

progress. Something in the shape of periodical advertisements in newspapers and some other methods have been done but they are not enough. Efforts will have to be made to make it a mass movement and unless this is done appreciable results cannot be achieved. In that we earnestly solicit the co-operation and help of the hon'ble Members of the House. If they come forward and help us, I see no reason why this movement should not succeed.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is :

"That the Bill further to amend the Unit Trust of India Act, 1963, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up the clause by clause consideration of the Bill,

Clauses 2 to 11 were added to the Bill.

The Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: Madam. I move:

"That the Bill be passed."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE PRODUCE CESS BILL, 1966

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The time allotted is one hour.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI S. D. MISRA) : I beg to move :

"That the Bill to provide for the imposition of cess on certain produce for the improvement and development

of the methods of cultivation and marketing of such produce and for matters connected therewith, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Madam, this Bill has already been passed as amended in the Lok Sabha. There are four Acts—The Indian Cotton Cess Act, 1923, the Indian Lac Cess Act, 1930, the Indian Coconut Committee Act, 1944, and the Indian Oilseeds Committee Act, 1946. According to these Acts there were four Commodity Boards. So far under these Acts there was imposition of cess in the form of duty and also some excise duty which was being charged. But now these Acts are repealed and we have also dissolved the Commodity Boards. Through this Act we are proposing to have Commodity Boards in a different form, in the form of Advisory Development Councils. The research and educational part of these commodities will be taken care of by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute which is at the Centre and certain funds are needed for this research and education programme. All the details and the purpose of this enactment have been given in the Bill. I need not elaborate them. It is a simple Bill.

Madam, I move.

The question was proposed.

SHRI K. SUNDARAM (Madras): Madam Deputy Chairman, the Government has not taken the opportunity for examining the working of the Cess Bills during the past years. They should have taken this opportunity to examine how these Cess Bills had been working during the past three years. They should have taken this opportunity for making the necessary amendments before they introduced this Bill. This Bill is intended for collecting cess on agricultural commodities. The Minister has mentioned four commodities. I am particularly referring to the cess that is being collected on cotton. It had been the practice to collect cess not on the agricultural commodity, namely, *kapas*. But

[Shri K. Sundaram.] they had been collecting the cess on a partly finished product, namely, cotton. Even that they have not collected at the stage where the cotton is prepared or the lint is separated from the cotton seed. But they wait until the commodities reach a point where it is consumed or manufactured in the form of yarn. This is not fair. There are certain places where the lint, after separating it from cotton seed, is being used for other purposes than cotton yarn. If the Government is interested in collecting the cess for the development of cotton, it ought to collect at the stage where the first operation takes place, i.e. separating the seed from the lint. The cess must be collected in the ginning factory where this process takes place. No doubt all these years cotton lint has been used only for the purpose of manufacturing cloth and the first stage is spinning. Even this Bill, as envisaged, makes a provision only for collecting cess in a mill where the product is manufactured mechanically. Where the cotton is used by hand-spinning the cess is not collected. Where the lint is being used for other purposes, particularly felt cloth, the cess is not to be collected. Therefore it is unfair and unjust to collect the cess at the stage where it is manufactured in the form of yarn. Therefore I would propose an amendment to this Bill that the cess on cotton should be collected at the first stage of the agricultural commodity, namely, kapas, at the ginning factory.

श्री रमेशचन्द्र शंकरराव खांडेकर (मध्य प्रदेश) : उपसभापति जी, यह जो प्रोड्यूस सेस बिल इस सदन में माननीय मंत्री जी लाये हैं वह कपास के बारे में, लाख के बारे में, आयल सीड्स के बारे में, कोकोनट के बारे में जो कानून थे उनके समाप्त हो जाने से, उनके तहत जो कमेटीज बनी थीं उनके समाप्त हो जाने से और उनके लिये जो पैसा लेने का अधिकार था वह समाप्त हो जाने से, यह बिल इस सदन में लाया गया है। मुझे यह कहने में बड़ा दुःख होता है कि इसमें शूगर केन नहीं है लेकिन सेंट्रल शूगर केन कमेटी में भी एक सदस्य था और इतिफाक यह हुआ कि जो

