THE ATOMIC ENERGY BILL, 1962

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU): Madam
Deputy Chairman, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the development, control and use of atomic energy for the welfare of the people of India and for other peaceful purposes and for matters connected therewith, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Fourteen years ago the Atomic Energy Bill was passed by Parliament. That was the very beginning of our endeavours to promote work for atomic energy in India. We began from scratch. In these fourteen years we have advanced considerably and indeed we have made some mark in the atomic world in so far as the work and research work is concerned. Anyone who has been to the atomic energy plant at Trombay near Bombay will have some idea of the scope of its work, the extent of it, and will also probably be impressed by the ability that has gone to build all this up. Foreign scientists, physicists and atomic energy experts who have come here and visited it have spoken in very high terms of it. During these fourteen years much has happened, from the very early, small beginnings. Now, it is one of the most important establishments in India. I do not remember the exact number of scientists employed there, but I think that among senior and junior scientists there are about 4,000 of them employed in the Trombay establishment. It has a large number of experts and scientific workers and to some extent they are still growing. Of course, our work is growing. That work consists not only of what is done in Trombay but also what is done in Kerala, where the biggest deposits of monazite sand occur and other minerals, and a search all over India for various important minerals. Therefore, the scope of the work has grown greatly.

It was decided some time ago to have an atomic power station at Tara-pore in Northern Maharashtra, and some progress has been made, and we shall probably start serious work there soon. In a few months’ time. At the same time it has been decided to have another atomic power station in Rajasthan—I think it is Ranaprapt-sagar—which will give electric power may be to Rajasthan, of course to Uttar Pradesh and to Punjab possibly. There is a third suggestion, which has not taken shape yet, of having an atomic plant in South India.

So, all these extensions, etc., have made the old Atomic Energy Act out of date, and it is necessary therefore to, one could have told, improve it and make it more suitable to circumstances. One could have brought a large number of amendments to the old Act but that is a cumbrous procedure. It is far better to have a comprehensive new Act providing for all the needs of today. Among those needs is first of all to be able to control all the minerals used for atomic energy production, more especially uranium. Secondly, this Bill has stated something about patents. We do not recognize any patents, we will not recognize any patents referring to these minerals or anything connected with atomic energy. Thirdly—and very important—very effective safety measures have to be taken in dealing with the production of atomic energy anywhere. Those who have gone to Trombay may have some idea of the excessive caution that is used in storing this very dangerous material. So, that is provided for. And fourthly, the penalties for non-observance and breach of any of these rules have been made more heavy. These are the main points of this new Bill. There is the rule-making power which is given to the Atomic Energy Commission also.

I will not take up the time of the House by going into the Bill in detail because it is a non-controversial measure, and it has largely been
[Shri Jawaharlal Nehru.] drafted, drafted originally, by the Atomic Energy people themselves. It, has been considered and vetted by all the other Ministries concerned and especially the Ministry of Law. So, I submit, Madam, that this Bill should be considered by this House and passed.

The question was proposed.

SHRI ROHIT M. DAVE (Gujarat): Madam, the Bill which has been moved just now has been rightly described by the Prime Minister as a non-controversial Bill and as a Bill which is very useful in order to develop the atomic energy in our country. The Bill provides for the regulation of radioactive and other prescribed substances which are to be used, which are being handled, which might be produced and which might be imported so that there may not be any hazards which are incidental to the handling of such substances, and adequate rules are to be made regarding them.

As far as these rule-making powers are concerned, Madam, there is one aspect of it which needs some consideration, namely, as far as the production of these substances in the country itself is concerned, the establishments in which these substances are going to be produced are to be governed and controlled, as far as the safety measures are concerned, and as far as the Factories Acts are concerned, by the Central Government. As far as this provision is concerned, it is desirable because these are not just ordinary factories but these are factories that have to deal with certain substances for which special protection is necessary, and perhaps the Atomic Energy Commission is the right authority to determine what type of protection is necessary for that. At the same time in the rulemaking power, which the Central Government has taken, precautions should be taken to see that the safety measures regarding other aspects of the matter as far as the work of the labour in these factories is concerned are also of the same standard, if not of a better standard, as those provided for in the Factories Act elsewhere. That is, attention should not be concentrated only on the hazards incidental to the handling of these substances but other amenities to which the workers are entitled in ordinary factories should also be provided for in any rules that might be made under this measure. Along with this precautions this power is absolutely necessary, and therefore I support the same.

