

Clause 1—Short title, extent and commencement

SHRI BHAKT DARSHAN: Sir, I move :

2. "That at page 3, line 5, for the figure '1969' the figure '1970' be substituted."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is :

"That clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Enacting Formula

SHRI BHAKT DARSHAN: Sir, I move :

1. "That at page 3, line 1, for the word 'Twentieth' the word 'Twenty-first' be substituted."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is :

"That the Enacting Formula, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

The Enacting Formula, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Title was added to the Bill.

SHRI BHAKT DARSHAN: Sir, I move :

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE TEA (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1969

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill further to amend the Tea Act, 1953, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Before the hon. Members participate in the discussion, I would like to make a short speech. The Tea Act of 1953 which came into force on the 1st April, 1954 seeks to provide for the control by the Union Government of the tea industry and for that purpose, to establish a Tea Board. Section 10 of the Act places on the Tea Board certain responsibilities for taking measures for the development of the tea industry. In the discharge of its responsibilities under this section, the Tea Board has taken up certain schemes, namely, the Tea Plantation Finance Scheme and the Tea Machinery Hire-Purchase Scheme, through which it advances long-term loans to the tea industry for undertaking extensions or replantations. These schemes are financed by loans advanced by the Union Government to the Tea Board. On a review by the Government of the requirements of the tea industry for long-term development, the Government have to assist this industry with a subsidy to tea plantations with over-aged bushes, with a view to ensuring the desired level of the tea plantations. The Tea Act in its present form makes no provision for the Tea Board to receive either grants-in-aid or loans of the kind that are being advanced by the Central Government today. It is therefore considered necessary to amend the Tea Act of 1953 to enable the Tea Board to receive grants-in-aid or loans from the Central Government.

Sir, clause 2 of the Bill provides for grants or loans to be made by the Central Government to the Board since the cess collected under Section 25 of the Tea Act, 1953 is not sufficient to meet the cost of the developmental scheme of the tea industry, as already mentioned. These grants or loans are intended to ensure that the activities of the Tea Board do not receive a setback.

It is also proposed to avail of this opportunity to substitute sub-section (3) of Section 49 of the Act relating to the laying of rules before each House of Parliament in order to bring it in conformity with the present pattern.

With these words, Sir, I move.

The question was proposed.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (West Bengal): Sir, in the Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Bill, it has been

suggested that the Government proposes to enable the Tea Board to receive some additional amount of money by way of grants which could be spent for the improvement of the tea plantations. I am one of those who really feel that the tea industry in our country occupies a very important place in the national economy. And before we discuss this particular provision enabling the Tea Board to receive additional sum from the Government of India, it is necessary for us also to once more take an account of the present position of the tea industry, its export and also the improvement of the tea estates.

Sir, I think you will agree with me when I say that through tea exports our country earns about Rs. 115 crores worth of foreign exchange every year and that ours is the second largest country in the world which exports tea. Not only that. Fourteen per cent of our total export trade consists of tea; we command about 35 per cent of the world tea trade. But we export 58 per cent of our tea to Western European countries, Africa, West Asia and America. Tea industry also employs more than ten lakh of workers in our country. This is the importance of the industry to our country.

I think there has been a certain increase in production of tea for a few years. My figures say that in the year 1951 while the production was 280.5 million kg. it has increased to 370.5 million kg. in the year 1966. But there appears to be a fall in tea production subsequently to those years, that is after 1966. I want to be corrected by the hon. Minister if I am wrong. But it has also to be borne in mind that our export is registering a decline. My figure shows that while in the year 1950-51, out of the total production, 75 per cent was exported, in 1965-66 it dropped to 54 per cent. And when the tea industry earns a very huge amount of foreign exchange for our country, even the Fourth Plan target does not appear to be sufficiently encouraging in this matter. I may be allowed to quote that the production target during the Fourth Plan is 420 million kgs., whereas the export target remains at 240 million kgs. To be more precise, it is less than 50 per cent of the total production. So, when I feel that we are required to earn more foreign exchange—for the earning of

foreign exchange tea is one of the main items—naturally, the Government and the country as a whole should be interested in promoting more export so that we can earn more by way of foreign exchange.

But while I say this, national interests are very much and inextricably connected with the tea industry itself. I am sorry to mention that even today foreign capital has got a strangle-hold over the tea industry. Nothing has been done by the Government to free the tea industry from the strangulation of the monopoly capital, foreign capital. And I can say, with a number of statistics, as to how the development of our tea industry has been impeded by the monopoly's grip over the industry.

In this connection, I would also like to mention that during the years from 1962 to 1967, about Rs. 30.10 crores have been repatriated by way of profit to the foreign countries, and these profits were repatriated in a visible way, and I do not know what is the actual amount which has been drained out of our country in an invisible way. But in a visible way, Rs. 30.10 crores have been repatriated during five years. Even today, a very huge amount of money by way of profits is being taken away by foreign capitalists. Not only that. The question is also related to the improvement of the plantations. You might have known that there has been a large-scale change of ownership in the tea estates. There have been '(India) Ltds.' in the tea plantations. Not only that. My experience induces me to say that there are certain traders who have some proficiency in trade, who have also become the owners of the tea estates. And they are not interested in the matter of improvement of the tea estates. Sir, you would agree with me that in the tea plantations, replantation of the bushes is necessary after a specific interval of time. But as far as my experience of tea estates in West Bengal goes, particularly in Darjeeling and Terai areas, there has been lack of interest on the part of the certain managements to replant bushes. And not only that, this House has also had occasion to know that thousands of acres of land are still being retained by the tea planters and those surplus lands are not also being utilised for the growing of tea bushes. And this has been done only as far as West Bengal is concerned to circumvent the estates

[Shri Chitta Basu]

acquisition Act of West Bengal which forbids an individual to own or retain more than 25 acres of land, and tea estates and companies do not come within the ambit of that Act. Sir, it has been the complaint and grievance of many as to why the tea estate owners should not either utilise those surplus lands or part with them. As a matter of fact, there was a very mighty mass movement by the peasants of those areas and even the tea workers themselves to occupy those surplus lands of the tea estates. Therefore, I want to draw this conclusion that the managements of the tea estates are not very serious about improvement of the tea plantations. And this should be borne in mind while discussing this Bill.

