँ । (व्यवधान)

सभापति महोदय : : आप की पार्टी के नेता और उपनेता दोनों ने इस बात को हाउस के सामने रख दिया है। इस बात रिकार्ड पर चली गई है और अब वह हाउस और मिनिस्टर्ज के सामने है । (व्यवधान)

श्री राम सेवक यादव : लोक सभा के सदस्य, श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र, को पीटा गया है, उन को गिरफ्तार किया गया है ।

श्री अर्जुन सिंह भदौरिया : : अभी मैं वहाँ से आ रहा हूँ । हम ने इस बात पर एतराज किया कि इस तरह से.....

सभापति महोदय : : मैं एलाउ. नहीं करता हूँ । मैं ने माननीय सदस्यों की बात सुन ली है । अगर माननीय सदस्य इस तरह बोलेंगे, तो वह रिकार्ड पर नहीं जायेगा । रिकार्ड न किया जाये ।

श्री अर्जुन सिंह भदौरिया : \*\*

सभापति महोदय : : हो गई बात । आप के नेता ने यह बात सदन के सामने रख दी है । आप को-आपरेट कीजिए ।—श्री महीडा । (व्यवधान)

श्री राम सेवक यादव : : चूँकि इस सदन के एक सम्मानित सदस्य, श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र, को पीटा गया है और गिरफ्तार किया गया है, इस लिए मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि संसद-कार्य मंत्री, श्री रघु रामैया, इस बारे में तत्काल जानकारी दें कि उन को कहाँ चोट आई है । (व्यवधान)

सभापति महोदय : : आपने अपनी बात कह दी है । वह रिकार्ड पर आ गई है । (व्यवधान)

श्री रवि राय : : वह कैसे गिरफ्तार हुए, उन को चोटें लगी है या नहीं, मंत्री महोदय इस बारे में बयान दें । (व्यवधान)

सभापति महोदय : : मंत्री महोदय आप की बात सुन रहे हैं । आप ने जो बात कही है, वह हाउस के सामने आ गई है, रिकार्ड पर आ गई है । श्री महीडा (व्यवधान)

श्री मोलहू प्रसाद (बांसगाँव) : : संसद-कार्य मंत्री को इस बारे में जानकारी देनी चाहिए । (व्यवधान)

श्री रामसेवक यादव : : आप इतना कह दें कि मंत्री महोदय आध घंटे में इस सदन को इस बारे में जानकारी दे दें । (व्यवधान)

सभापति महोदय : : यह बात रिकार्ड पर आ गई है । (व्यवधान)

श्री अर्जुन सिंह भदौरिया : \*\*

सभापति महोदय : : यह रिकार्ड पर नहीं आयेगा ।—श्री महीडा ।

15.18 hrs.

INDIAN TARIFF (AMENDMENT)  
BILL—Contd.

SHRI NARENDRA SINGH MAHIDA (Anand) : Before I begin my speech, may I draw your attention to the convention that Opposition Members while they are sitting on the Treasury Benches should not address the Chair ? They should go to their seats and then address the Chair.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA (Delhi Sadar) : What is the latest position ? Where is the hon. Member now ?

SHRI NARENDRA SINGH MAHIDA : I am here.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA : What about tomorrow ?

SHRI NARENDRA SINGH MAHIDA : I shall always be here. Let not my hon. friend worry about it.

**SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA :** He was with the Organisation ?

**SHRI NARENDRA SINGH MAHIDA :** I welcome this Bill because it rightly gives protection to the silk industry. The silk industry has been a very ancient industry. India and China were the countries which for thousand of years used to give silk to the whole world. During the British regime, though the Indian Tariff Act was there it never gave protection to the Indian silk industry, nor did it help India very much, because of the import of foreign silk which naturally harmed our industry. I am glad that after 35 years, the silk industry of India has been given protection in the right manner. French silk was much more known to India than Indian silk. French silk from Lyons was the fashion of our women rather than Indian silk. It is a very happy interlude now that we are having Indian silk which is appreciated by Indian women and by the Indian people and also by the foreigners. Very rightly, the sericulture industry should be given all encouragement. I would request the hon. Minister that this industry should be turned into a cottage industry and should be given more protection and more encouragement. In places like Kashmir where the climate is suitable to this industry and in places like Mysore where the forest region is suitable for this industry, it should be given all encouragement.

Indian silk is in demand everywhere. We should reduce our consumption here so that more could be exported. Unless we do this, Indian silk will vanish from the foreign markets. This industry needs protection by our own people. We should do everything possible to see that Indian silk becomes popular all over the world.

With these few words, I support the Bill.

**SHRI LOBO PRABHU (Udipi) :** I come from Mysore State which produces 80 per cent of mulberry silk and 60 per cent of the total silk produced in India. Strictly speaking, I should be entitled to a least 60 per cent of the time of the

House. But it has so happened that the learned lawyers have taken a good portion of the time and following them the learned auditor also devoted himself to this subject in his own way. I am concerned with the Bill and not with things which are extraneous.

**SHRISRINIBAS MISRA :** What about the learned ICS ?

**SHRI LOBO PRABHU :** The learned ICS is about to speak. Kindly hear him.

I would draw attention to the fact that in spite of the Tariff Commission warning Government in their report that any reduction in import duties will not only affect the growth of the industry but in fact its very existence, Government have proceeded to reduce the duties. This reduction should not be ignored in spite of the fact that it has been concealed from us so well that it has so far not attracted the attention of the House.

Under item 46, the duty has been reduced from 60 per cent plus Rs. 8·80 per kg. to 30 per cent. Of course, this reduction took place about a year and a half ago by executive order and it is now being brought to the statute book. In item 46(1), reduction is from 60 to 50 per cent. In item 47, it is again from 60 to 50 per cent and in item 48, it is from 120 to 100 per cent.

The question is : has there been any improvement in the industry to justify these reductions? This industry has been consistently suffering from inflation. In the last four years, the price of mulberry had gone up, according to the Tariff Commission, by 117 per cent. At the same time, the wages of workers have increased. The Commission thought that the disadvantage of the industry compared with foreign the industry is 32 per cent. The Commission also finds that the imported price of Japanese silk is much lower than our own price, something like Rs. 200—it was much less before, at Rs. 100—as against our own price of Rs. 260 and more. Not only is the imported price so low but when the silk is sold, the price is raised by Rs. 60/- to Rs. 260/- for

travelling the short distance from Bombay to Banaras. These are facts. The industry is not in a position to meet foreign competition. The reasons have not been touched in the Government's note although the Tariff Commission has made a strong point about it. Japan which supplies 52 per cent of world's silk, is the largest producer as against five per cent which we produce; it has many advantages. In respect of cocoons they get, as mentioned by Mr. Kothari, three times as much silk as we do. Their mulberry cultivation is five times as productive as ours per hectare. When we are such a small constituent of world production, and when we are so much at a disadvantage in respect of costs, Government has to justify to this House, to the Tariff Commission and also to the silk industry why it has made these cuts. This is not a Bill which one must formally welcome because you must get down to the facts of this Bill. Government is proceeding to kill this industry though it is not obvious to all except those who make a study of the details. When duty was reduced in relation to raw silk from 50 to 30 per cent there was an immediate drop in the price of our own silk at Malda which is an area well known for silk from Rs. 200 to Rs. 170. In Mysore State this reduction caused a loss of lakhs of rupees. . . . (Interruptions). I shall be very brief indeed. I therefore ask the Government to reconsider the cut which they are making in the import duty. These cuts are not fair. They are against the recommendations of the Tariff Commission. I have given an amendment which, I hope, has the sanction of the President. In respect of raw silk I ask them to restore the old rate; it is quite easy to accept that amendment.

