

because we have to see that the corporate sector is run not only efficiently but is also known to run honestly. It must be motivated by a public purpose. If it does not do so, then the regulatory measures that we have got, the amendments for the approval of which we have come before this House, must make it do so. In that spirit, Madam, I think the suggestions of the hon. Members are very welcome. That is why also we have suggested a Joint Committee which should go into this question very carefully. I have no doubt that after the deliberation of the Joint Committee, the Bill will come back improved and will carry the desire of the people and the House for better management, more efficient and more honest management of the corporate sector so that the faith of the investing public is not shaken. If the faith of the investing public is shaken either by fraudulent methods or repeated violations of the regulatory measures than that will be the end of corporate management. It will be the desire neither of this House nor of the people to bring about such an end even though some of the people in that line by their actions are leading towards such an end. If it is their desire to continue these malpractices and if these regulatory measures are not able to check that tendency then ultimately the faith of the people, the investing public, will be shaken and this will bring about the end of the private sector. I do not think anyone will be happy at that end. There is time and till that time when the faith of the investing public is shaken, it is the desire of the House and the people that these regulatory measures should guide the people towards efficient and honest management of the corporate sector because that sector has some contribution to make towards the economic development of the country. All our efforts will be directed towards that end and I can assure the House that the Joint Committee will address itself to this task in that spirit and when we come back to the House, the

House, I am sure, will give a welcome support to the measure as emerging from the Joint Committee because it will be an improvement from the present measure and better represent the wishes of the House.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That this House concurs in the recommendation of the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do join in the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Bill, further to amend the Companies Act, 1956, and resolves that the following members of the Rajya Sabha be nominated to serve on the said Joint Committee:

1. Shri L. D. Asthana
2. Shri Mohan Singh
3. Shri Babubhai M. Chinai
4. Shri V. M. Chordia
5. Shri Khandubhai K. Desai
6. Shri Suresh J. Desai
7. Shrimati Shyam Kumari Khan
8. Prof. M. B. Lal
9. Shri Dahyabhai V. Patel
10. Shri P. Ramamurti
11. Shri N. Sri Rama Reddy
12. Shri Awadheshwar Prasad Sinha
13. Shri Rajendra Pratap Sinha
14. Shri H. V. Tripathi
15. Shri Ramesh Chandra Vyas."

The motion was adopted.

THE STANDARDS OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1964

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY): Madam Deputy Chairman, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Standards of Weights and

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Measures Act, 1956, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

According to the Constitution of India 'Establishment of Standards of Weight and Measure' is a Central responsibility. In fulfilment of this responsibility, the Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1956 was promulgated. It defined the various standard or fundamental units like the metre, kilogram, second, ampere etc. In view of the adoption of the metric system in India, only the metric units were defined in the Act. As the units were of a fundamental nature, only internationally accepted definitions of them were included in this Act.

The work of scientifically defining the various units of weights and measures is carried out by an international body, called the General Conference on Weights and Measures, set up under the authority of the 'Metre Convention' of which India and 35 other advanced countries are members. The definitions recommended by the General Conference, normally held every six years, are incorporated in their laws by all the countries in the world. Even the United Kingdom under its Weights and Measures Act, 1963, has by notification defined the various units in accordance with the recommendations of the General Conference on Weights and Measures.

The definitions recommended by the General Conference, based on long and complicated researches in a number of laboratories, are highly scientific and technical in nature. With the advance of science and the continuous improvement in accuracy of measurements, the various units are being defined with greater and greater accuracy. This applies particularly to the metre and the second.

The Eleventh General Conference of Weights and Measures held in October 1960, had to change the

definitions of the metre and the second, so as to make them more accurate than they were previously.

With the new definition, the metre is again being related to a natural physical constant, the wavelength of light, instead of to the material standard as was done so far. As a result of the change of the definition of the metre, the certification of the national prototype of India in terms of the international prototype will not now be done against the platinum-iridium bar, but in terms of the new metre. This requires a change in section 3(2).

The Eleventh General Conference of Weights and Measures also made a change in the definition of the 'second' by extending its accuracy to one more decimal place. Sub-section (2) of section 5 is, therefore, amended to introduce this more accurate definition.