Then there are certain things in the matter of the price mechanism. I have got certain figures to suggest that we are not receiving the actual price for our tea. Calculations have shown that during 1965 the average price realised by the tea exported to the U. K. amounted only to Rs. 2.56 per pound while the range of retail prices in the U. K. calculated in terms of rupees, was Rs. 7.30 to Rs. 42 per pound. That is, we get only a price of Rs. 3.56 per pound whereas the ruling retail price in the U. K. was between Rs. 7.30 and Rs. 42 per pound. That means that there is some intermediary who reaps a very huge amount of money by way of selling Indian tea at a relatively very high price and we are deprived of our genuine price. In the case of the U.S.A., during 1965, the average price realised by Indian tea by the Indian exporter was Rs. 3.37 per pound whereas the retail price in the U.S. market was Rs. 18.78 per pound. Therefore, the Government should take sufficient measures to see that we get a just price for our tea. I do not know what the Government has so far done in this connection.

Now when we are going to give money to the Tea Board for the specific purposes of giving loans to replantation projects and for supply of tea machinery on hire-purchase basis, we should take into account the performance of the Tea Board during the past years. Sir, before the hon. Minister comes to the House with a measure to enable Government to give more money to the Tea Board, he should give an

account of the performance of the Tea Board in the matter of improvement of the tea plantations, in the matter of extension of tea plantations and in the matter of improvement of our exports in the international market. Sir, you know we are facing competition from other countries in the matter of tea. Now the British tea estate owners are not interested in improvement of tea estates in this country. They are more interested in improving the tea industry and tea estates in other parts of the world, viz., Africa. And even to-day they are having a stranglehold on the auction market in Great Britain. We have not got arrangements for warehousing in India. We have not got arrangements for packaging. For these purposes, we are depending on the foreign companies. If you will permit me, I would mention the names of some of the foreign companies which are working in Calcutta. Why is it that the Tea Board with such generous financial aid from the Government does not arrange for packaging in our country, does not arrange for warehousing in our country? Why are we still dependent upon those British and foreign companies for these functions? This should also be properly taken into account before we give more money to the Tea Board. And not only that, in the matter of export promotion, there has been no satisfactory performance on the part of the Tea Board. They have simply, as I am reported, appointed some sales girls in foreign countries to attract the attention of certain customers, but nothing has been done by way of increasing or expanding the tea market for our country.

SHRI U. K. LAKSHMANA GOWDA (Mysore): That is also one of the methods of promotion.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: That is not the way by which we can really expand our international market. Therefore, it is necessary for us to take into consideration all these basic problems now confronting the tea industry and tea exports in our country. I still hold the view that unless we take over the management of the plantations as a whole, unless we take over the export of the tea industry, these inherent defects cannot be remedied. The time has come now when the Government should take a bold decision with regard

to nationalisation of the export of tea. The time has come when the Government should take a decision with regard to the taking over of the management of the tea industry in our country. The solution lies in that only. The solution does not lie in increased grant-in-aid being given to the Tea Board who cannot manage their affairs themselves to the satisfaction of the people or the Government or the House. Therefore, the time has come when the Government should take a bold decision to nationalise the tea industry, to nationalise tea exports, in the interests of the country. I hope when the Minister replies, he will touch on all these points and show us a way for improvement of the tea industry and tea exports, in the interest of the nation.

**SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA ME-
NON** (Kerala): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, the tea industry in our country is by far the most characteristic of the industries which are dominated by foreign interests. As you know, Sir, Mulk Raj Anand, the famous litterateur, had written his book "Two Leaves and A Bud" to characterise the slave labour system in the tea plantations. The foreign interests who control the tea plantations had resorted to the most inhuman system of slave labour in order to clear the forests to plant tea and make the maximum profit out of the labour of these unfortunate people. After Independence, we expected that our Government would have acted with firmness in controlling these interests, if necessary evicting them from this area of our economy. But as you know, Sir, nothing of the sort has happened. In fact, after Independence too, we have been pampering these foreign interests, and as a result, in our country the tea industry is facing one of the biggest crises today. The Plantation Labour Enquiry Commission in 1951 pointed out a number of serious lacunae in the development of this industry. The first point was that the Plantation Labour Act was not being implemented by the tea planters in its entirety. In fact, even today, items like medical relief, schooling facilities, housing facilities etc. are not given in full to the plantation labour. So also, resort to child labour etc. is very common in plantation areas. We have not been able to abolish these systems of labour which are derogatory to our national pride and honour. It is a pity

that the Government has not done much to save the labour in these plantations from this extreme exploitation by the foreign interests.

Another thing that had been pointed out by them is that the foreign companies sent out of the country, every five years, almost the entire value of the capital invested by them in the industry, i.e. on an average, they were sending out 20 per cent of the capital invested as profits out of the country, apart from the numerous other side profits which they derive out of supplies to the plantations, and trading practices to which they resorted to brokerages etc. The tea industry in the country was utilised by the foreigners as an instrument of extreme exploitation of our economy and to bleed our country's resources to foreign countries. This is an industry in which almost all the stages i.e. production, trade and consumption, are controlled by foreign interests, especially sterling interests. About 65 per cent of the capital invested in the tea industry is foreign. Similarly, most of the exporting firms are foreign or allied to foreign interests. And even the brokers in Calcutta and Cochin are mostly controlled by foreign interests, though in recent years some Indian interests have entered the field.

One of the obnoxious practices in the tea trade is the export of tea on consignment to the London market, and auctioning of tea in the London market. I do not know whether it still continues or not, but this was one of the methods by which the foreign interests squeeze the country of a large amount of profits out of the tea trade. You will be surprised to know, Sir, that when I had gone to some of the North African countries on a goodwill mission sent by the Government of India, I found that in Algeria, Egypt, Sudan etc. which are tea-drinking countries, they import their tea from London and they pay very high prices for those imports whereas, if we can make our own arrangements with the State trading organisations in Algeria or UAR or Sudan, to directly export tea from India to those countries, I am sure the tea will be available at much cheaper rates and in much better qualities in those countries. And naturally, such availability of good tea at reasonable prices will increase the consumption of tea in these countries. I am sure that a

[Shri K. P. Subramania Menon]

certain arrangement *i.e.* taking over the tea trade directly by the Government of India through the State trading organisations of the Government, will have a salutary effect on maintaining the price level in tea, and also in seeing that the tea consuming countries get good quality tea at reasonable prices, without having to go through third country exporters like Britain or some other countries.