पहली मीटिंग शूगर केन कमेटी की हुई उसी मीटिंग में जो बोर्ड बनाया गया था उसको समाप्त करने का निर्णय ले लिया गया और वह सब काम उल्टा हुआ, पहले सरकार ने यह निश्चय कर लिया कि हम शूगर डेवलपमेंट कौंसिल को समाप्त करेंगे और फिर यह निर्णय जो है वह उस कमेटी में लाया गया। उसी प्रकार यह रिसर्च एंड डेवलपमेंट बोर्ड था उसके बारे में सरकार ने पहले निर्णय लिया कि हम उसको समाप्त करेंगे और उसके बाद उस कौंसिल में यह प्रस्ताव लाया गया। यह बड़ा उल्टा काम किया। यह नहीं देखा गया कि वस्तुतः जो डेवलपमेंट बोर्ड्स हैं वे वाकई में कुछ काम करते हैं या नहीं करते हैं, उसकी कोई उपयोगिता है या नहीं और उसको न देखते हुए सरकार ने एक निर्णय ले लिया और वह निर्णय उस कौंसिल पर थोप दिया गया। मुझे नहीं मालूम कि ऐसे निर्णय क्यों लिये जाते हैं। अलग-अलग एक्ट्स के तहत जो बोर्ड्स थे उनको जो अधिकार दिया गया था वह सही तरीके से इस्तेमाल होता है या नहीं इसके बारे में कोई जांच नहीं की गई और इसको समाप्त करने का प्रस्ताव पिछली बार सदन में लाया गया और उस प्रस्ताव से ये सब बोर्ड्स समाप्त कर दिये गये। अब एक दफा तो सरकार वह समाप्त कर देती है और दूसरी तरफ से फिर वही बोर्ड्स कायम किये जाते हैं। सेंट्रल शूगर केन कमेटी के बारे में भी यही हुआ कि डेवलपमेंट कौंसिल समाप्त कर दी गई और फिर कमोडिटी डेवलपमेंट कौंसिल बना कर वही बोर्ड्स बनाया और उनमें अधिकांशतः सरकारी अफसरों का रिप्रेजेंटेशन ज्यादा है, उससे क्या डेवलपमेंट और एडवाइस होगी यह कुछ समझ में नहीं आता। अब यह जो काटन सीड और कोकोनट के बारे में है उसकी मुझे अधिक जानकारी नहीं है लेकिन मेरे विचार से उसी प्रकार की कमोडिटी कौंसिल्स इनके बारे में भी सरकार ने बनाई होगी और उसमें केवल एक सलाह मशविरा देने वाला एक बोर्ड कायम किया होगा।

तो मेरा निवेदन यह था कि सरकार एक चीज को समाप्त करती है और फिर दूसरी उसी के मुताबिक थोड़ा सा हेरफेर कर के कायम करती है, तो समझ में नहीं आता कि इस प्रकार का अपव्यय सरकार क्यों करती है। अच्छा यह होता कि वही जो बोर्ड्स हैं, वही जो कौंसिल्स हैं, उनका ही उपयोग किया जाता और उनकी मार्फत से काम लिया जाता खैर, अब तो वह बोर्ड समाप्त हो गया है और कमोडिटी कौंसिल्स बन गई हैं और उनकी तरफ से जो सलाह मिलेगी उसके मुताबिक सरकार काम करेगी ऐसी आशा है। इस प्रोड्यूस सेस बिल में यह अधिकार दिया गया है कि ये जो चीजें हैं, काटन है, लाख है, उसके ऊपर सरकार सेस लगाएगी, कर लगाएगी। कर लगाने में कोई आपत्ति तो नहीं होनी चाहिये लेकिन देखना यह है कि जो कर लगाया जाता है उसका कुछ सही उपयोग भी होता है कि नहीं होता है। आज इतने साल से इन्डियन काउन्सिल आफ एग्रिकलचरल रिसर्च में कई तरह की संस्थाएं एग्रिकलचर विभाग में काम कर रही हैं लेकिन कोई भी इस प्रकार का स्पेक्टैक्युलर कार्य नहीं मालूम पड़ता है कि जिससे कहा जा सके कुछ अधिक फायदा हुआ है या नहीं हुआ है। आप जानती हैं, यहाँ खेती की क्या स्थिति है। इतने साल बाद भी आज तक हम काश्तकारों को सस्ते में खाद नहीं दे सके, न हम आज तक इतना भी कर सके कि उनकी जो क्रॉप्स हैं उनकी कीटाणुओं से या एपीडेमिक्स से रक्षा कर सकें। आज तक कोई भी इस प्रकार का प्रयास नहीं किया गया और जो कुछ किया गया उसमें काफी पैसा खर्च हुआ है लेकिन उससे कोई नतीजा नहीं निकला है या उसमें फायदा बिलकुल नहीं हुआ है। अब यह सरकार कहती है कि हम सेस लगाकर उसके डेवलपमेंट के बारे में और रिसर्च के बारे में मदद करेंगे। लेकिन इस पर कोई विश्वास नहीं कर सकता है। यह भी मालूम नहीं है कि यह कर जो लगाया जायेगा, जो करोड़ों का होगा, उसमें से कितना एकचुअली काश्तकारों को फायदा होगा कितना सेस में