I entirely agree with Mr. Mahida that the condition of the industry should be improved. Mr. Kothari also said the same thing. What is the Government going to do about the various proposals made by the Tariff Commission? A very important recommendation was that we should not export our waste. We export fifty per cent of our waste which comes back to us at a high price as silk. Why have they not, either through this Bill or separately, placed

a ban on waste export? The other important recommendation is about Kashmir. Kashmir is an ideal place for silk growing. In Kashmir silk production has simply gone down; it is going down every day. The Commission thinks that soon Kashmir will be out of the picture altogether. They have priced silk at Rs. 3.50 per kg. as against Rs. 7.9 in Mysore and Rs. 5.7 in Bengal. By an executive order the price of silk has been pegged down. How can you expect anyone to produce silk cocoon. The Centre should ask the Kashmir Government to remove this clamp on prices as it seriously affects production of Kashmir silk which was once well-known for its quality and was popular in the Indian and even foreign markets. The other recommendations are in respect of mulberry. Mulberry responds to irrigation in an amazing way. It increases almost four times as much in its nutrient content if it is irrigated. The Ministry spends very large sums of money on the Silk Board, something about Rs. 11 crores. Why cannot they think of subsidising the irrigation of mulberry particularly in Mysore where the production per acre in the rain-fed areas is low?

Another proposal is about the quality of the seeds for which some kind of regulation is necessary in West Bengal. In Mysore, there is a regulation that only certified seeds should be used.

Then there is the question of raw silk not being properly tested in the testing houses. There is no proper equipment in these testing houses. I am mentioning this because silk is a very old industry, an industry about which we have been proud; it attracted I think the East India Co., when it was functioning in this country. We cannot allow it to go down. Except in Mysore, in every other State, the progress of production is only downward. What the Ministry has got to do is this. First of all, they have to retain at least the existing protection, and to follow the recommendation of the Tariff Commission made so far. What the Ministry has got to do is to take up the other recommendations of the Tariff Board. The Tariff Board has been des-

[Shri Lobo Prabhu]

cribed by Mr. Kothari as in decay. I do not want to travel more than that, but I must say that the Tariff Commission is about to die. This is what we should realise. The Government appointed a Prices Commission which is taking over, if not the statutory duties of the Tariff Commission, all the other reference in respect of prices which were given to the Tariff Commission. I raised the question in this House, why Government does not endow the Tariff Commission with the functions which were to be given to the Prices Commission, but the reply was that the Tariff Commission would continue with its own functions.

AN HON. MEMBER : It is a monopoly institute.

SHRI LOBO PRABHU : He says it is a monopoly institute. I suppose the Government therefore wants the Prices Commission as some representatives of the communists, who will not only pull down the prices but will pull down the entire structure of the country in the way as Samson did.

I do not wish to be diverted and I come back again to silk, and I would urge among the Minister to accept my amendment when it comes.

SHRI BISWANARAYAN SHASTRI (Lakhimpur) : Sir, the sericulture industry is one of the oldest industries in the oriental world. In the first century B. C., we have got references that Indian silk was exported to foreign countries. On the other hand, Kalidasa refers to the use of Chinese silk in India. Therefore, there has been a two-way traffic in India in those days. However, I shall not take the time of the House by referring to those past events.

Indian silk is now exported to foreign countries. It is a foreign-exchange earning trade. But what happens is, there is no pre-shipment inspection properly done. It is sometimes done by the Textile Commission, and sometimes it is done by the Central Silk Board. There is, therefore, no uniformity to maintain the standard of Indian silk. As a result, we find fine varieties of foreign silk are imported into India to the tune of thousands of rupees every year. It deals a

blow to the growth of sericulture industry in our country.

Again, there are two spun silk mills in our country. One is in Mysore and the other is in Assam. But these two mills are not working properly, and they are having idle capacity simply because Government has introduced a rule that silk waste is to be exported to foreign countries in the proportion of 1:1. It means, if an exporter exports 1 kg. of silk waste, then only he can sell 1 kg. of silk waste to the spun silk mills. These two mills are starving for want of silk waste. Government should prohibit the export of silk waste to foreign countries and issue instructions that all silk waste should be supplied to these spun silk mills in our country, so that these two mills can function properly.

There are four varieties of silk—mulberry, *tasar*, *endi* and *munga*. Export incentives are available for mulberry and *tasar* silks, but there is no incentive whatsoever for *endi* and *munga*. Assam and Bengal grow abundantly *endi* silks which are very rich in quality. Assam alone monopolises in *munga* silks. But the Government of India has given a step-motherly treatment to these two varieties of silk. If I say step-motherly, it will be an insult to step-mothers, because step-mothers are not so partial to their step-children. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to give proper incentives for the export of *endi* and *munga* silks to foreign countries on a par with mulberry and *tasar* silks.

SHRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN (Tiruttani) : Sir, Mr. Lobo Prabhu said that he has a right to speak on this Bill because he comes from Mysore. I have got an equal right, because I come from the south which produces the world-renowned Canjeevaram silk.

SHRI LOBO PRABHU : It weaves it, not produces it.

SHRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : This protective measure has been brought on the recommendations of the Tariff Commission. We thank the Government for it, but Government should not rest content with simply bringing this measure

The sericulture industry is an ancient industry, particularly for southern States, specially Tamilnadu. Even in the aged times, silk fabrics have been exported from the south. It is pertinent to note that the exports are going up. Only handloom silks are in growing demand from almost all foreign countries including the USA and European countries. When I had been to Europe last year as a member of the handloom silk delegation, we found that from every country there was demand for handloom silk only. But the handloom silk industry is in a regrettable position. There is no control over the price of raw silk and other silk required by the handloom industry. The price fluctuates violently. It is Rs. 110 one month and it rises suddenly to Rs. 150 the next month. All these affect the wages of the weavers in turn. If you are interested in exporting silk, you should more and more concentrate on export of handloom silk only because only handloom silks are popular in foreign countries. Government should take steps to produce more and more silk and supply it to the handloom weavers at reasonable prices. It has been pointed out by Government that the export has gone up from Rs. 2.68 crores in 1968 to Rs. 8.8 crores from January to September, 1969. But still there is a very great demand and it is not being fully met. Most of the exporters in Madras are not able to meet the demand for handloom silks particularly from the European Common Market countries, which have been good enough to waive the tariff. Government should take steps to see that the weavers are given handloom yarn at cheap prices.