Sir, one of the most damaging effects of the foreign control on the tea industry has been the failure of the foreign interests to replant the tea plantations in time. It is said that about 65 to 70 per cent of the high-grown tea plants are over 50 year old, and, therefore, their output is coming down. The sterling companies which control these high-grown tea estates are interested in starting and developing their plantations in the newly found areas of Kenya, Uganda and such other Central African countries. With the profits earned from the tea industry in this country, they go and invest it in Central African countries. And so, they are not interested in seeing that the Indian industry develops well. Now, the Government of India has started a scheme to help the replantations. Actually, Sir, this is another thing. The Government of India gives money to the foreign interests to replant the tea plants, out of which they take away huge profits and export these profits. And they do not reinvest them in India. Why should our Government give any help at all to the foreign tea interests, who have already during the last 150 years of their existence, sent back at least 20 to 30 times of their capital invested by them in this country? The only thing that we should do today is to take over completely all the tea plantations, especially the high-grown foreign tea interests into the State sector, and run them as a national concern, otherwise, the tea industry in this country is going to ruins and it is facing attrition at the hands of the foreign tea interests.

Another point which I want to make is that because of this control over the tea trade by the foreign interests, our exports in the world market have been stagnating. You will find, Sir, that between 1950 and 1966, the world exports of tea rose from 399.2 million Kgs. to 570 million Kgs. whereas the

Indian exports have been more or less stationary, or have come down from 182.9 million Kgs. to 179.2 million Kgs. that is from 45.82% of the world export trade, our share has come down to 31.40 per cent. Now, this is the sorry state of affairs of our tea industry, our tea trade. This is mainly because the tea trade is dominated by foreign interests and these foreign interests are interested in expanding their trade, the sale of their newly grown gardens in Kenya, Uganda, etc. That is why our country is suffering in the world market. Similarly, one of the consequences of the imperialist trade relations in agricultural commodities has been that the terms of trade have gone against us in the world tea market. This, of course, is a phenomenon which we suffer in common with all other primary goods exporting countries, and for this purpose a good beginning which was made by the 71-country conference was in Algiers, that is, in the UNCTAD. One should take forward and see that the agricultural commodities exported by the developing countries bring a good price; from the importing rich, imperialist, countries. Therefore, it is necessary that the tea trade also should be able to bring a good amount of foreign exchange to this country much more than what we get now, provided we not only compete with the other developing countries, but also cooperate with them in seeing that we put up a united front against the imperialist interests for getting a better price for our tea. For this purpose it is necessary that we should develop good relations with Ceylon, Indonesia and such other countries which are the exporting countries, which are the producers and exporters of tea, and put up a united front against the imperialist countries for fetching a good price for our tea. This is an essential thing; otherwise, the tea prices are likely to stagnate or go down as the imperialists try to increase their restrictions on trade with other countries.

The last thing that I want to refer to is the Tea Board. The Tea Board has been acting as a creature of the foreign interests involved in the tea industry. In fact, it has done very little to improve the situation in the tea industry in the interests of the nation as a whole or in the interests of either the plantation labour or the consumer section. As a matter of fact, the Tea Board also treats its own employees in

a very bad fashion. You had the unedifying spectacle of the Tea Board employees in the Parliament House itself going on strike last month for a day for higher wages and better service conditions. This is the attitude of the Tea Board towards its own employees. Then, how can such a Board have a good attitude towards the poor plantation labour when it cannot have a good and healthy attitude towards its own workers? Therefore, the Tea Board is dominated by interests which are inimical to our national interests, and the sooner this Tea Board is reconstituted and the sooner men with better vision and better understanding of the problems facing the industry and the trade and the needs of our national economy, take charge of this organisation, the better for all of us. Lastly, the Tea Board has done practically nothing to help the small-scale producer in the tea industry which is a substantial section and which produces most of the low-grown teas which are consumed in this country. I hope the Tea Board will give some attention to their interests also.

SHRI U. K. LAKSHMANA GOWDA : Mr. Deputy Chairman, I rise to support this Bill. The Tea Act of 1953, as has already been explained by the honourable Minister, provided that the Tea Board should engage itself in developmental activities for improvement in the production and export promotion of tea industry in this country. For that purpose all along several schemes have been adopted by the Tea Board in consultation with the producers. The schemes are for giving aid for the development of the tea industry, both for the larger units and for the smaller units. As has already been explained, there have been schemes which provide loan assistance to the tea producers for acquiring machinery on hire-purchase basis and also for improving their tea gardens. The present Bill provides for grants-in-aid to be made to the Tea Board to finance its developmental activities. As has been explained, the finances provided for implementing the re-planting scheme which has been recently accepted by the Government, were found to be inadequate and more loans have to be taken from the Government by the Tea Board for advancing to the tea industry. And that is the purpose of this Bill. I will go into the other matters

which were raised by some of my friends here later on. But even those friends have accepted that it is very necessary that more and more assistance should be provided for the development of tea in this country so that tea production may increase and we will be in a better position to compete with the other exporting countries of the world. We must not forget here that there is quite a considerable section of the ownership of different plantations which are in the hands of Indians. I do agree that as against coffee, there is a greater percentage of sterling interests in tea, particularly in the north. I think in the north it is about 48 per cent foreign ownership and in the south it is about 23 per cent. Progressively, as everyone knows, more and more smaller growers are taking to tea production and some of the foreign-owned plantations are also changing hands. We should not forget here that by having our prejudice against the foreign interests we may tend to deny everything for the tea industry as such. No, it is not a question of who the owner is. That is a different matter which can be handled by the policy decisions of the Government. If it is a question of nationalisation and if the people of the country want it no foreigner can prevent such a measure. But that is a different matter. Simply because there is a considerable amount of foreign investment, simply because there are a considerable number of foreign-owned plantations, in this country, should we deny the necessary development for the tea industry? It is one of our largest foreign-exchange earners and all along we have claimed in the world one of the largest share of exports in tea. Unfortunately in the past few years our exports have declined the reasons for which I had already explained in this House several times. And I attribute one of the reasons to the failure in the export policies of the Government as a whole. It was unthinkable that after devaluation when the rupee earnings increased an export duty was levied to mop up the increased earnings and after devaluation of the pound sterling Ceylon automatically reduced its export prices and sold its teas at a competitive price in the world markets. India still continued its export duty. Then, how can the Indian tea industry, whether foreign-owned or Indian-owned, compete in the international market. When you impose export and high excise duties on tea and coffee which are