मिलेगा और किस प्रकार डेवलपमेंट में उसका उपयोग किया जायेगा। उसके बारे में कोई कल्पना सरकार की ओर से नहीं की गई है। अच्छा तो यह था सरकार यह कहती कि ये जो रिसर्च का काम भिन्न-भिन्न क्षेत्रों में भिन्न-भिन्न लोग करते हैं उसकी बजाय हम एक ही जगह सेस का काम करेंगे और बाकी जो डेवलपमेंट होगी वे खासी सलाह मंशविरा देंगी। यह तो ठीक है कि एक जगह रिसर्च होगी लेकिन एक जगह रिसर्च करने के बाद भी उनके पास बितने साधन हैं और कितना काम उनके द्वारा हो सकेगा इसके बारे में शंका का निर्माण होता है कि उस रिसर्च का फायदा आम लोगों तक, आम काश्तकार तक पहुँचेगा भी कि नहीं। आज तक का अनुभव यह है कि कि उनको लाभ नहीं मिला और आयंदा भी कितना मिलेगा यह कुछ नहीं कहा जा सकता। इसलिये सरकार का यह जो रवैया है कि एक जो इन्स्टीट्यूशन चल रहा है उसको खत्म करके फिर दूसरा करना और इस तरह करने से जो पैसा बरबाद होता है और आम लोगों तक, काश्तकारों तक उसका फायदा भी नहीं पहुँचता है, वह गलत है।

एक सवाल यह भी यहाँ पर लाया जा सकता है कि कर बढ़ाने से हम देखते हैं कि जो रुपया मिलता है उससे वस्तुतः डेवलपमेंट तो कोई होता है नहीं और जब डेवलपमेंट नहीं होता है तो सरकार को इस तरह के कर लगाने का कोई अधिकार नहीं है और इस प्रकार कर लगाने से बैसे भी कीमतें बढ़ जाती हैं। अगर उसके काश्तकारों को भी रेम्यूनरेटिव प्राइसेज मिलें तो समझ में आने वाली बात है लेकिन इसका जो फायदा मिलेगा वह सरकारी अफसरों को मिलेगा और सरकारी कामों में उसको व्यय किया जायेगा। इससे काश्तकारों को कोई अधिक फायदा मिलेगा ऐसा नहीं मालूम पड़ता।

फिर इस बिल में एक व्यवस्था यह है कि कुछ पैसा जो लिया जायेगा वह वापस किया जायेगा या मिल ओनर्स को वापस किया

[श्री रमेशचन्द्र शंकरराव खांडेकर]

जायेगा। एक तो बात यह है कि इसमें हिस्साव किताब करने में काफी दिक्कत पड़ेगी। ऐसी मुझे आशंका है। कौन पैसा इकट्ठा करेगा और किस प्रकार उसको वापस किया जायेगा यह कुछ समय में जाने की बात नहीं है और फिर यह जो रिफंड वाली बात है मिल मालिकों को देने की, इसमें क्या सुविधा है कि अगर किसी मिल मालिक का पैसा है तो वह पैसा उसको कैसे वापस किया जायेगा। यह समय में नहीं आता, इसके बारे में मंत्री जी प्रकाश डालेंगे कि यह रिफंड करने की व्यवस्था इस बिल में क्यों की गई है।