Government have not planned properly for the requirements of silk yarn either by the handloom industry or the powerloom industry. The demand as given by the government is 999 tonnes in 1969 which may go up to 1,276 tonnes in 1974. Yet, government have not taken any steps to produce more indigenous silk. As pointed out by the previous speakers, even the import of silkworm seed has fallen from 7.01 kilograms to 3.17 kilograms. Therefore, govern-

ment should take steps to import more silkworm seeds.

Many difficulties are experienced by those people who rear silk worms. Government should study the various reports of committees and commissions on this subject and help these people, if possible by supplying the seeds at subsidised rates. This will go a long way to improve the production of silk yarn that is required by the country.

Finally, I whole-heartedly support the measure for giving protection to the sericulture industry in the country. I would request the government to take vigorous steps to see that silk is produced more and more in the coming years than what we have already planned.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU (Diamond Harbour) : Sir, before I come to silk I would like to say a few words on the Tariff Commission and quote its report. The Tariff Commission is an institution on which people can hardly have any confidence. The Tariff Commission is a show-room for the monopolists. They have been serving the monopolists more than anybody else. Their job is to regularise inflated costs of production and depleted sales revenue. I wish to quote one or two things mentioned in the Report of the Tariff Commission which look fantastic to all of us. The Commission says :

"The consumers purchasing products of the protected industries are approached regularly to ascertain their views on quality and price and further action taken wherever necessary."

Have any of us ever heard of such an enquiry? Have any of us ever received such a request? I have met thousands of people and they all feel the same way about this institution. What is this institution doing? Whose interest is it serving? I know that during the last twenty years the members of the Tariff Commission have got big posts for their sons and dear ones in big industries. That is how they get higher prices for monopolies. We know all these things.

[Shri Jyotirmoy Basu]

The Report again says :

"Generally, most of the consumers of protected commodities were satisfied with the availability quality and price."

Have you ever heard such fantastic nonsense ? These are the sorts of things that the Tariff Commission is selling to us. This is a bogus institution. They are functioning to serve the monopolists. So, Government must go into the activities of the Tariff Commission and examine the conduct of those who have been connected with the Tariff Commission during the last twenty years. Because I know many cases where Tariff Commission high-ups have got their sons employed in big industries and get in return certificates for them. This is a very serious matter.

I now come to silk. This industry has suffered because of the utter failure of the government. I tell you, the Government is no good and the Minister is no good.

I shall quote instances. The silk industry engages 32 lakhs of people. It has the fourth place in world production, Japanese being the first, the Chinese being the second—Swatantra and Jana Sangh may please note—the Union of Soviet Russia being third and we are the fourth. The total production in 1966 was worth Rs. 26 crores but the rate of growth never exceeded 2 per cent between 1966 and today.

The bulk, almost whole, of the mulberry silk waste is exported. Why is it so ? Why is it that we must sell our waste for a song and import the finished product at their price ? I do not understand why it is not banned and silk waste is not processed here and used as the industry's raw material. They are anxious to reduce the protective duty. Whom are they anxious to please—the Japanese silk industry financed by the Yankee banks ? Is that the story ?

**MR. CHAIRMAN :** The hon. Member should conclude now. He was allotted only 4 minutes.

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU :** I know. Sir, you are a good man in the Chair. In Bhagalpur, your State, the silk industry has gone down the drain. I shall just throw a little light on that.

About the import duty, I ask why you do not import silk worm seed and improve your production. This is a case of the Government's failure.

About the quality of silk, what do they say ? It says :—

"Several complaints have been made regarding the quality of Indian silk. It has been stated that the silk is poor and does not qualify even for the minimum grade of international standards."

What are you doing sitting here with a galaxy of bureaucrats around you flourishing on people's money ? The Japanese silk cocoon gives one-fifth or even more than that while the Indian silk cocoon gives no more than one-fifteenth or even less than that. On top of it—I will read out something—

"In terms of cost and rearing efficiency, the Indian Sericulture Industry has to improve its performance six-fold in order to reach Japanese standards;"

What has he got to say about that ?

Some of the mulberry silk waste and most of the non-mulberry silk waste is used for hand-spinning. The bulk of the mulberry silk waste, as I said, is exported.

There is free flow of smuggled metallic thread through Nepal. Government has failed to check that. That is also making things complicated for the industry. Your failure is known to everybody.

What I suggest to the Government is to go in for vigorous research and try to improve the silk industry and the local production, so that you are not required to import raw silk from other countries. In doing that you cannot make much progress until and unless you handle your workers properly. You are treating your research institute workers very shabbily. There is a ferment in the Berhampur Sericulture Research Institute. You

have violated the promise that you had already given to us. When this sericulture research institute was being merged into the Central Silk Board an assurance was given to the West Bengal Government and also to the workers that Class III and Class IV staff shall not be transferred outside the State of West Bengal except on promotion to superior posts when vacancies in such superior posts were not available in the State of West Bengal. The Government is now anxious to violate that and are asking those workers to sign tonnes of forms. That has led to a lot of discontent and unrest. You cannot progress if you ignore the human factor which is so very valuable in this industry.

SHRI SRINIBAS MISRA (Cuttack) : Mr. Chairman, while the Minister moved for consideration of the Bill I had my doubt which, I think, has to be resolved by the hon. Minister. At page 7 of the notes circulated it says :-

"The protective duty on raw silk is 30 per cent *ad valorem* with effect from the 28th March, 1968".

If that is so, the copy of the Act given in the Bill, shows the existing duty as something more, namely, 60 per cent. Why was it not indicated in the Schedule? If, under the provisions of the Tariff Act, it was reduced, this Schedule must have been amended. If in 1968 it was reduced by a notification, why was the Act not amended? It has come before the House as it stood before 1968.

That apart, what is the policy of the protective tariff? A protective tariff tries to help the industry and neutralises its disadvantages that accrue to the industry as against foreign competition. According to the Tariff Commission's Report, the disadvantage is 32 per cent. 30 per cent protective tariff has been sanctioned. What is the purpose? Does the Government want that 2 per cent should be left to the independent initiative of the industry here. Perhaps, the Government wants that 2 per cent be made up by further tightening of the belt by the industry.

All the same, you will find that the capacity of our industry, as in June, 1969, was 111 tonnes but the production was only 73 tonnes. According to the estimated demand given by the Ministry, in 1969, it will be 2,437 tonnes and from then onwards, in 1974, it will be 3,111 tonnes and also, in respect of silk waste, it will be 1,276 tonnes. If this is the nature of the demand and the production is only about 10 per cent of the demand, how is the demand going to be met?