[Shri U. K. Lakshmana Gowda]

exportable commodities, how can they compete in the world market? We cannot dictate the prices of tea and coffee to a foreign buyer and say, you pay at that price. It might be possible that in the case of indigenous products like cement, etc. the State Trading Corporation can decide to increase the price by, say, Rs. 2 and everybody will have to buy it at that price because there is no other option. But when you are competing in the world market, the prices have got to be competitive and the cost of production has also got to be considerably low so that the product can be sold in the international market at world prices. Sir, the cost of production in this country of all plantation products has considerably increased because of the increase in the cost of labour and fertilizers and other agricultural inputs which I have many times voiced in this House. So far as replanting is concerned there has been a complaint that it has not been up to the required level. I agree particularly in tea, replanting has been rather slow because the larger gardens, some of them foreign-owned, some Indian owned, might not have taken the necessary interest but even in the case of those who wanted to replant and take interest, there was hardly any money available because of the very heavy taxation. I would mention here that in Kerala and Mysore the Agricultural Income-tax rate over a lakh has been raised to over 60% and Dr. Kurien will know about it because he was also responsible for it in Kerala where it has been put up to 73%. What money will be available to the Indian or Foreign owners for replanting? There must be some money left for ploughing it back to the asset so that the capital value will rise and also one could continue with the replanting scheme. I am not talking about your scheme about foreign-owned plantations but I do say that more and more assistance is needed but it is very pertinent to explain that a large number of smaller growers are coming up and they need greater assistance than the larger ones. The replanting scheme provides for two per cent. of the old tea, to be replanted every year, that is, the tea which is more than 50 years old is to be replanted every year, but we find that all that 2% is not drawn because people are not coming forth to take advantage of the scheme because in the

assistance provided, the subsidy is Rs. 3500 per hectare in the plains and Rs. 4500 per hectare in the hills, and that only forms 40% of what is required for replanting a hectare and the producer has to find the other 60% from his own funds. Those of the people who are marginal producers and those who are not sufficiently prosperous find it difficult to find money and that is the reason why replanting is not taking place to the extent which is desired by the Government and the producers. I would mention that other incentives are also very necessary for the smaller producers—something like factory facilities. The smaller people are not in a position to build the factory on their own. A certain scheme for State-owned cooperative factories was started but I do not know to what extent it has been successful. Assistance should be available to the small producers for building up factories so that they can get the tea processed and release it for the internal market. Most of the tea exported comes from the larger units producing quality teas. Mr. Basu made a point about the prices which the Indian tea has fetched in the world market in the auctions as against the retail prices which prevail in the U.K. and the U.S.A. Please do not think that I am trying to defend the foreign interests here but Mr. Basu's figures are not very correct because we might have got Rs. 2.50 per kg. as mentioned by him but regarding the retail price you will have to take into consideration the importing country's own taxation, Customs Duty etc. which add to the retail price. In U.K. and other places it is the blends which are sold in the retail market at customers choice and it is not the Bulk tea which is sent from here. Indian tea and different teas are imported to London and in that market the retailers sell them to the consumers in different blends. They buy Bulk tea from the wholesalers, blend the different teas according to their tastes and that is sold in the consumer market at retail prices which naturally will have to be much higher than the prices fetched for our exported teas. Comparison of these two prices is not fair.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : But the Tea Board does not do it.

SHRI U. K. LAKSHMANA GOWDA : He is mistaken. The Tea Board itself does not market tea. It is only the Coffee Board that markets coffee.

The Tea Board only regulates the production, research and promotion etc. The marketing is done in a free market. Tea is also sold in Cochin and the Calcutta markets and part of it is also sold in the London market also. Why it is sold in the London auction, is because certain countries have a preference for buying in the London auction and so it is sold there. Largest World Tea auction sales are held in London as is well known. It is borne out by the fact that more and more of our tea is being sold now in Calcutta and Cochin auctions and the percentage sold in the London market is being considerably reduced and also the consignments to London are falling.

Then I would like to mention that I have some grievances regarding the functioning of the Tea Boards and other commodity which I will refer later. There was one point raised by Mr. Menon that there was some big foreign interest in the commodity Boards particularly in the Tea Board which was inimical to Indian interests. True, there are foreign interests represented in the Tea Board but I do not think they are inimical to our country's interest. It is for the Government to lay down the policies, and everyone knows that the statutory Tea Board is headed by a Chairman who is appointed by the Government and I cannot say that there is so much of influence by the producers-members as such because in the Tea Board, as in the Coffee and Rubber Boards, constituted by the Act of 1953, there are members representing the growers, labour, traders and other interests and also members representing both the Houses of the Parliament, who are supposed to guide the Board in its policy. I cannot agree that there is such an amount of influence exerted by the foreign-owned tea planters which is inimical to the growth of the tea industry in this country, but I would certainly say that the direct contact which is very necessary between the Government and the producers is not there. Let us forget about the foreign owners. There might be foreign owners to-day and tomorrow they may be Indian owners but there must be direct contact between the Government and the producers. That is lacking now. There is the intermediary which is the Board whether it is the Tea Board or the Coffee Board, between the two

Being a statutory Governmental body it has to reflect the views of the Government to the producers and the producers' views back to the Government. This is not a very happy situation. I am not saying that the Boards should go but I would stress that the Government in the Foreign Trade Ministry should establish more direct contact with the producers as such.

Regarding replanting, I would say that there are two methods. One is that the Government has specified that only tea which is more than 50 years old should be replanted. I would say that there are certain strains of tea which might be 30 years old but still they may be uneconomical and they should be removed and replaced and replanting loan should be made available for this also; otherwise, there would not be an increase in production. I would also suggest here, that in Ceylon, there is as against replanting, a scheme of replacement. Supposing in an area there is more than 50 years tea which is unsuitable and also that land is unsuitable and if the estate has additional reserve land, they should abandon the bad area and replace the tea in a virgin area so that it will give better production at a lesser cost. This point I would like the Minister to consider while giving assistance

5 P. M. for replanting. One other point I would like to say.

The Government should cut out the red tape with regard to the functioning of these Boards. Just the other day, speaking on the Appropriation Bill I mentioned how in the case of the Coffee Board, when the Chairman retired on November 9 and one of the posts held by the producers also had been lying vacant for ten months, the posts have not been filled at all till today. To one of my questions about this the answer given was that the normal consultations were going on and that was why it was being delayed. I would like to say here that in cases of such nominations there is always the possibility of political influence coming in and therefore I would suggest that any vacancy arising in any of these commodity Boards should be filled within two months. Otherwise what is the point in saying that when the term of membership is only three years, ten months are taken up in normal consultations for filling up the vacancy? What are these normal consultations?