Secondly, there is the question of acquiring certain materials which might yield useful substances that are necessary for the development of atomic energy. The idea perhaps is to get all these materials within the control of the Atomic Energy Commission because these substances are very rare and therefore they are to be conserved and the best use is to be made of them. This raises the question of research and the facilities for enquiry which might be available to an ordinary citizen who may not be fortunate enough to have some employment or admission into these atomic energy establishments. It is perhaps one of the conditions of modern life that any scientific research and enquiry involve dangerous implications so that they are to be controlled and co-ordinated under the aegis of the Government, and to that extent perhaps the freedom of enquiry might be affected. But at the same time the history of scientific development has shown that all worth-while enquiries or many of the worth-while enquiries and inventions have been made by people who are not easily amenable to any co-ordination or regulation of the type to which the government is normally accustomed, and therefore some scope has to be left for free enquiry by these rather wayward geniuses in the community also. I do not know how that can be done but perhaps one way of doing it will be to disseminate as much of scientific information as is possible in the community to the largest possible extent, so that at least as far as the
paper work is concerned, no one might be handicapped.

I am just a layman and I am not quite acquainted with the various types of developments that are going on regarding the issues connected with the development of atomic energy. But there seems to be some indication that any worth-while jump that will now come in this particular field is likely to be on the theoretical plane because as far as the practical aspects are concerned, as far as laboratory experimentations are concerned, we have reached a dead-end and it is not possible to go beyond that. In view of this, it is all the more necessary that as far as the theory is concerned and as far as the basic material connected with this theory is concerned, it is disseminated to the largest possible extent in our community, so that our people may become conscious of the type of work that is going on and of the type of work that is needed in order to make further progress in this field.

Thirdly, there is the question of acquiring certain mineral rights as far as these substances—prescribed substances and radioactive substances—are concerned. Here again, it is necessary that the authority should be centralised, and obviously, it would be in the hands of the Central Government and the Atomic Energy Commission. But again this also raises the further question of paying adequate attention to the interests of the States that are concerned, in whose areas these mines are located. I am not in favour of any unseemly controversy between the State and the Centre regarding the rights and privileges over the minerals and other natural resources that might be located in a particular area. But a fair and objective reading of our Constitution does indicate that our Constitution-makers meant that the advantage of the natural resources available in a particular area should be available to the State in some form or other. Looking to that spirit of the Constitution and looking to the fact that the ownership and development of these mineral resources have to be concentrated in the Central Government, some formula has to be found whereby the States might be satisfied that justice has been done to them and that they are also participating in the development of the minerals that are located in their areas and are also benefiting therefrom. This is purely a question of the obligation which has arisen out of this peculiar necessity. And here the Central Government should develop a spirit of accommodation—and a liberal spirit—whereby the States might feel that they have got justice done to them in this respect.

Madam, as I have said, the provisions are quite good. But these provisions concentrate enormous powers and responsibilities in the Central Government. Care should be taken to see that there is no over-concentration on the need for acquiring the powers and to see whether enough attention has also been paid to the obligations that arise out of the powers which have been concentrated in the hands of the Central Government.

There is only one point more to which I would like to make a reference and that is with reference to the special provisions as to electricity. Under clause 22(1) (b), the Central Government has been empowered to fix rates for and regulate the supply of electricity from atomic power stations with the concurrence of the Central Electricity Authority. It is in this connection that I would like to make a reference to the controversy that is going on in the country as to whether electricity that will be produced as a result of atomic energy would be such as to compete with electricity which is produced from other sources. It is possible that if this electricity is found to be dearer than electricity that is produced in hydroelectric stations or in thermal stations, there might be a temptation to exercise the powers that have been given under clause 22(1) (b) to fix rates, etc. whereby the rates of electricity as such might be raised merely
[Shri Rohit M. Dave.] to accommodate the electric energy which is produced from atomic power stations. Therefore, in this particular case, again, a special responsibility devolves upon the Atomic Energy Commission to examine very carefully whether electricity could be produced there as cheaply as possible or not, and whether electricity that is produced in the atomic power stations could compete with electricity that is produced in the thermal stations and the hydro-electric stations. Some time back, I thought that there was an idea to issue a White Paper dealing with the cost aspect of the production of electricity from various sources. Till now,-that White Paper is not with us and therefore we are not in a position to determine whether as far as the commercial part of this atomic energy generation is concerned, it would be adequately looked into or not, apart from the technical and scientific aspects involved in this particular matter. Again, I am not opposed to electricity being produced through atomic energy but I think that because of the special power which is now being given through this Bill to the Central Government, extra precaution should be taken to see that all possible measures are taken to make that electricity compete with electricity that is produced in the thermal stations and in the hydroelectric stations.