जब हम इस प्रकार का टैक्स लगाते हैं तब हमारा यह फर्ज हो जाता है कि जो ऐसी चीजें हैं जैसे काटन है, लाख है, जिसके द्वारा हम को काफी विदेशी मुद्रा मिल सकती है, उनका अगर हम अच्छी तरह से उत्पादन करें और अधिक से अधिक मात्रा में उत्पादन करें तो विदेशों में भेजकर हमको काफी मुद्रा मिल सकती है। लेकिन इसके बारे में कोई अधिक प्रयत्न दीखता नहीं है कि क्या किया जा रहा है। इस क्षेत्र में काफी 'पोटेन्शियल' है। मुझे भी मालूम है कि लाख की जो इन्डस्ट्री है, लाख का जो धंधा है वह देश के अन्दर और हमारे प्रदेश में भी काफी है। हमारे यहाँ काफी लाख होता है, जंगलों में पैदा होता है लेकिन आज तक लाख को एकत्रित करने का और उसको बाहर भेजने का सिस्टेमेटिक प्रयत्न नहीं हुआ है। उसकी तरफ जितना ध्यान देना चाहिये उतना अभी तक नहीं दिया गया। अगर इसके संबंध में सरकार अधिक पैसा खर्च करे और उस लाख को जो काफी महत्व की वस्तु है बाहर भेजा गया तो मैं समझता हूँ कि काफी उसका फायदा गरीब देशवासियों को और कानूनी कार्यों को होगा और उससे हमको विदेशी मुद्रा भी मिलेगी और इस संबंध में अगर प्रयत्न किये गये तो बड़ी अच्छी बात होगी।

काटन और आयल सीड्स के बारे में भी यही बात है। आज तक इतने साल हो गये, अनाज की तो बात ही छोड़िये, यहाँ पर कपास का भी उत्पादन दिन ब दिन कम होता जा रहा है और हमको अभी भी अच्छे किस्म को कपास बाहर से मंगानी पड़ती है। तो इन सब चीजों को देखते हुए मैं यही निवेदन करूँगा कि अब सरकार इस प्रकार का जो कर लगा रही है, उसका अधिकार ले रही है, तो उससे प्राप्त होने वाले पैसों का उपयोग अच्छा होना चाहिये।

अंत में एक बात यह कहना चाहूँगा कि जो कमोडिटी काउन्सिल रखी गई है उनका उपयोग माननीय मंत्री जी ने कहा कोई खास सलाह देने के लिये नहीं है। लेकिन अनुभव यह है कि उनकी चर्चाओं में भी कभी-कभी अच्छे सुझाव आते हैं। और सरकार को देखना चाहिये कि अब तो केवल अधिक मात्रा में सरकारी अफसरों की कमेटी हो गई, पहले तो उसमें भिन्न-भिन्न इन्टरैस्ट आते थे लेकिन फिर भी अगर यह कमोडिटी काउन्सिल कोई सलाह मशविरा दे तो सरकार को चाहिये कि यह न समझे कि चूँकि कमेटी से यह सलाह आई है इसलिये उसको नजर अंदाज कर दें, बल्कि उनके सुझाव पर भी विचार करना चाहिये। हमको इसके लिये अधिक प्रयास करना चाहिये कि जिस चीज के लिये ये कर लगा रहे हैं उनसे इस देश में अधिक उत्पादन होगा और विदेशी मुद्रा प्राप्त करने के लिये उसको बाहर भी भेजा जायेगा। धन्यवाद

THE MINISTER OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): Madam Deputy Chairman, certain points were raised by the hon. Members who spoke now. The hon. Member from Madras raised the question as to the point at which the cess would be collected for cotton. I may say that the point at which it has all along been collected will be the point

at which it will be collected and the old Act has not been changed and we are not introducing any new principle. As far as the definition of "mill" is concerned, there also, the definition will be the same as we have been having all these years in the old Act. It has worked all right all these years and I do not think there will be any difficulty with regard to the working of this measure.

The hon. Member who spoke last made many points with regard to the abolition of the commodity committees and with regard to the functioning of research in our country and the various developmental activities. I would like to inform the House that this matter of agricultural research has been gone into by so many expert committees at various stages and one unanimous recommendation which has been made by all the committees is that all the research activities should come under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. Till now the practice has been for the Commodity Committees to have their research programmes. Even though the ICAR came into the picture for the purpose of offering financial assistance for certain schemes, they had their own research laboratories and they had their own research workers so much so that in the context of the availability of scientists it has not been possible for the various commodities to engage top men for the purpose of carrying on research with reference to those various commodities. They had to be satisfied with third rate men even though in some cases it might have been possible for them to engage a few who were really of good quality. Therefore research work carried on by these Commodity Committees did not make any impact with regard to the development of these commodities. For example, if you take coconuts, for the last so many years the coconut trees have been affected with various diseases. In spite of the research work having been carried on for years it has not been possible to identify this disease, this pest, and take remedial measures. That was mainly because research was not being made in full and sufficient number of qualified men were not put on the job and it was not possible for them first

of all financially to employ people and also physically get the number of men required for the purpose. That is why the recommendation has been made mainly on this basis that it is necessary to bring all the resources, particularly the human resources, available under one category and put them on the various jobs to make an effective contribution in the research field.