[Shri U. K. Lakshmana Gowda]

It is just consulting the producers' associations for appointing producers' representatives and the national trade unions in the case of trade union representatives. The hon. Minister should look into this and completely do away with this nomination and revert to the original system of electing the growers' representatives from among the registered growers, the traders' representatives from among the registered traders and the labour representatives from the three or four national trade unions. This will enable better people to come into the Boards. Also the producers and other interests will be sending their own representatives, in whom they have confidence. This will do away with political influences that may creep in at the time of appointment of Members to such Boards. I know when such nominations are coming up the Ministry will be subjected to a lot of persuasion because of political pressures whether they like it or not. I would seriously suggest that this matter should be thoroughly gone into.

Finally I would like to say that I support this Bill and I would like to see that there is proper implementation of the replanting scheme, hire purchase scheme and assistance to the small growers.

Thank you.

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर (राजस्थान) : उपसभापति महोदय, ...

श्री उपसभापति : आपने नाम तो नहीं दिया।

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : मेरा अमेंडमेन्ट है, उस पर नहीं बोलूंगा। अभी बोलूंगा।

उपसभापति महोदय, यदि मंत्री महोदय इस विधेयक को किसी विशद बिल की शकल में लाते तो शायद सदन को इसका स्वागत करने में ज्यादा आनंद आता। आज जिस प्रकार से मेनन साहब ने और चित्त बासु ने कहा है, इस उद्योग के ऊपर विदेशियों का प्रभाव ज्यादा भारी रूप में पड़ा हुआ है। अगर सरकार आज एक निर्णय लेती कि इस सारे के सारे उद्योग को, जो भी विदेशी हाथों में है, उनके हाथ से अपने हाथ में ले लेगी और अगर नेशनलाइज भी नहीं करती तो जैसा कि भारतीय जनसंघ में हमने

यह मांग की है कि इस उद्योग का भारतीयकरण किया जाय, इस उद्योग में जितने भी विदेशी लोग लगे हैं, उन सबसे उद्योग को अपने हाथ में लेकर भारतीय लोगों के हाथ में दिया जाये। जिस प्रकार से इस सदन में चर्चा हुई, विदेशी लोगों को पता है किसी न किसी दिन इस उद्योग से हाथ खींचने पर विवश होना पड़ेगा, इसी वास्ते इस उद्योग के विकास का सवाल आता है, तो वे लोग उममें रुचि नहीं लेते और यही कारण है कि जितना उत्पादन इस उद्योग में होना चाहिये, उस उत्पादन के अन्दर जितना हमको आऊटपुट मिलना चाहिये, उतना आऊटपुट हमको नहीं मिलता।

इसके साथ ही उपसभापति महोदय, जहां तक इसकी बिजनेस का सवाल है, जहां तक बाहर के देशों से बिजनेस का सवाल है, जैसा अभी गोडें साहब ने कहा इसका बिजनेस टी बोर्ड नहीं करता, लेकिन टी बोर्ड करोड़ों रु० इसके अंदर देता है। तो इसके बिजनेस के बारे में भी हमको विचार करना चाहिये। हमारे समाजवादी भाइयों की हमेशा मांग आती है चाय के उद्योग का राष्ट्रीयकरण करने के बारे में। चाय के उद्योग का बिजनेस तो हम दुनिया के देशों में करते हैं, पिछले सालों के अंदर हमारा बाहर के देशों से बिजनेस घटा। पिछले 5 सालों की बात अगर हम करें तो हमारी सरकार ने 5 करोड़ रु० टी बोर्ड को दिया लेकिन 5 करोड़ देने के बाद भी आज इसकी बिजनेस में हम दुनिया के और देशों में पिछड़े रहे हैं। जहां तक इसके बिजनेस का सवाल है, मुझे पता लगा कि केवल एक ब्रुक बान्ड कंपनी केवल 46.11 प्रतिशत इसका जो बिजनेस है, वह अकेले इस कम्पनी के हाथ में है। कितना बड़ा प्राफिट यह ब्रुक बान्ड कम्पनी कमाती है। यह अपने देश के अंदर विदेशी लोग इतना बड़ा बिजनेस करें, इसकी तुलना में बाकी और जो भी बिजनेस करने वाले हैं, दुनिया के बाजारों में चाय बेचने वाली तीन विदेशी कंपनियां हैं, तो उसमें एक कंपनी 30.20 परसेन्ट का बिजनेस करती है, दूसरी

कंपनी 16.46 परसेन्ट का करती है और तीसरी 13.56 परसेन्ट बिजनेस करती है, तो इतना ज्यादा पैसा और मुनाफा जो हिन्दुस्तान के लोगों को मिलना चाहिये, अपने देश के बिजनेस सरकार को मिलना चाहिये, वह मारे का मारा वह लोग कमाते हैं। यह टी बोर्ड क्या करत है बैठे बैठे। केवल इसके कि कुछ लोगों का एपोइन्ट कर दिया और प्रोअर्स का इन्वेस्ट नहीं देख रहा है, वह जो नेशन का इन्वेस्ट है, जो नेशन को फायदा मिलना चाहिये, उसको नहीं देख रहे हैं। और मुझे पता लग भारत की जो कंपनी बिजनेस करती है, एक 2.69 और दूसरी 2.9 प्रतिशत। इतना कम बिजनेस हिन्दुस्तान के लोगों का चाय का है। इससे मुझे यह लगता है कि दुनिया के देशों में मकाबले में हमारा जो व्यापार घटा है, शायद कोनिया का बिजनेस हमसे ज्यादा बढ़ता जा रहा है, युगेन्डा का ज्यादा बढ़ रहा है। इसलिये कहना है कि उनका इन्वेस्ट वहां भी हो सकता है। जैसा कि मैंने निवेदन किया। इन विदेशी कर्पार्यों के मन में आशंका हो सकती है कि हिन्दुस्तान के अंदर कभी न कभी हिन्दुस्तान की सरकार एक निर्णय ले कर विदेशी कंपनियों को विदाई दे सकती है कि आप जाइये अपने घर के अंदर। इसलिये अपने हिन्दुस्तान के चाय के इन्वेस्ट को कम करके दुनिया के इन्वेस्ट को बढ़ाने की दृष्टि से ये विदेशी कंपनिय काम करती है। तो मेरा मंत्री जी से निवेदन है कि यह चाय का जो बिजनेस है या तो टी बो अपने हाथ में ले या हिन्दुस्तान के लोगों के हाथ में दे, चाहे तो चाय के बिजनेस का राष्ट्रीयकरण हो, चाहे भारतीयकरण हो। और दूसरे जितने भी प्लांटेशन में विदेशी लोग लगे हुए हैं, वह जिसे यहां चाय का ज्यादा उत्पादन हो, इसमें कभी इन्वेस्ट नहीं लेंगे। वह हमेशा इस बात की चिन्ता में है कि कितनी ज्यादा से ज्यादा पूजा कमाना है। उसमें ज्यादा इन्वेस्टमेंट करने की दृष्टि से वह कभी तैयार नहीं होगा।