Madam, with these words, I give my full support to the Bill which has been moved.

SHRI N. C. KASLIWAL (Rajasthan) : Madam, at the outset, I would like to express my high appreciation of the great work that the Atomic Energy Commission and its Chairman have done for the production, development and use of atomic energy in this country. They have firmly put this country on the map in this respect. Dr. Bhabha, Chairman of the Commission, is a world-renowned atomic scientist and I believe that it was he who, for the first time, propounded the idea of the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes. Now, Madam, coming to the Bill itself, I would draw the attention of the House to the Long Title of the Bill which says that atomic energy will be used only for peaceful purposes, which means that Government have firmly committed themselves that atomic energy in this country will be used only for peaceful purposes. If atomic energy is to be used for any purpose other than peaceful, the Government will have to come before Parliament for such powers as would enable them to use atomic energy for purposes other than peaceful.

Madam, the last speaker said something about clause 22 of this Bill. Now, under clause 22 the Central Government is the sole authority for the generation of electricity from atomic energy. If that is so, the Central Government have to be empowered to develop a national policy in this respect, and it is necessary that they should have the necessary authority to formulate the policy in regard to the production and supply of electricity by utilization of atomic energy and to implement the schemes in pursuance of that policy. I do not think the doubt which has been expressed by the last speaker would possibly arise if he referred to clause 22(1)(b), that there may be difference of rates between the energy that is produced by atomic power or by hydroel or thermal power.

Madam, the Prime Minister has referred to clause 20 of this Bill about denial of patentability of inventions. I think it is a very important provision and a new provision in this Bill, and this provision is necessary because it is in the interests of national economy. And secondly, it will stimulate research and help our workers to take advantage of that research. So, I very much welcome this provision with regard to the denial of patentability under clause 20 of this Bill.

Now, in clause 2, Madam, some new definitions have come in which were
not there before in the previous Act of 1948 and I refer to some three or four new definitions which have come in and which I very much welcome. I need not go into all of them. For example, "radiation" has been defined for the first time and so is "radioactive substance".

Madam, having said this I now come to a rather important matter, and that is the question as to in whom the proprietary rights with regard to uranium are vested. It appears from clauses 5, 6, 10, 12 and 15 that the proprietary rights with regard to uranium, plutonium and other derivatives vest in the Government only in a restricted sense, because every time it says that if compensation has to be paid, the price of uranium will not be paid—in clause 5, in clause 6 and in other clauses. Now, I would have very much liked to know why Government did not assume full proprietary rights with regard to uranium. I wish they had done so, because there are several countries which have got full control and full proprietary rights over uranium, but Government have thought fit that they should have proprietary rights over uranium only in a restricted manner. Now, therefore, a question may arise that although the mining and other things which are being done will be only in the public sector, it is possible that a private person may have some uranium, and if that is so and if Government is going to acquire, the result would be that Government will have to pay huge compensation for the acquisition of that uranium from the private persons or private company. This is the question. I am only trying to explain, Madam, that Government might have thought that, instead of having proprietary rights only in a narrow sense, they could have full control over uranium as such.