In laying down our tariff policy, a balance has to be struck between the demand met by the indigenous industry and by the imports within the country. Now, this 2 per cent does not serve the purpose that is still there to neutralise. The second purpose is to see how you are going to meet the demand of this country. If the demand is so much and the production is so little you must meet the demand by imports. And the necessary consequence will follow. It has been suggested, and rightly so, that there should be an attempt to cut down domestic consumption so that we can export more. In certain articles, so far as tusser, muga and eri are concerned, we have almost a virtual monopoly. So, they need not require any protection. But they require encouragement and they require some incentive for export. The Government has not come forward with any such incentive or such encouragement. It has been alleged by some persons that the treatment meted out to these two industries is almost step-motherly treatment.

Regarding tusser, muga and eri, what is the position now? We are exporting all the waste. That waste also includes, according to the calculations, tusser, eri and muga, all the wastes which are included in the total waste. The silk waste also includes tusser, eri and muga. Why should that be so? If the Government can somehow manage or encourage the spinning of silk waste, then we may not be required to export silk waste and purchase finished products instead.

Our silk industry is mostly domestic industry. About 32 lakhs of people are engaged in it, in all the stages of the

[Shri Srinibas Misra]

silk industry. In order to give them employment, we should somehow provide more and more raw materials so far as raw silk and other raw materials are concerned. The policy that has been followed by the Government neither helps the industry nor helps the workers. The Bill simply makes 30 per cent protective tariff from 60 per cent. There is another incompatibility also. In respect of item No. 48, previously it was 120 per cent *ad valorem* plus Rs. 13.80 per kg. and now it has become 120 per cent *ad valorem* plus Rs. 18.70. In the name of rationalisation, the tariff policy is being tinkered with in this way.

Finally, another Bill has been circulated but not yet introduced; that Bill wants to repeal the Tariff Act. If that is so, if you are going to have another Bill in the next Session, why should you come with this Amendment now? Government has the power to reduce, under the Act itself, by notification and to place that notification before the House; that will be perfectly valid. If you are going to repeal the Act by bringing another Bill which is now in the offing and has been circulated also, what is the fun in extending this protection till 1974? You can as well do it under the next Bill which is coming up. So, while supporting the protection, I oppose the nature of the protection and oppose the Bill.

SHRI J. M. BISWAS (Bankaura) : I expected the Government to come out with suggestions as to how our silk industry could be made self-sufficient instead of with some suggestions in regard to duties. As some of the members have spoken about their places, I would say that in my place also in West Bengal, particularly in my area, Raghunathpur in Purulia district and Vishnupur in Bankaura district, this cottage industry was producing tusser, muga and all silken things, but because there has been no incentive from the side of the Government, most of the families are now sitting idle. Not only is there no incentive from the Government, but there is also shortage of raw material. In Raghunathpur alone, there are about a thousand families who are depending on this cottage industry for the last so many decades; they have now been sitting idle

unemployed and I do not know what would be their future.

Some proposal has come to those weavers from some private business people who are exporting tusser, etc., to America and other European countries. These business people have very recently come out with the proposal—I have seen it very recently—that they will be supplying the raw material to them and after preparation of the tusser and silk, these businessmen would purchase them and export them to foreign countries, and the only thing that the weavers would get would be some 'mazdoori' or some charges for that. That is the proposal that has now come from private business people. I accuse the Government for neglecting these poor people. This is not the case only in Purulia and Bankaura districts; my friend was also talking about Bhagalpur; I know, a huge quantity of tusser product is going to America from Bhagalpur. All these things are exported through private business people. There is no role of the Government in this sphere. I fail to understand this. When our industries are not properly fed, when our industries are sitting idle due to shortage of silk waste, what is the fun in exporting these things from our country? We have to encourage our industries; we have to see that the people who are employed there somehow pull on in these industries; it is in the interest of employment potential that we should keep these industries going. That is why I said that I expected the Government to come out with a proposal by which Government could have suggested that by such and such time our silk industries would be self-supporting. But instead of that, Government has come out with this proposal with which I quite disagree. I would also like to warn the Government that it would be a dangerous thing if the protective duty is not increased. It will be a dangerous thing. Therefore, with this suggestion I would again like to urge on the Government to give due consideration to these cottage industries. As my hon. DMK friend has very correctly said, in foreign countries the demand for handloom silk is more than for mill-made silk. Therefore, the weavers who are preparing this silk should be encouraged

and all raw materials and other things needed for this industry should be supplied to them.

16 hrs.

My last point is that there should be research by the Government. I share the same view about the Tariff Commission as my friend, Shri Jyotirmoy Basu. It is a commission which has only looked to the interests of the industrialists. It has not looked to the interests of the people. It has not looked to the interests of the workers. Therefore, about the Tariff Commission I have got the same grievance.

With these words I thank you for the time you have given me.

••SHRI M. SUDARSANAM (Narasaraopet) : Mr. Chairman, Sir the silk industry in our country is a very vital industry. This is one of the industries which earn for the country the much needed foreign exchange. In the past this industry was able to earn, through exports, foreign exchange to the tune of Rs. 2 to 2.5 crores. During 1965-66 the Foreign exchange earned was about 5 crores and last year it was about Rs. 8.5 crores. Therefore there is need for expanding the industry as this will, in turn, earn us more foreign exchange. In Jammu and Kashmir this is a public sector industry run by the State Government. In Assam and West Bengal, it is in the private sector. No doubt it is doing well, yet because of the potential, every encouragement should be given to this industry for further expansion. Mainly, as other hon. Members have stated, research facilities in sericulture should be provided and other efforts made to augment production. Government should give a serious thought to the needs of this industry. The allocation of funds for the purpose should also be increased considerably.

This Bill is timely and welcome. I am sure, it would give a fillip to the industry. I trust, therefore, that the House would unanimously pass the Bill.

श्री शिवधन्ना झा (मधुबनी) : सभापति महोदय, इस के पहले कि मैं इस विधेयक

पर कुछ कहूँ, चूँकि यह विधेयक टैरिफ ऐक्ट से ताल्लुक रखता है जिसके पहले अनुच्छेद में सिल्क गुड्स और सिल्क प्रोडक्शन अमेंडमेंट की बातें आती हैं, इस लिये मैं आप से टैरिफ पालिसी पर कुछ कहना चाहता हूँ ।

