

it in category 'B' according to the nature, importance and urgency of the various Bills that were there. The House accepted that on the 10th December, 1954, by debating the Fifteenth Report which was commended to the House. Thereafter, Shrimati Renu Chakravarty's Bill came for classification and it being on all fours with that, it was recommended by the Committee that it should be put in category 'B'. Therefore, this House has once decided the matter and the decision was taken after taking into consideration recommendation of the Committee regarding various Bills that were before the Committee. Of course, the House is quite free to reconsider it, but having decided once, it is for the House to decide whether it should reconsider it.

**Shri S. S. More** (Sholapur): Is my friend contending that there is something *res judicata* in this House—that once the matter is decided, it cannot be taken up?

**Shri Altekar**: I did not say that.

**Mr. Chairman**: If the matter has been *res judicata* then, it would not have been put on the Order Paper.

**Shri S. S. More**: He is arguing that way.

**Mr. Chairman**: It was conceded that this House has authority to revise its own decisions. This was brought to the notice of the House that once a decision has been given, the House may revise it. Now, we are to see whether the House is prepared to revise it or it sticks to the old decision. That is all. Then, I shall put Shrimati Renu Chakravarty's amendment to the vote of the House.

The question is,

"That the Electricity Supply (Amendment) Bill moved in the name of Shrimati Renu Chakravarty and that of Shri Sadhan Gupta be placed in category 'A'."

*The motion was negatived.*

**Shri Nand Lal Sharma** (Sikar): I seek your permission to put in a word regarding my Bill.

**Mr. Chairman**: That will be taken subsequently.

**Shri Nand Lal Sharma**: It has been put in the 'B' category in this very report.

**Mr. Chairman**: Unless there is a motion, how can I take it? Was the Bill of the hon. Member included in the Nineteenth Report?

**Shri Nand Lal Sharma**: Yes.

**Mr. Chairman**: But I find that it has already been adopted. This was for the revision of the decision. Now, it cannot be taken up, because there is no motion. I shall put the original motion of Shri Altekar to the vote of the House. The question is:

"That this House agrees with the Nineteenth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 22nd December, 1954."

*The motion was adopted.*

#### TWENTY-FIRST REPORT

**Shri Altekar**: I beg to move:

"That this House agrees with the Twenty-first Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 2nd March, 1955."

The report is in connection with the allotment of time for the Bills that are mentioned in today's Agenda as also for the classification of two Bills that were before the Committee. That has been stated in the House, and I commend this report to the House.

**Mr. Chairman**: The question is:

"That this House agrees with the Twenty-first Report of the Committee on Private Members'

[Mr. Chairman.]

Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 2nd March, 1955."

*The motion was adopted.*

**MINES (AMENDMENT) BILL**  
(Amendment of Sections 33 and 51)

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao (Khammam):** I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Mines Act, 1952.

**Mr. Chairman:** The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Mines Act, 1952."

*The motion was adopted.*

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** I introduce the Bill.

**INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES  
(AMENDMENT) BILL**

*Insertion of New Chapter VAA*

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

**Mr. Chairman:** The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947."

*The motion was adopted.*

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** I introduce the Bill.

**PREVENTION OF FREE, FORCED  
OR COMPULSORY LABOUR BILL.**

**Mr. Chairman:** The House will now resume further discussion of the motion moved by Shri D. C. Sharma on the 24th December, 1954:

"That the Bill to provide punishment for free, forced or

compulsory labour, be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the end of March, 1955".

Out of the total time of one and a half hours allotted for the discussion of this Bill, 36 minutes were taken up on the 24th December, 1954. The balance of time remaining for the purpose of further discussion is 54 minutes. The mover has already spoken and concluded his speech. Shri R. K. Chaudhuri was speaking.

**Shri D. C. Sharma (Hoshiarpur):** May I submit that I would require some time after the hon. Minister has spoken?

**Mr. Chairman:** That I will consider. Time will be given for the reply.

**Shri R. K. Chaudhuri (Gauhati):** Sir, I had very nearly finished what I had to say but I would like to be informed or enlightened on two points. My hon. friend the Mover of this Bill has made an exception in favour of the Indian Forests Act of 1927 and the Bombay Irrigation Act. I should like to know whether he means that the working hours, so far as these two Acts are concerned, of the labourers would be same as voluntary labourers of longer hours of work might be demanded of them. Secondly, I want to know whether particularly this Indian Forests Act enjoins upon payment in cash to all the labourers, because I had cited the instance which actually occurred in the State of Assam. There some land is settled to the villagers and that is known as "Forest Village". They have not got to pay any rent to the Government, but in lieu of rent Government demands of them certain service in certain periods in the whole year. No cash payment is made to them for these services. If they do not work then they lose the privilege and right of living in the Forest village the land whereof belongs to the Government. That is a form of forced labour. This form of compulsory labour is very much