इसके साथ मैं एक और निवेदन करूंगा कि इस सारे चाय के उत्पादन की दृष्टि से इसके बारे में मंत्री महोदय समन्वय की नीति अपनाए। जहां तक एग्रिकल्चर का सवाल है, प्रान्तीय सरकार जमीन के ऊपर लगान वसूल करती है, केन्द्रीय सरकार अपनी ड्यूटिया लगाने हैं और मुझे पता लगा कि 1961 के अंदर जहाँ 2 रु० था, आज बढ़ते बढ़ते 20 रुपया लगान बढ़ गया। इतना लगान अगर प्रान्तीय सरकारें बढ़ाती हैं, वह अपने प्रान्त को आवश्यकता के अनुसार बढ़ाती होंगी, केन्द्रीय सरकार अपनी ड्यूटी बढ़ाती जाती है, इतने भारी भरकस रूप से टैक्स बढ़ जाता है। दुनिया के देशों में देखो कीनिया में किम प्रकार प्रोत्साहन दिया जाता है, जहां तक मशीन खरीदने का सवाल आता है, एक्सपोर्ट का सवाल आता है, उत्पादन का सवाल आता है। तो कम से कम टी बोर्ड जिसको आपने बिठाया है इस नाते से भी अध्ययन करे कि दुनिया के और देश अपने चाय उत्पादन करने वालों को किस प्रकार से प्रोत्साहन देते हैं और अपने देश में चाय उगाने वाले जो लोग हैं, उनको हम किस प्रकार से प्रोत्साहन देने हैं। जहां तक बाजारों में हमारी माख घटी है, विदेशों में उसका क्या कारण है। दुनिया के बाजारों में और देशों की तुलना में जो हमारी चाय कम बिकती है, उसका कारण क्या हो सकता है, मंत्री महोदय ने क्या इसको देखने के लिये कोई कमीशन बैठा कर कोई जांच करवाई है? जांच करने के साथ साथ क्या इस बात का प्रयत्न किया गया कि हम क्या सुविधा दे सकते हैं। आज आप सुविधा लेकर आये कि हम उनको सबसिडी देंगे, लेकिन इतने बड़े व्यापार में हम कितने बड़े रूप में सब्सिडी दे सकते हैं। तो सब्सिडी से काम चलने वाला नहीं है। सब्सिडी किसके हाथ में जायेगी। यह ब्रुक वान्ड कंपनी जैसे जो बड़े-बड़े मगरमच्छ बैठे हैं वह खा जायेंगे, जो छोटे उत्पादन करने वाले हैं, उनको कुछ नहीं मिलने वाला है। इसलिये कमीशन बैठे जो इन सारी बातों पर विचार करे कि हमारा उत्पादन क्यों घटता है, दुनिया के बाजारों में भी हमारी माख क्यों घटी है,

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर]

हम उत्पादन कर्ता को कहां से राहत दें, कहां से उमको सहूलियतें दें, उत्पादन को ज्यादा से ज्यादा बढ़ाने की दृष्टि से। इन सारी बातों पर गम्भीरता से सरकार ने विचार नहीं किया। केवल एक दो लाइन का विधेयक ले आई कि देखिये हमने कितना अधिक प्रगतिशील कदम उठाया है। तो आज विस्तृत रूप से चाय के उद्योग के बारे में विचार करना चाहिये, जिसमें चाय का उत्पादन बढ़े, चाय का एक्सपोर्ट बढ़े। इसलिए मंत्री महोदय से मेरा निवेदन है कि यह विधेयक बिल्कुल अनावश्यक है। जहां तक यह सब्सिडी देने का सवाल है, उतने पर हम विचार करें, लेकिन बाकी सारी बातों पर अगर आपने विचार नहीं किया, बाकी सारी बातों पर आपने निर्णय नहीं लिया तो जो भी आप विधेयक लाकर रखें हैं जिस मन्शा से, जिस उद्देश्य से विधेयक लेकर आए हैं, वह पूर्ति आपकी नहीं होगी।

श्री फूल सिंह (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभापति महोदय, यह मेरा विषय नहीं है और न ही मैंने इस बारे में अध्ययन किया है, लेकिन एक वर्कर के नाते मैं इधर-उधर घूमते रहता हूं और इस तरह से थोड़ी बहुत मझ इसके बारे में जानकारी मिल जाती है। इसके साथ ही मेरे रिश्तेदारों के पास कुछ चाय के बगीचे भी हैं और वे कभी-कभी मुझ से पूछते हैं कि यह टी बोर्ड कहा है और यहीं कही दिल्ली में होगा। वे लोग कहते हैं कि चाय बगीचे वालों की बात तो टी बोर्ड वाले सुनते नहीं हैं कि उनकी चाय कहा पर बिकती है और क्या उसका होता है। वे कहते हैं कि हमारी चाय पाकिस्तान अमृतसर के रास्ते से जाती थी, मगर वह रास्ता अब बंद हो गया है और उस तरह से हमारी हालत खराब है। जो छोटी मिकदार में चाय पैदा करने वाले हैं उनकी हालत बहुत खराब है। जब उनसे कहा जाता है कि रिप्लान्ट करें तो वे कहते हैं कि रिप्लान्ट करने से फायदा नहीं है। वे लोग यही शिकायत करते हैं कि हमारी तकलीफों को कोई सुनता नहीं है और हम सोच रहे हैं कि इसको बेच डालें।