हिन्दुस्तान की टैरिफ पालिसी मोटे तौर पर साफ नहीं है । वह कन्फ्यूज्ड है । या यों कहिये थोड़ी देर के लिये कि हिन्दुस्तान का जो माल बाहर जाता है और बाहर के मूलकों के साथ जो हमारा इस विषय में सम्बन्ध आता है, उस के मुताल्लिक हिन्दुस्तान की नीति कुछ बुजदिली की है । उदाहरण के तौर पर कामनवैलथ के नाते हिन्दुस्तान को प्रिफरेंस दिया गया कि उसका माल ब्रिटेन में ड्यूटी फ्री इम्पोर्ट होगा । हालाँकि यह सूती कपड़े की बात है, लेकिन चूँकि यह टैरिफ की बात है इस लिये मैं इस का जिक्र करना चाहता हूँ । आज ब्रिटेन हमारे ड्यूटी फ्री के सिलसिले को खत्म कर रहा है । यही नहीं, 15 परसेंट और ड्यूटी लगाने जा रहा है जो माल हिन्दुस्तान का ब्रिटेन जायेगा उस पर । नतीजा यह होगा कि हिन्दुस्तान की एक्सपोर्ट को घक्का लगेगा । इस के लिये हिन्दुस्तान ने कोई खास कदम नहीं उठाया । ब्रिटेन से डेलिगेशन आया । उस से क्या बातें हुई इसकी मंत्री महोदय ने सफाई नहीं दी, लेकिन ऐसा मालूम होता है कि इस बारे में भारत सरकार की कुछ भीरता की नीति है । उसके बाद अंकटाड ने यह फैसला किया कि जो विकसित देश हैं इंग्लैंड, अमरीका आदि वे विकासशील देशों से इंडस्ट्रियल गुड्स, मशीनरी इत्यादि का इम्पोर्ट करें और जो टैरिफ है उसको कम करें । लेकिन भारत सरकार ने इसके बारे में कोई कारगर कदम नहीं उठाया है । उस में भी आपने भीरता ही दिखाई है ।

••The original speech was delivered in Telugu.

[श्री शिव चन्द्र शा]

जहाँ तक निर्यात की नीति का सम्बन्ध है, मैं देख रहा हूँ कि उस में कन्प्यूशन है। सैरिकलचर इंडस्ट्री और उसके निर्यात का जहाँ तक सम्बन्ध है, सिल्क गुड्स का विदेशों में प्रचार हो, इसके मुताल्लिक आप क्या कर रहे हैं? विदेशों में सिल्क गुड्स का प्रचार करने के बारे में आपने क्या नीति अपना रखी है? अमरीका, ब्रिटेन आदि में आपने इसका क्या प्रवन्ध किया है? आपके वहाँ दूतावास हैं। वहाँ आपके कम-शियल अटैची हैं। उन्होंने कितना काम किया है। वहाँ आपकी सिल्क गुड्स के सैम्पल जायें, उनका वहाँ प्रदर्शन हो, प्रचार हो, इसके लिए आपने क्या काम किया है। मैं समझता हूँ कि कोई कारगर कदम आपने इस विषय में नहीं उठाये हैं। जो माल आप यहाँ तैयार करते हैं, उसके बारे में यूरोप के देशों को आप बतायेंगे, उनका प्रदर्शन करेंगे, तब जा कर लोग खरीदेंगे। तब जा कर इफैक्टिव डिमांड की बात आएगी। पिछली बार सिल्क बोर्ड जो बिल आया था उस पर हुई बहस में मैंने कहा था कि सिल्क के माल के लिए यूरोप के लोग लालायित रहते हैं। उस सारी बात को मैं दोहराना नहीं चाहता हूँ। आप बाहर प्रचार नहीं करते हैं। होम प्राडक्शन बढ़े इसके लिए प्रोटेक्टिव ड्यूटी को आप कम करते ताकि रॉ सिल्क आए और सैरिकलचर इंडस्ट्री बढ़े, उसको कुछ सुविधा मिले, तो इसका मैं स्वागत करता।

यहाँ काटेज इंडस्ट्री की बात भी उठाई है। जो सफाई दी गई है वह मेरी समझ में नहीं आ रही है। अप-टू-डेट मींस आफ प्रोडक्शन क्या आप इस्तेमाल में ला रहे हैं? दुनिया के मुल्कों में अप-टू-डेट मींस आफ प्रोडक्शन इस्तेमाल में लाए जा रहे हैं। लेकिन क्या आप उनका इस्तेमाल करेंगे? फुल कैपेसिटी में क्या

आप इस को करेंगे? खादी का सवाल भी यहाँ आ जाता है। विनोबा भावे ने भी कहा था कि मिलों का जवाब मिलों से ही दिया जा सकता है। खादी के मींस आफ प्रोडक्शन में आपको परिवर्तन करना होगा, उनको मार्टिनाइज करना होगा, अप-टू-डेट बनाना होगा। सिल्क की काटेज इंडस्ट्री है। रोजगार की दृष्टि से यह बात ठीक है। उत्पादन के साधन इस क्षेत्र में भी अप-टू-डेट होने चाहियें, आधुनिक मशीनरी होनी चाहिये, तभी जाकर इसका प्रोडक्शन बढ़ेगा।

मिक कोट की बात कई बार आती है। मिक इंडस्ट्री की कैलिफोर्निया में बड़ी केअर होती है। उसकी रुग्ं जो होती है, उनकी बड़ी देखभाल होती है। सिल्क कोकूज की बड़ी देखभाल होती है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि उतनी यहाँ भी होती है। जो केअर वहाँ होता है, जितना ध्यान विदेशों में दिया जाता है, क्या उतना ध्यान यहाँ दिया जाता है। कोकूज के डिवेलपमेंट में तथा सिल्क को बढ़ाने के लिए क्या आप उतना ही ध्यान देने के लिए तैयार हैं और हैं तो आपने क्या इंतजाम किया है, यह मैं आप में जानना चाहता हूँ।

जहाँ तक इस विधेयक का सम्बन्ध है, प्रोटेक्टिव ड्यूटी का सम्बन्ध है, एड वॉलोरम रेट में आप कुछ परिवर्तन कर रहे हैं। लेकिन पर किलोग्राम में कहीं कोई परिवर्तन नहीं कर रहे हैं। आठ रुपये अस्सी पैसे पर किलोग्राम का जो हिसाब है, वह तो आपके पुराने ऐक्ट में था। वही आप इस में भी रख रहे हैं। किलोग्राम के हिसाब से आप कौन सा फायदा या सुविधा दे रहे हैं? एड वॉलोरम के हिसाब से तो दे रहे हैं लेकिन किलोग्राम के हिसाब से क्या दे रहे हैं, यह आप बतायें। राशनलाइजेशन की बात आप करते हैं लेकिन पर

किसीप्राम आप कुछ परिवर्तन नहीं कर रहे हैं। एड वैलोरम के हिसाब से रख कर कोई लाभ नहीं होगा।

प्रोडक्शन की दृष्टि से, एक्सपोर्ट की दृष्टि से, प्रोटेक्शन देने की दृष्टि से मैं समझता हूँ कि इससे कोई बड़ा फायदा नहीं होगा। फायदा तभी हो सकता है जब सिल्क इंडस्ट्री को प्रोत्साहन मिले, रेशम का माल बाहर बिके। लेकिन जिस रूप में आप इस को ला रहे हैं, उससे मुझे शक होता है कि रेशम का उत्पादन बढ़ाने में आपको मदद मिलेगा। मैं चाहता हूँ कि मंत्री महोदय इन बातों की सफाई करें।