With these remarks, Madam, I support the Bill.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Chordia. Ten minutes.
राज्य सभा [राज्यातील] बिल, 1862

मानवीय नागरिकता मंडळी जिंक ने बयान दिया कि, विजय की दर के बारे में, वह विजय की दर का पहला रंग नहीं है। पहले संबंध में में निबंधन करने के लिए कुछ बड़ा प्रवर्तक संहीता होगी। प्रवर्तक प्रश्न की फिर से उसके बारे में जान करते निवेदन उठाते हैं वे तो बयान बनाए रखता है। किन्तु मुझे यह उसर नज़र सा या नहीं रहा। इसलिए यह प्रश्न पूछा था कि, उपर्युक्त की श्रेयपुक्तता की निवेदना किस भाषा में की जाती है। इसलिए, मुझे यह बताया जाना चाहिए कि, बड़े पड़े हमारे बिल का प्रकार करने के लिए हम लोगों को व्यक्ति में लाना है, जिन्होंने कहा कि, हमारे क्षेत्र के काम के लिए हमारे पास हमारे पास एक विलासित करने के काम करते हैं।

(इ) और (ग), तारापुर केन्द्र के उपाधिदायक विजयजी भारत के निर्मित देश के साथ साथ संधि के नये देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के लिए देशों के 555
SHRI GOVINDAN NAIR (Kerala): Madam, Deputy Chairman, I also rise to support this Bill. I believe nobody in this House will grudge granting the Central Government any power to promote the working of the Atomic Energy Commission.

I need not go into the tremendous progress that has been made in this field in our country. I was very happy to hear from the Prime Minister that in this field we also have made considerable progress. But I expected that the Prime Minister would deal in more detail about the activities of the Atomic Energy Commission. Since he only referred to certain aspects, the doubts that were engaging our mind are still there.

One of the questions raised by my hon. friend is about the cost of production of electricity by atomic energy. Now, it has been said that we are going to have one station in Rajasthan and another in South India. How will this production of electricity from atom compare with the electricity that is produced by other means? I have tried to understand this problem and I know that the Atomic Energy Commission has contended that electricity can be produced at a cheaper rate compared with a good number of our hydro-electric schemes. But speaking about the South, I do not think it will be within the contention of the Atomic Energy Commission that electricity can be produced cheaper with the aid of this new source. I rely upon the figures given by Mr. Bhabha himself. He has given the cost per kilowatt as follows:

- Tungabhadra Project: Rs. 6,060
- Bhakra-Nangal: Rs. 2,845
- D.V.C.: Rs. 5,750

And for atomic plants it will be only Rs. 1,700. So compared to all the projects here, it will be more profitable. But when you come to the South, and especially speaking about the Periyar scheme, it is only Rs. 640 per kilowatt. While for the Tungabhadra project it is Rs. 6,060, for the Periyar project it is only Rs. 640. Therefore, I think the Government should seriously consider whether they should have a project there in the South for producing electricity. If the resources in the South are fully utilised for at least ten or fifteen years, we will be able to supply electricity at a much cheaper rate than from any other source. I think this is a matter which I hope the Government will look into.

Madam, another question is about the necessity of co-ordinating the activities of the Atomic Energy Commission with the activities of our universities. Everybody will agree that
[Shri Govindan Nair.] in the present-day world, especially in this field we cannot afford to lag behind and every encouragement has to be given for developing scientific talent in the country. Here one of the basic factors needed is efficiency in the basic science itself. The other day I had a report from a friend of mine that a certain first class M.Sc. in Physics was called for interview by the Atomic Energy Commission and he was found quite unfit for the job because his standard of knowledge of Physics was very much below what was required for the work in the Energy Commission. I bring this to your notice to show, if we are to progress in this line, how much more attention we have to pay to raise the general standard of our education in the universities. Again I understand that in certain other countries, the universities themselves take much interest in this atomic science. Of course, as far as money matters are concerned, the Government and the public support them but on their own initiative they do a lot of work in this atomic field. I would like to know from the Government in what way we are utilising our universities, what is the encouragement our scientists in the universities are getting in this matter.