1 P.M.

Another factor which is brought out in all these reports is this. It is all right in the initial stages to have research work based on individual commodities. After a certain stage the research work cannot be confined to one commodity alone. As a matter of fact whenever research work is taken up certain facts are thrown up; they may not be relevant for the particular commodity but they may be relevant for some other commodity but in the present context they are lost because the whole thing is one-commodity-oriented. That is why research has to be more comprehensive particularly in the present context so that when any research is done whatever facts are thrown up, they would be used in the relevant field whereas all along they were being wasted since research was purely commodity-oriented. Therefore the recommendation was made that all this commodity research should be brought under the I.C.A.R. and they should be able to put on these various problems sufficiently qualified men in sufficient numbers to see that results are achieved. It is on that basis that the I.C.A.R. has been reorganised and that matter has already been placed before Parliament. Now the approach is to have, what is called, a coordinated research programme with reference to the various commodities. Wherever work is carried on with reference to a particular commodity that is sent to a central coordinator so much so that all the facts thrown up and whatever has been discovered in the various research laboratories would be coordinated and on that basis further work would be programmed. And I can assure the House that because of this coordinated research programme it had been possible to achieve

[Shri C. Subramaniam]

various results with regard to hybrid seeds which have been evolved and with regard to the various pests and disease of wheat, rice, etc. Therefore I have, no doubt in my mind, having looked into the working of the I.C.A.R. and the work of the research programme, that the new arrangement is going to pay dividends. That is one aspect of it.

Secondly, these Commodity Committees were concerned with developmental activities also but unfortunately these developmental activities were not carried on by these Commodity Committees. They were confining themselves mainly to the research programmes and the developmental activities had been taken over by the State Governments. So there have been no coordinated activities with regard to development. Therefore the developmental activity has now been taken over by the Agriculture Department at the Centre so that we may be able to coordinate the activities which are being carried on at various levels. That is how we came to the conclusion that the autonomous Commodity Committees had no longer any function to discharge and therefore they have to be abolished. It is on that basis that we sought the permission of Parliament and abolished these Committees and in their place advisory Development Councils have been formed. It is not as if the composition has been altered. As a matter of fact, it is the members of the Commodity Committees who have been constituted into these Development Councils but they have only an advisory role and whatever advice they give. I am sure, will be taken note of for the purpose of research work and also for developmental activities. Now under the various Commodity Acts we collect a cess for the purpose of utilising it for the research programmes and developmental activities and it is not as if we are going to use only what we are going to collect. Whereas the collection amounts to one crore and odd, we are spending nearly Rs. 4 crores. Actually we collect Rs. 1.3 crores. It is not as if this will be adequate for our activities; as we go along this sum of Rs. 4 crores is bound to increase, to five crores.

ten crores and so on. Quite a number of research activities will have to be undertaken; in the same way a number of developmental activities will also have to be taken up at various levels. And this is only a portion of it. Therefore I would respectfully submit that we are

needing in the right direction with regard to organisation of research; we are proceeding in the right direction with regard to organising the various developmental activities and I can assure the House that we are going to see, if I may

so, very significant results, particularly in the field of research especially with the fine material of young scientists we have engaged in these various research programmes. It is on the basis of this new research programme, it is on the basis of our development programme, that we can have, what we call, a new agriculture based on science and technology and therefore this has got to be the basis for the development of our agriculture and I hope the House would agree to the passing of this Bill. We will see, as has been pointed out by hon. Members, that this amount is utilised in a purposeful way which will lead to very many beneficial activities under the research programme and under the development programme and I hope the House will give its unanimous concurrence to this Bill.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is :

"The Bill to provide for the imposition of cess on certain produce for the improvement and development of the methods of cultivation and marketing of such produce and for matters connected therewith, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

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

Clauses 2 to 22 the First Schedule and the Second Schedule were added to the Bill.

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

"SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Madam, I move :

"That the Bill be returned."

The question was proposed.

SHRIMATI C. AMMANNA RAJA (Andhra Pradesh) : I just want to know from the hon. Minister whether they will have any control over the prices of coconut and oil seeds. The price of oil has risen and it is in no proportion to what it used to be. It has risen very high. They are trying to do something for the business people with regard to marketing etc. They have also to take the difficulties of the consumers into consideration. I do not know whether the Minister knows the prices of these things now. It used to be Rs. 40 for one tin of gingelly oil and it is now Rs. 80. There is no proportion at all. One coconut costs one rupee. The coconut oil is also very costly. Even if the coconut trees have some disease, the fibre is used for making coir and they are not put to a very great loss. Whereas the price of rice is fixed, the price of these things is not fixed. So I want to know from the Minister . . .