बिहार में भागलपुर में जहाँ तक मुझे मालूम है सिल्क उद्योग को जैपेनीज कॉलै-बोरेशन से बढ़ावा दिया जा रहा है। वह बात बढ़ रही है। लेकिन मैंने पिछली बार सवाल किया था, मुझे जवाब नहीं दिया गया। मैं चाहता हूँ कि मुझे बताया जाए कि बिहार में और कहीं भी आप ने सर्वे किया है और हूँ पता लगाया है कि रेशम उद्योग की शुरूआत हो सकती है, उसका विकास हो सकता है? मैं यह नार्थ बिहार के बारे में जानना चाहता हूँ। मैं चाहता हूँ कि इसकी आप सफाई दें।

मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि आप बतायें कि इस उद्योग को आप कोओप्रेटिव का रूप देना चाहते हैं। नेशनलाइजेशन की बात मैं नहीं करता हूँ। इस क्षेत्र में आप कोओप्रेटिव का सिलसिला भी क्या शुरू करना चाहते हैं। जो कोओप्रेटिव की लहर चल रही है, क्या उसको आप इस क्षेत्र में भी लागू करना चाहते हैं, सहकारिता के आधार पर इस उद्योग को चलाना चाहते हैं? यदि हाँ, तो इसके लिए आपके पास क्या योजना है? जहाँ कुछ दूसरे

क्षेत्रों में हम समाजवाद और कोओप्रेटिव की बात करते हैं, वहाँ यह उचित ही होगा कि रेशम उद्योग में भी वह सिलसिला हम चलायें।

मैं इन शब्दों के साथ मोटे तौर पर इस विधेयक का स्वागत करता हूँ।

16.10 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

श्री बेणी शंकर शर्मा (बांका) : अभी-अभी सदन में कुछ माननीय मित्रों ने छात्रों पर बाहर पुलिस ने जो लाठी चार्ज किया है उसकी चर्चा की है। जिन विद्यार्थियों ने यह जलूस निकाला है उनकी एक मांग थी कि बेकारों को रोजगार मिलें लेकिन मैं देख रहा हूँ कि आज जितना काम हो रहा है वह जड़ को सींचने के बजाय पत्तों को सींचने का सा हो रहा है। बड़े-बड़े उद्योगों में बहुत ज्यादा रुपया लगाया जा रहा है और गृह उद्योग और लघु उद्योगों की तरफ बिल्कुल ध्यान नहीं दिया जा रहा है।

रेशम उद्योग हमारा बहुत पुराना लघु उद्योग है। बहुत पुराने जमाने से यह गृह उद्योग के रूप में चला आ रहा है। बड़े दुख की बात है कि इस उद्योग में 1932 से लेकर 1969 तक केवल 9.5 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि हुई है जबकि और उद्योगों में चार पांच सी प्रतिशत की वृद्धि हुई है। यह कहा गया है कि इस उद्योग में करीब 32 लाख लोग लगे हुए हैं जिस पर उनकी आजीविका निर्भर करती है। मैं समझता हूँ कि इसको अगर अच्छी तरह से चलाया जाए, इसकी व्यवस्था की जाए तो 32 लाख नहीं। करोड़ 32 लाख लोगों को यह उद्योग रोजी रोटी दे सकता है।

बिहार में भागलपुर में रेशमी कपड़े का काफी व्यापार होता है। वहाँ के गांवों में रेशम के कीड़े पाने जाते हैं। उनके

### [श्री वेणीशंकर शर्मा]

कोकूज से रेशम बहुत कम निकलता है। मैं प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि जहाँ तक सिल्क के सूत और कपड़े का प्रश्न है, उनका आयात बिल्कुल बन्द किया जाना चाहिये। रेशम गेहूँ की तरह से आवश्यक नहीं जिसके बगैर रहा ही न जा सके। पी एल-480 के अधीन जिस तरह से हम को जिन्दा रहने के लिए गेहूँ मंगाना पड़ता है, उस तरह से रेशम का आयात जीवन के लिए आवश्यक नहीं है विदेशी सिल्क के बिना भी हमारा काम चल सकता है। रेशम के आयात को तो हमें बिल्कुल बन्द कर देना चाहिये। यदि इससे अपने सिल्क के अगर दाम बढ़ते हैं तो बढ़े हुए दाम देने में लोगों को आपत्ति नहीं होनी चाहिये। लेकिन इम्पोर्ट तो बन्द हो ही जाना चाहिये। इसके बदले हम अच्छे अच्छे रेशम के कीड़ों का आयात करें ताकि हमें अधिक से अधिक रेशम मिल सके। जापान इस उद्योग में सब से आगे है, उसके बाद चीन तथा दूसरे देशों का नम्बर आता है। मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि हमारे इस उद्योग के विकास के लिए क्या उन्होंने कभी जापान में कुछ एक्सपर्ट्स यहां से भेजे हैं जो वहां उनकी पद्धति सीख कर आएँ और हमारे यहां उसका प्रचार कर रेशम उद्योग का विकास करें?

मैं समझता हूँ कि इस रेशम उद्योग का संगठन उसी प्रकार किया जाना चाहिये जिस प्रकार खादी ग्रामोद्योग का आपने कर रखा है, गांवों में लोग रेशम पैदा करते हैं। स्त्री बच्चे सब मिल कर रेशम कातते हैं। उसको वे जुलाहों के पास ले जाते हैं और कपड़ा बनाते हैं। उसके बाद उसको वे व्यापारी के पास ले जाते हैं जो उन्हें उसके बहुत कम दाम देता है। सिल्क उद्योग के लिए आपने बोर्ड तो बना रखा है लेकिन उसने जो तरीका अपना रखा है उससे काम नहीं चलेगा। खादी ग्रामोद्योग की तरह का ही एक बोर्ड आप इस व्यवसाय के लिए भी बनायें जिससे

गांव-गांव में जा कर रेशम के कीड़े पालने की लोगों को शिक्षा दें ताकि ज्यादा से ज्यादा सिल्क का उत्पादन हो और जो सिल्क निकले वह सिल्क ले कर कातने वालों को दे और कातने वालों से ले कर उसको वह कपड़ा बनाने वालों को दे।

और बनाने वालों से लेकर वह बेचने वालों को दें। इस सिस्टम से यदि इस काम को किया जाये, तो इस का बहुत विकास होगा।

कुछ उद्योगों को संरक्षण देना बहुत आवश्यक है। हमारे यहां आटोमोबाइल, एलुमिनियम और डाईस्टफ इंडस्ट्रीज को संरक्षण दिया गया है। लेकिन मैंने टैरिफ कमीशन की रिपोर्ट में देखा है। एलकोहल के प्राइस स्ट्रक्चर को फिक्स करने के लिए भी कुछ कार्यवाही की गई है। मुझे आश्चर्य होता है कि अभी तक यह तय क्यों नहीं हुआ है कि अलकोहल की कीमत क्या होनी चाहिए।