Coming to this Bill, I come from a State where we have a good deposit of thorium. There is a feeling in certain quarters that since thorium is not a fissionable material, it can be exempted from the purview of this Bill. I do not hold that view because on scientific matters, we have to depend on the scientists and we have one of the most prominent atomic scientists in our country and he says that thorium, as a medium, can be utilised and by utilising thorium, the production of electricity itself can be made cheaper. So when he contends like that, we are not to say that thorium should not be brought within the purview of this Bill. Again the State Government is involved in this because from monazite and ilmenite, the Government was getting a royalty of nearly Rs. 75 lakhs every year. There is an apprehension now that it will be affected. Going through the Bill, I am satisfied that there is sufficient provision for getting compensation. I need not go into all those clauses but if we are not satisfied with the decision of the arbitrator, we can go to the High Court and get the compensation. So, that is there. But my apprehension is something else. Side by side with this monazite, there is ilmenite. The Atomic Commission which has to look after so many other things cannot afford to spare time or energy to look into this question of ilmenite. So, what happens is that further mining will get neglected. Today there is unemployment but, till recently more than 10,000 people were employed in this mining of both ilmenite and monazite. What will happen to them? This ilmenite is used as a raw material for another industry in the State—the titanium industry. I think we have the monopoly of this ilmenite. So, unless there is some kind of assurance or some kind of arrangement by which the mining of both these things is conducted as it used to be conducted earlier, there is the fear that the entire industry will go to dogs and nearly 10,000 people will go unemployed. I think the Government will look into the matter and give sufficient assurance to the workers and to the State Government that adequate steps will be taken for arranging the mining of ilmenite also.

So, while supporting this Bill, I hope the Government will look into these two matters which I have pointed out, namely, how they are going to co-ordinate the activities of the universities for developing scientific talent with the working of the Atomic Energy Commission and secondly, how the Government will assure the Kerala State about the apprehension they have about closing down the ilmenite mines in that State. Thank you.
SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Madam, all the speakers who have spoken on this Bill have accepted it and more or less praised the work of the Atomic Energy Department. I am glad that they have done so because the record of our atomic energy work is a record which has brought praise from all the competent scientists in other countries. Dr. Bhabha has been referred to as a very eminent head of this establishment. He is very well known but I would like to say a word about the large number of very competent young scientists, some of them quite brilliant, who are working there and who have already made a name for themselves in international circles. One remarkable feature of this establishment is that out of the thousands of scientists who are working there, most of them are under thirty or in the thirties and they occupy very responsible positions and yet they have a right to be Heads of Departments and represent us often in international conferences and the like, so that the Atomic Energy Department is not only young in years and therefore it is, possibly because of that, a very vital and progressing Department and we can look forward to its further development with some confidence.

Regarding this question of using atomic energy for civil purposes, production of electric power, some hon. Members talked about a White Paper. I do not know what White Paper he was referring to but the Atomic Energy Department has issued annually and sometimes more than once a year, pamphlets on these subjects. Apart from that, Dr. Bhabha has come here regularly and addressed Members of Parliament on this very subject of the use of atomic energy for civil purposes. There used to be, some time ago, some difference of opinion. Dr. Bhabha has always maintained that it can be and should be used for civil purposes. Some people thought that it would be rather expensive. Even if it had been expensive, slightly expensive, it was worth-while doing it for the purposes of research experience so that we may know exactly where we are and improve upon it.

But as a matter of fact it has become progressively recognised that it is not much more expensive. And the expense part depends so much, that is, the comparative expense part, on many factors. Where a thermal station is situated near a colliery, it is cheaper. That is, coal has not to be carried a long way. Hydro-electric works may be cheaper because power is obtained nearby. But there can be no doubt that atomic energy is competitive wherever coal is far off and no hydro-electric power is available. Therefore, if we have this in Rajasthan or in Tarapore in North Maharashtra on the borders of Gujarat, it is certainly cheap, and no other method can produce it at that cost. I am told—I cannot obviously guarantee the figures—by those who know that the figures that the hon. Member stated of 4.5 naye paise per kwt. is a figure which our advisers think is reasonable and a correct figure. Apart from this, it is generally recognised now that the cost is likely to go down with improvements in processes, etc. It is going down and it is less now than it was some two or three years ago. So, it can be and is likely to be a major supplier of power in the future.

There was some talk about too much centralisation. If hon. Members will see the Atomic Energy Acts in other countries they will find how much centralised they are. They have to be. It may be that in other countries they look upon this more as a measure useful for military purposes. We do-not, and even in the long title of our Bill we have laid stress upon it that it is for peaceful purposes that we develop it. But everywhere, whether it is for military purposes or for peaceful purposes, you cannot take any risks about it by allowing control to be spread out among other hands or anything of that sort. It is too dangerous. I remember an eminent scientist—not Indian—once saying to me only a few years ago that
[Shri Jawaharlal Nehru] the day will come when you will be able to make atomic bombs in your back-garden. Terrible prospect, that a scientist can make it in his back-garden. It was an exaggeration, of course, but it shows which way things are tending. It is essential that all those materials which go to the making of atomic energy should be under Central control. We cannot have various controls about it.