The Ministry of Defence had proposed that the nautical mile should be recognised in the Act as a unit of distance for navigation by sea and air. The definition included in the amending Bill has been internationally accepted for measurement of distance by sea by the International Hydrographic Conference and for distance by air by the International Civil Aviation Organisation.

The new definitions of the 'metre' and the 'second' would not affect the weights, measures and weighing and measuring instruments used in trade and industry. They will, however, enable the measurements of various subsidiary standards to be carried out more accurately for scientific and technological purposes.

A note has already been circulated to Members explaining the technical background of the definitions of the metre, second and the nautical mile. In view of the extremely scientific nature of these definitions and their international acceptance, we should accept them too.

I commend that the Bill may be taken into consideration.

The question was proposed.

SHRI N. PATRA (Orissa): Madam, I rise to support this Bill. This is a good measure. This is a scientific approach and this has been adopted throughout the world. Now, our people have also gradually accepted the decimal system. In the beginning opinions were expressed that our people are not educated and therefore it will be difficult for them to take to this scientific method. Now, what do we see now? Our laymen, people without any knowledge also, are able to get used to this decimal system. As I said, this is a scientific approach and we should accept this measure, as we can't remain isolated. We are thinking of one world and this measure takes us nearer to that concept of one world dreamt by that great American statesman, late lamented Mr. Wendell Wilkie. And the idea of one world is also being mooted in the deliberations of the United Nations Organisation i.e. in U.N.O. India is a signatory to the Metre Convention and under the aegis of this Metre Convention periodical General Conferences are being held and their decisions and prescriptions are adopted throughout the world. This is a scientific measure and it is good that this is being adopted here also. It has already got support in the other House and I fully support it here.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA (Orissa): Madam Deputy Chairman, of course, this is a non-controversial Bill but the point is, whether we have educated our people to the extent necessary to enable them to make use of these new measurements like metres etc. Now in place of a yard we have to take one metre and do our people know what a metre is? Since they do not know it, there is always the possibility of their being cheated in the market place. So I would urge that sufficient publicity should be

given so that the people may get fully educated and not get cheated. Has anything been done in that regard? I do not think the Ministry has done much. In the mofussil areas people hardly know anything about metres. Even the new weights and measures are not freely available in the market. They are available only with certain dealers. And as such there are certain places where these new weights and measures are not being used at all? Has any attention been paid to this? The Professor was telling me about a Member of Parliament who once became the Chancellor of the Exchequer in England. When he was going through the papers he found there were certain dots and figures and he asked, 'what are these dots? What do they mean?' So even Members of Parliament do not know these new systems of weights and measures. Has the Minister been doing anything to educate the people in general and even himself in particular?

Thank you.

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: Madam, this Act was passed in 1956 and this includes not only the weights and measures but also the monetary system. Now throughout the country the paisa has been introduced and I do not think my friend will contend that nobody knows about the paisa or that there is any confusion. We have forgotten the anna and the pie. The naya paisa has also been now changed to paisa because the paisa has become known to all.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: You are very optimistic about it.

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: In the case of measurements, the younger students have no idea as to what a foot means, whether there are 12 inches or more to a foot. So all these

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things are taking place. My friend asks, has any attempt been made? Now under the Constitution establishment of the weights and measures is the function of the Centre but the enforcement of these weights and measures is in the State sphere. But we are not divesting ourselves of any responsibility for doing propaganda to educate the people. We have educated the people through the press, through pamphlets, through films, by holding meetings and so on and so forth. All the known publicity media have been used.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN: They are inadequate, I must say.

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: Maybe, because the country is vast and the problem is vast. It is a problem more of illiteracy than want of propaganda on our part. Now, in a situation like this where 75 per cent of the people live in remote, inaccessible villages, it does take time, but I must submit to the House that by and large the metric system has succeeded and about 90 per cent of the country has been covered. There is some portion left and I hope that within the next two years the remaining ten

per cent will also be covered and all people will know about it. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1956, 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 5 were added to the Bill.

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

SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY: Madam, I move:

"That the Bill be passed."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned *sine die*.

The House then adjourned *sine die* at four minutes past five of the clock.