नाथं बिहार में हमारे यहां बहुत सी डिसटिलरीज हैं। शूगर मिलों में जो मोलैसिस पैदा होता है, उस से अलकोहल बनाई जाती है। वहां बहुत सस्ती एलकोहल पैदा होती है। लेकिन बिहार गवर्नमेंट ने उस पर जो निकासी फी लगाई है, वह यू० पी० और आन्ध्र आदि प्रान्तों के मुकाबले में बहुत ज्यादा है। इस लिए टैरिफ कमीशन को चाहिए कि वह समूचे देश के लिए एक समान नीति निर्धारित करे। ऐसी व्यवस्था की जानी चाहिए जिससे उत्तर बिहार की डिसटिलरीज बन्द न हो जायें। इस समय उन कारखानों में जो लोग लगे हुए हैं, वे बेकार होते जा रहे हैं।

जहां तक रा सिल्क के बने कपड़ों का सवाल है उनका 1966 में 2.68 करोड़ 1968 में 5.5 करोड़ और 1969 के नौ महीनों में 8.8 करोड़ रुपये के मूल्य का निर्यात किया गया। आज रा सिल्क

के कपड़ों के निर्यात की बहुत गुंजाइश है और हम उस से काफी विदेशी मुद्रा कमा सकते हैं। इस लिए इसके निर्यात व्यापार का इस ढंग से रेगुलेशन होना चाहिए कि हम अधिक-से-अधिक इसका एक्सपोर्ट कर सकें, फारेन एक्सचेंज कमा सकें और अपने लोगों को अधिक-से-अधिक काम दे सकें।

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI RAM SEWAK) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am very grateful to the hon. Members for the support they have given to this Bill. I would like to stress that our export of silk to other countries is increasing very rapidly. I would like to quote the figures. In 1950, our export of fabrics was Rs. 11.77 lakhs; export of silk waste was Rs. 9.87 lakhs. In 1968, for fabrics, it was Rs. 550.16 lakhs and for silk waste, it was Rs. 50.21 lakhs. The total was Rs. 600.37 lakhs. From January to November this year, the exports for fabrics came to Rs. 1,222.43 lakhs and for silk waste, Rs. 46.25 lakhs. It is our effort that silk waste should not be exported in its raw form. When our spun silk mills in our country at Channapatna and Jaggi Road—refused to make purchases, the prices of silk waste went down, and then we allowed the exports. I think the production of the local mills has gone down in recent months, and that is why we are allowing that our silk waste or raw silk should be consumed within the country and spun. Then, we are allowing another mill also to come up, in Bhagalpur in Bihar.

I think by 1971 this mill will start production. It is not our intention to export silk waste in raw form. Mr. Biswanarayan Shastri and Mr. Lobo Prabhu raised this point.

Coming to the efforts made by the Central Silk Board, about research, prior to 1958 there was very little research in this field. In 1958 Government decided to centralise the sericultural research and since then the research stations in Mysore and Bihar have been taken over by the Central Silk Board and have since been expanded to full-fledged research stations.

These two stations have evolved a number of improved races of silk worms. These are under field trials and good results are expected to be achieved within a short time. Under the same scheme, the research station in Assam is also proposed to be taken over by the Central Silk Board from 1-4-1970. We have also decided to transfer the administrative control of the Berhampur research station to the Central Silk Board from 1-2-1970. Highest priority is being accorded to sericultural research under the fourth plan. During the fourth plan, Rs. 88 lakhs are allocated to be spent on research activities. During the fourth plan, Government will invest about Rs. 11 crores in this industry. Out of that, Rs. 2 crores will be given to the Central Silk Board and Rs. 9 crores to the States. It is the duty of the States to improve the production and quality of silk in their own States. If they are not interested or do not pay heed to it, we are helpless. Even then, we are pressing on the State Governments to give as much help as it is possible to the people of those States in this respect.

Mr. Srinibas Misra enquired why the Tariff Act (First Schedule) was not amended to incorporate the effective rate of duty on raw silk, which was brought into force by a notification under section 4(1) of the Act. There is no obligation under that section to make an amendment to the schedule. The notification under section 4(1) has been duly gazetted. Considering the heavy pressure of business in Parliament, there was no need for such an amendment. Now, however, it is necessary to go before Parliament, as the protection is due to expire on 31-12-1969 and we are taking the first opportunity of incorporating the effective rate of 30 per cent in the statutory schedule.

The reason why we are bringing forward this Bill now is that otherwise protection will expire on 31-12-1969.

Shri Kothari raised questions about the principles of costing, rehabilitation allowance etc. I may say that the Tariff Commission tries to make allowance for all reasonable elements of costs. It also carries out reviews from time to time

[Shri Ram Sewak]

to take into account the changed circumstances.

As regards cost reduction, the Cabinet has decided that a Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices should be set up in the Ministry of Industrial Development and an announcement was made by the Ministry of Industrial Development to this effect a few days ago.

Shri Lobo Prabhu raised the point about the rate of 30 per cent which has been effected since 28th March, 1968. No adverse effect has been caused by this. We have considered the present Bill a convenient opportunity to make the provisions clear by making the statutory rate equal to the effective rate. Should the circumstances change and should the protection be found to be insufficient, government have sufficient powers under section 4(1) of the Tariff Act, 1934 to increase the protective duty to any extent found necessary.

His other point was that irrigational facilities have not been provided in Mysore State. A scheme has been chalked out under which 15,000 wells fitted with pump sets would be functioning in the area where there is mulberry cultivation. It is under examination.

Another point was that silk waste export should be stopped. At present the Channapatnam Spun Silk Mill, Mysore and Jaggi Road Mill Assam can barely utilize about half the silk waste produced in the country. That is why we allow partial export. But it is our effort to see that in future we utilize the entire silk waste within the country and we do not allow any export. With that end in view, the capacity of the existing mills is being increased and they are being asked to run the second shift also so that more silk waste and raw silk may be consumed by these mills. There is no complaint from these mills of any shortage of silk waste for spinning. Both the mills, which are run by the State Governments, are running satisfactorily.

Government will carefully consider all the other points mentioned by the hon. Members during the course of the debate.

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.*

**Clause 2—(Amendment of First Schedule)**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : There is only one amendment by Shri Lobo Prabhu. Under article 117(1) it requires the previous recommendation of the President. That has not been obtained.

SHRI LOBO PRABHU : I have applied for it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : But it has not come. Therefore, I cannot allow that amendment. But he may briefly speak on that.

SHRI LOBO PRABHU : I am meeting the Minister's reply to my charge that the duty has been reduced in a way not to affect the interest of sericulture. He has stated that there has been no reaction. I have quoted already what happened in Malda, how the prices have slumped.

I realise that the quantity imported is small. It is only 37 tonnes as against a total of 1,130 tonnes produced in the country. But the Tariff Commission has emphasized that even this small quantity has a psychological effect in a luxury industry like silk. No doubt, the Minister said that at any time this rate can be raised but in the meanwhile the industry may suffer very much.