इसलिए मेरा निवेदन यह है कि आज जरूरत इस बात की है कि इस बारे में एक कमिशन बिठलाया जाय। जहां इस बारे में इतनी चर्चा हो रही है और जिसके लिए हजारों और करोड़ों रुपया खर्च किया जाता है, वहां पर छोटे चाय वालों की दशा के बारे में कोई खयाल नहीं किया जाता है। आसमान से गिरे खजूर पर अटके, जमीन पर नहीं पहुंचे, वाली कहावत हो रही है। आज जरूरत इस बात की है कि जो छोटे-छोटे टी गार्डन वाले हैं उनकी हालत को देखा जाना चाहिये। उन लोगों को किस तरह से मदद दी जा सके, इस बात का खयाल किया जाना चाहिये। उनके पास पत्ती बनाने के लिए कोई कारखाना नहीं है। वे लोग दो साल से गवर्नमेंट से बिजली के लिए कोशिश कर रहे हैं, लेकिन वह उन्हें नहीं मिल सकी। आप इतना प्रोत्साहन इस इंडस्ट्री को दें रहें हैं, लेकिन उन लोगों को कोई राहत नहीं दी जा रही है। उन लोगों ने खुद अपना इंजन लगा लिया है। इसलिए मेरा निवेदन है कि उनको चाय बनाने, बेचने के तरिके के सबंध में मदद और लोन दिया जाना चाहिये। आपके कागज में तो उनको मदद देने के बारे में है, लेकिन उन्हें कोई मदद नहीं मिल रही है। इसलिए मेरा निवेदन है कि इस बारे में आप कोई कमिशन बिठलायें। आप इस बिल को तो पास कर दें, लेकिन इस समय टी इंडस्ट्री की बहुत बुरी हालत है और टी प्रोड्यूसरों को कुछ पता नहीं कि इस संबन्ध में क्या क्या हो रहा है।

CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK : Sir, I am very thankful to the hon. Members who have participated in the discussion. They have raised certain points which the Government will consider definitely. India is the biggest producer of tea in the world accounting for about 34 per cent of the world's production. It is about 12.7 per cent of India's total exports and its share in the world tea trade is 33.5 per cent. As regards the area under cultivation it is about 3,51,060 hectares as on 31st

March, 1968. Exports in the calendar years are as follows:—

(In million Kgs.)

1965	199 37
1966	179.21
1967	213.68
1968	208 44

The value is as follows:—

(In crores of rupees)

1965	114 97
1966	137 52
1967	189.04
1968	166 48

The production of tea in the country is as follows:—

(In million Kgs.)

1965	366 31
1966	375.40
1967	379.64
1968	400 87

This year our estimate is that it will be round about 415 million kgs.

As regards gardens owned by the sterling tea companies, the point raised by Mr. Chit a Basu, there are at present 118 sterling tea companies in India owning 367 tea estates, out of a total of a little over ten thousand tea estates, that is, approximately 43 per cent of the total area. The production of the sterling companies is approximately 55 per cent of the total and, therefore, it is slightly higher still. The amount of profits remitted by the sterling tea companies during the last five years is:—

1963-64	Rs. 6 8 crores
1964-65	Rs. 6 „
1965-66	Rs. 2.75 „
1966-67	Rs. 2 85 „
1967-68	Rs. 5 04 „

It works out to about 3 per cent of the net worth, which cannot be said to be very large.

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN: Including the book value?

CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK: I have given the figures which I have.

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN: There has been an increase in the book value.

CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK: As regards the trend in exports vis-a-vis other countries, India was exporting in 1968 208.4 million kgs., viz., 33.5 per cent; Ceylon 308 million kgs, viz., 33.4 per cent; Indonesia 37 million kgs., Kenya 28 million kgs; Uganda 11.4 million kgs; Tanzania 7 million kgs; Malawi 15.8 million kgs. and other African countries 21.5 million kgs. It will be seen that our exports accounted for 37 per cent in 1964, which now contribute only to the extent of 33.5 per cent. This apparently has been replaced by tea produced in East African countries which have risen from 7.1 per cent in 1964 to 10.1 per cent in 1968, a slight increase of 3 per cent.

The other point raised by the hon. Member, Shri Phool Singh, is this. टी बोर्ड के बारे में उन्होंने जिक्र करते हुए कहा कि उनको इस बारे में कुछ पता नहीं रहता है। अगर उनको टी बोर्ड के बारे में पता नहीं है, तो वे गवर्नमेंट के पास आ सकते हैं, आपके पास आ सकते हैं और आपके जरिये जो भी सहायता हो सकेगी करेगे और इसमें आपको कोई तकलीफ नहीं होगी। दूसरा श्रीमान, जो प्वाइन्ट श्री माथुर जी ने रज किया कि विदेशी कंपनियों का राष्ट्रीयकरण किया जाय, उसके बारे में सरकार नहीं सोच रही है।

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर: इंडियनाइजेशन किया जाय।

चौधरी राम सेवक: यह तो आलरेडी है।

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव: भारतीयकरण किया जाय।

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN (Kerala): What is the progress of Indianisation?

CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK: As regards new plantations, previously the period was for 50 years. Now, this period we have reduced to 30 years

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and orders will be issued in the near future. With these words, I move that the Bill be passed.

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON : What about the Tea Board employees? They went on strike here.

CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK : I do not have that information.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill further to amend the Tea Act, 1953; as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : We shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2—insertion of new Section 26A

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR : Sir, I move :

3. "That at page 1, line 8, for the words 'of grants or loans' the words 'of loans' be substituted."

क्या आप यह एग्योरेंस दे सकते हैं कि सरकार की ओर से जो सब्सिडी दी जायगी वह केवल इंडियन ग्रीन्स को दी जायगी, विदेशी ग्रीन्स को नहीं दी जायगी ?

चौधरी राम सेवक : जो भी चाय बागान के मालिक टी प्लान्टेशन्स के इम्प्लूमेंट के लिये सब्सिडी मांगेंगे, उनको दी जायगी ।

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : दतना तो कीजिए कि जो स्माल गार्डन्स हैं उन्ही को दीजिए । जो आपसे भी ज्यादा पैसा रखते हैं उनको देने से क्या होगा ।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The question is :

3. "That at page 1, line 8, for the words 'of grants or loans' the words 'of loans' be substituted."

The motion was negatived.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 3—Amendment of section 27

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR : Sir, I move :

4. "That at page 1, line 13, for the words 'of grants or loans' the words 'of loans' be substituted."

The question was put and the motion was negatived.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

Clause 4 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1

CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK : Sir, I move :

2. "That at page 1, line 3, for the figure '1969' the figure '1970' be substituted."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Enacting Formula

CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK : Sir, I move :

1. "That at page 1, line 1, for the word 'Twentieth' the word 'Twenty-first' be substituted."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Enacting Formula, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Enacting Formula, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Title was added to the Bill.

CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK : Sir, I move :

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The question was proposed.

DR. (MRS.) MANGLADEVI TALWAR (Rajastani) : Mr. Deputy Chairman, as the hon. Minister has stated that our export of tea had gone down by about 37 per cent, I would like to know whether it is because of competition in the foreign market, or there is less production in our country or the quality is going down because of labour trouble and other trouble in West Bengal, Assam and other States where there are big gardens. In U. P. where there are small tea gardens they are not being looked after for want of technical know-how, for want of other inputs, as has been stated by the hon. Member here. I would like to know what is the cause of this going down in our export of tea to other countries.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : I find in the Audit Report of 1970 that one tea estate called the Patani tea estate which belonged to a sterling company was taken over or purchased by our Government at a cost of Rs. 18.03 lakhs. But the management of the particular estate was handed over or allowed to remain in the hands of the previous sterling company, and also I find that the tea estate incurred a loss of about Rs. 3 lakhs. I want to know why in the case of this tea estate, without managing the estate themselves, they handed over the management to the previous sterling company; and because of their faulty management that particular estate had to incur a loss of Rs. 3 lakhs. How did this happen? The House is entitled to know that.

Again I want only to point out another thing. My argument has been further reinforced by my friend Mr. Gowda that our Indian tea is not fetching the just and genuine price in the

retail market, and the reason he has shown, it might be correct, that we have got no blending arrangement in the London market. I want to know whether the Tea Board would also be allowed or asked or instructed to do the tea blending business in London so that it may fetch the just and genuine price for Indian tea, because by the way of that price mechanism we are losing very heavy amount.

The third point I want to make out is this that the Tea Board workers have a lot of grievances against the management, and it has also been brought to the notice of the Government. I think the Government should assure the House that the legitimate and just grievances of the Tea Board workers will be properly attended to and an early redressal of their grievances would be made, and it is all the more necessary because of the fact that they are toiling and I think that they should have just treatment from the Government. These are my points.

SHRI U. K. LAKSHMANA GOWDA : The Tea Board is also assisting tea research as one of the necessary items for the development of the tea industry in this country. In South India the producers' association itself is running a tea research Institute which is working very well, and the Government out of the cess collected has given certain capital grants. Since there is an element for research also in the cess collected, the tea research Institute has been requesting for some grants for recurring expenditure as well. And I believe that is under the consideration of the Government and I request the hon. Minister to look into it and see that more assistance is given, that in addition to the capital grants, something is provided for recurring expenditure as well. So far as the question of tea research is concerned, it is one of the main functions of the Tea Board and nobody in this House will have any objection to it. We would like the research to go ahead and see that there is increase in tea production and there is lowering of cost of production so that we will be in a better position to handle our tea in the world market.

CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK : Certain points were raised by the hon. Dr. (Mrs.) Mangladevi Talwar about the U.P. tea garden. In U.P. mostly green tea is produced and we are ex-

[Chowdhary Ram Sewak]

porting this green tea to Japan, Morocco and Afghanistan and there is a great demand for it. So I do not think there is any difficulty to the growers in U.P.

Then, as regards the fall in value which is realised as compared to the previous years, Sir, India and Ceylon have discussed this matter at length and now the producing countries have decided to withdraw 90 million lbs. of tea from the world market from their estimated exports for 1970 so that the unit value should go up.

As regards Pathani Tea Garden which has been purchased by the Government for Rs. 18.03 lakhs, it is correct that it has been given to the agents of the previous owner to run it. Now, the Government is thinking of giving it to another party because it is not in a position to run it profitably.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Why was the management given back to the previous company? What was the reason?

CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK : As regards the schemes undertaken by the Tea Board for the tea garden employees, under Section 10(2)(1) of the Tea Act, 1953, the Tea Board undertakes measures for the welfare of tea garden employees and their wards in addition to the statutory obligations of employers under the Plantation Labour Act which is administered by the State Governments. A grant of Rs. 10 lakhs is given to the Tea Board for the purpose of labour welfare. This is utilised for the purpose of payment of stipends under the Board's educational stipends scheme to the children or dependants of tea garden workers and for general welfare schemes. The general welfare schemes include capital grants to medical institutions for extension of facilities for specialised treatments, viz., T.B., ophthalmic, surgery, X-ray facilities, assistance to dependants of tea garden workers to get training in useful technical and vocational trades for their own gainful employment, grant for appointment of district scout organisers for organising scout movement in the tea plantations and grant in favour of plantation associations for holding sports.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : What about the other points raised?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

THE CENTRAL SILK BOARD (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1969

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Chowdhary Ram Sewak.

वैदेशिक व्यापार मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (चौधरी राम सेवक) : माननीय उपसभापति महोदय ।

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI (Maharashtra) : Not today.

CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK : Let me have my opening speech.

श्रीमान्, मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूँ : "कि केन्द्रीय रेशम बोर्ड अधिनियम, 1948 में आगे संशोधन करने वाले विधेयक पर, लोक सभा द्वारा पारित रूप में, विचार किया जाये।" विधेयक का उद्देश्य मूल अधिनियम में कतिपय संशोधन करना है। इसमें पहले कि मैं संशोधनों के मुख्य लक्ष्य तथा कार्यक्षेत्र का वर्णन करूँ, मैं आपकी अनुमति से इस अवसर पर वर्ष 1948 में केन्द्रीय रेशम बोर्ड के अधिनियम की परिस्थितियों का उल्लेख करते हुए उस अधिनियम के उपबन्धों के अधीन दो दशक पूर्व स्थापित बोर्ड द्वारा किये गये कार्य के बारे में कुछ शब्द कहना चाहूँगा।

भारत में रेशम उत्पादन एक प्राचीन उद्योग है और मैसूर, पश्चिम बंगाल, जम्मू तथा काश्मीर, आसाम, बिहार, मध्य प्रदेश तथा उड़ीसा जैसे रेशम उत्पादक राज्यों के समुदायों के सामाजिक, आर्थिक जीवन में गहरे पंठा हुआ है। इसके उत्पादों ने युगो पहले सुदूर के बाजारों में भी प्रतिष्ठा प्राप्त की थी। इसके माध्यम में कई उतार चढ़ाव आये। दूसरे महायुद्ध के दौरान रेशमी पैराशूटों की मांग में अचानक तेजी आ जाने के फलस्वरूप इस उद्योग ने बहुत उन्नति की। उसके उपरान्त शोध ही उद्योग ने अपने को बिलकुल विनाश के कगार पर पाया।