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Minister himself is a consumer and so he should know.

SHRIMATI C. AMMANNA RAJA : I do not know. He may not be a consumer of my type and so he may not feel the difficulties. I would like to know from him whether anything will be done in this respect.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Madam, this is a very relevant point, though not relevant to the Bill as such. Ultimately even the price depends upon increased production. Whenever there is a decrease in production, a fall in production, to that extent the price also increases. Unfortunately there is scarcity with re to oil because during 1965-66 the production of oil seeds went down considerably, to the extent of nearly 25 per cent, and that is being reflected in the demand and supply position. That is why the prices have gone up. I am fully aware, of the position. We are

trying to take various measures for this purpose. In this case you cannot have an immediate increase in production because you have to wait for the next season for the production of oil seeds. We are intending to import edible oil from various sources for the purpose of controlling the price and I hope it will have a softening effect on the prices.

DR. SHRIMATI PHULRENU GUHA (West Bengal) : I would like to know . . . THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Minister has replied. Technically you cannot stand up after the Minister has given his reply. But you can ask for a clarification.

DR. SHRIMATI PHULRENU GUHA: Yes, a clarification. My point is this. The Minister has given us a very good picture of research and all these things, but we know that it takes a long time for the result to go to the field, to go to the real people, who would utilise the result of the research. So, I would like to know what procedure they are going to adopt so that the results of research are utilised by the people and our production can be increased thereby.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: This can be done only by effective extension work and I am sure the hon. Member is aware that now we are trying to bring about co-ordination between research, education and extension. It is only by effective extension work we will be able to pass on the results obtained in the laboratories to the field. As a matter of fact, as soon as anything is known in the laboratory, we try to utilise it in the field. Otherwise, all the development work that has taken place in the agricultural sector would not have taken place, particularly during the last eighteen months.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is :

"That the Bill be returned."

The motion was adopted."

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned till 2.30 P.M.

The House then adjourned for lunch at twelve minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at half-past two of the clock, THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. UHAROVA) in the Chair'.

THE ORISSA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (EXTENSION OF DURATION) BILL, 1966

THE MINISTER OF LAW (SHRI G. S. PATHAK) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill to provide for the extension of the duration of the present Legislative Assembly of the State of Orissa, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Hon. Members of this House must have noticed that the 20th August of this year is the last date for the duration of the Legislative Assembly of Orissa. Now, it is considered advisable in the circumstances that there should be simultaneous elections to the Assembly and to Parliament in February, 1967. If there is election now to the Orissa Assembly and election to Parliament later in February, 1967, there will be duplication of electoral work Parties who stand as candidates in the elections will have to incur expenditure on two occasions and the Parties, as well as the Government, will have unnecessarily to bear the expenditure.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA (Orissa): I should like to have a piece of information at this stage. What was the election expense when it was held separately and what it was when it was held jointly ? I would like to know it, in the course of your speech, so that we can take it up.

SHRI G. S. PATHAK: There will be duplication of work. Officers, who will be concerned with conducting the elec-

tions, are engaged in relief work. They will be taken away from the relief work and will be employed in the election work. The people themselves, who are living in conditions brought about by the draught, will also have to undergo the trouble of voting twice. Therefore, for all these reasons, there is very good justification for the exercise of the power conferred by Parliament under article 172, clause (1), proviso. The Constitution has given power to Parliament to extend the duration of a Legislative Assembly by one year. Now, this duration is sought to be extended up to the 1st day of March, 1967, so that elections to the State Assembly and the general elections may synchronise. I hope that this Bill will meet with unanimous support in this House and will be passed, as it was passed in, the Lok Sabha.

The question was propose I.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN (Andhra Pradesh): May I, with your permission, ask the hon. Law Minister whether the Government here in Parliament and in the Assembly consulted the Opposition Parties in this matter ?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Uttar Pradesh): No.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: I have to put another question.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA) : You can start your speech now.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: Mr. Vice-Chairman, I had occasion today to listen to one of the briefest speeches, while sponsoring a Bill, by any of the Ministers during my six years in Rajya Sabha.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN: The matter is very brief and the Law Minister is very precise.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: The explanation is evident. The only explanation is that there is absolutely nothing to justify it. The hon. Minister had absolutely no argument to put forward