I do not want to say more than that because even if I do, the Minister and I, both, are helpless, the President having not assented to my amendment. But I would like to request the Minister to direct the Silk Board to watch the situation very carefully. Imports have not risen because there is the alternative scheme of entitlement which enables people either to get silk or to get chemicals and they are getting chemicals now. But if for any reason they do not get chemicals because they do not pay as much as silk, you may have a very serious situation.

In respect of silk waste—this is a point of information if not of correction—accord-

ing to the Tariff Commission's report there is 32 per cent idle capacity in our silk factories here. You cannot say that waste has to be exported because there is no use for it. If the Minister wants, I can quote that particular statement of the Tariff Commission. There is this idle capacity in our factories and at least to that extent you should take steps to reduce the export of silk waste.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 2 was added to the Bill.*

*Clause 1, the Enacting Formula, and the title were added to the Bill.*

SHRI RAM SEWAK : Sir, I move :  
"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That the Bill be passed."

SHRI DATTATRAYA KUNTE (Kolaba) : Sir, I would like to sound a note of warning, rather caution, when we are at the stage of passing the Bill. The ruling given by the Chair is binding on me and the whole House and I bow to that ruling, but the consequences of that ruling are that we have considered this Bill, generally and clause by clause, without the recommendation of the President. A few minutes back, when the hon. Member, Shri Lobo Prabhu, wanted to move his amendment, you were pleased to say that because the consent or the recommendation of the President was not obtained for the moving of his amendment, you would not allow him to move that amendment. At the same time, the result has been that all the clauses have been allowed to be adopted without the recommendation of the President. This will mean not a mere procedural irregularity but a constitutional illegality. It would be unconstitutional.

It is, no doubt, true that the proceedings of the House could not be questioned  
M43LSS/69—11

in a court of law but whether this House has followed the Constitution or not can ever be looked into by a court. Therefore if anyone raises this point in a court of law, namely, article 117(1) was not followed by this House and, therefore, this Bill was not considered by this House as required by the Constitution, then we must be prepared for the consequences. I would warn the Government of the consequences if they so arise.

SHRI S. M. KRISHNA (Mandya) : Sir, I would like to point out to the Minister that during the discussion last time a point was made by some of us, which has been reiterated by my hon. Friend, Shri Srinibas Misra, who participated in this debate, that 65 per cent of this silk is manufactured and grown in Mysore State and it so happens that the headquarters of the Central Silk Board is located in Bombay. Many pleas have been made and once, I very distinctly remember, an assurance was given on the floor of this House that due and serious and urgent consideration would be given to the suggestion that the Silk Board be transferred from Bombay to Bangalore.

Even in the Advisory Committee of the Silk Board, many resolutions have been adopted to the effect that the Silk Board will be able to function better from Bangalore in the larger interest of the country.

I would like to have a categorical assurance from the hon. Minister. Last time, he evaded it and thereby created certain rough feelings between me and the hon. Speaker. I would like to know the reasons, if there are any valid reasons at all, why the headquarters should not be shifted from Bombay to Bangalore. I would like to have a categorical answer from the hon. Minister.

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री (पटना) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, यह बिल जो अब पास होने जा रहा है, इसमें बाहर से आने वाले सिल्क के कच्चे माल पर जो शुल्क लगता है, उसमें कमी की जा रही है, यह एक सही कदम है और मैं इसका समर्थन करता हूँ। लेकिन साथ ही साथ मैं यह जरूर कहना चाहता हूँ कि ऐसा न हो कि आप

[श्री रामावतार शास्त्री]

शुल्क में तो कमी कर रहे हैं लेकिन उससे बने कपड़े की कीमत में कमी न हो। सरकार का ध्यान इस तरफ भी जाना चाहिये कि खरीदने वालों को भी यह अनुभव हो कि सरकार ने जो कानून बनाया है, उस से व्यापारियों के साथ-साथ कन्जूमर को भी फायदा हुआ है।

दूसरी बात मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि बाहर से सिल्क न आये—इस तरह की स्थिति हमें बनानी है और यह तभी बन सकती है जब कि देश के अन्दर सिल्क का उत्पादन ज्यादा से ज्यादा हो। हमारे देश के कोने-कोने में सिल्क उद्योग हैं, देश के कोने-कोने में सिल्क के कीड़े भी हैं और उस के लिये अरण्डी का पत्ता भी है, सब सुविधायें मौजूद हैं, आवश्यकता इस बात की है कि जो सिल्क बनाने वाला उद्योग है, उस की मदद कीजिये, उन के मजदूरों की मदद कीजिये—सिर्फ इसी बात की कमी है। हमारे यहां भागलपुर में बहुत पुराने समय से सिल्क बनता है जो पूरे देश को सप्लाई होता है। मैं यही निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि बाहर के सिल्क के कच्चे माल का जो आप शुल्क कम कर रहे हैं, वह ठीक है, लेकिन साथ ही साथ अपने देश में सिल्क उद्योग बढ़े, प्रगति करे, इस तरफ आपका ध्यान जाना चाहिये। यह तभी सम्भव होगा जब आप बनाने वालों की मदद करेंगे, मजदूरों की मदद करेंगे, छोटे-छोटे उद्योग-पतियों की मदद करेंगे, तब ही हम आत्म निर्भर बन सकते हैं। हमारे देश का सिल्क बहुत उमदा होता है, उस की कीमत भी कम होती है—इस तरफ आपका ध्यान जाना चाहिये।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed"

*The motion was adopted.*

16.38 hrs.

ASSAM REORGANISATION  
(MEGHALAYA) BILL

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS  
(SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I move :

"That the Bill to provide for the formation within the State of Assam of an autonomous State to be known as Meghalaya and for matters connected therewith, be taken into consideration."

Sir, by way of preliminary observations, I would like to say that the question of the re-organisation of Assam is familiar to the Members of Parliament.....

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Bombay South) : We had to brow-beat you to bring it about.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : I don't mind giving credit to you, if you want it.

The tribal areas of Assam, as we all know, already enjoy certain autonomy under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution. But it is a well-known fact that this autonomy was not considered to be enough as the people in hill areas felt that it does not provide them proper opportunities to express their own political personality and their political aspirations. Therefore, certain political arrangements had to be thought of and the Government undertook very prolonged deliberations and, as a result of wide and prolonged consultations with different people we came to certain conclusions which were included in the statement of 11th September, 1968.

The broad details of the set up envisaged under the scheme were indicated in that statement. The entire concept was to enlarge the autonomy of the hill areas by creating an autonomous State within the State of Assam which this Bill proposes to call Meghalaya. In order to give shape to this idea, as a first step, the Constitution had to be amended by the Constitution (Twenty-Second) Amendment Act, 1969, by which powers were conferred on Parliament to enact a law for the formation of an autonomous State within the State of Assam.