Mr. Govindan Nair was worried about other minerals, that may occur in his area. He has proposed an amendment too. I say point out to him that it is totally unnecessary, because the Atomic Energy Department is very much interested in working all the minerals that may occur in that particular area. They may allow others to work them, if they can be separated and if they are not interested; but surely they are not interested in allowing them not to be worked.

There are a multitude of amendments suggested by Shri Chordia. I have looked through them and I would submit, Madam, that they are not necessary, and sometimes, they may be actually harmful, harmful in the sense—I will deal with them later—that they have legal implications. So, they are not desirable in that sense, or they are unnecessary. This Bill has been very carefully drafted and personally I would not dare to try to change the language of it, after it has gone through all this process of sifting, comparison with other Acts all over the world. We started with the Act of 19**8. That was the basis and then we improved upon it and changed it and added to it. The subjects dealt with are so highly technical—although some matters in the Bill may not be technical—that I hesitate to touch any of its technical words or definitions or anything coming out of them, because it may have some implication of which I am not even aware. So, I regret I am not in a position to accept these amendments.

SHRI GOPIKRISHNA VTJAIVAR-GIA
(Madhya Pradesh): May I ask whether there is any necessity for the word "peaceful" in the title of the Bill?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: We think it is very necessary. In fact, it was at one time thought that the word "peaceful" should occur in the body of the Bill, but if it does not occur there, it does not so much matter. But I think it is most important that it should be there in the title. It is our fundamental policy. Some people doubt it. Some people in other countries think that we say this to delude others or ourselves, and if necessity arises, we shall go in for using it for military or war purposes. Well, I do not think any necessity for that will arise, personally, and if it arises, well, if the world is coming to an end, I do not know what we will do or anybody else will do. That is a different matter. We want to lay particular stress, therefore, on peaceful purposes.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): Anyway, we can amend it before any atomic destruction comes.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: That is all, Madam. I beg to move.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the development, control and use of atomic energy for the welfare of the people of India and for other peaceful purposes and for matters connected therewith, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

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

Clauses 2 to 12 were added to the Bill.

Clause 13—Novation of certain contracts

SHRI V. M. CHORDIA: Madam, I move:
6. "That at page 10, line 29, after the word 'person' the words 'or his authorised agent' be inserted."

The motion was negatived.

Shri K. Santhanam (Madras): Madam Deputy Chairman, I want to make one or two remarks on these clauses. I have got one or two points to make. I want to speak on the clauses.

The Deputy Chairman: All right.

Shri K. Santhanam: I have a suggestion to make. In clause 14 I think it is not enough merely to give a licence for the acquisition, production, etc. of atomic equipment. I think there should be a statutory Central Register which registers every kind of atomic equipment, whether it is in the hospitals, whether it is in the universities, which exists in this country. We found the other day that the Central Government had no register of big transformers and other equipment. This is the case with respect to almost all the other major equipment and I think registers for such equipment should be kept. In the case of atomic equipment I think such a register is absolutely essential so that the safety of the country and the safety of the people can be protected.

On clause 20 I have got some doubts. This refers to patents. There are two classes of people involved, Indian citizens applying for patents and foreigners applying for patents in India. So far as an Indian citizen applying for patents is concerned, I am really surprised that while he cannot get a patent in India, under subclause (5) he can apply to a foreign government and get a patent. I think this is not a very wise provision. If his application has some meaning, the Government of India should take over that invention and pay him compensation; but he should not be allowed to apply to a foreign government and get a patent for atomic equipment which can be used against us and this country. So far as foreign governments are concerned, I am not sure that the Government wants to cut off all possibilities of even foreign collaboration in manufacturing atomic equipment in this country. I can understand their saying that no patent
Ishri Jivanthanam. should be given except with the special permission of the Central Government. But by saying no patent should be given they are prohibiting foreign governments and foreign manufacturers of atomic equipment to come and manufacture it even for the Government of India, and even with their collaboration. I do not know if these points were considered but they may be kept in mind when making rules or for such action as may be necessary.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not quite understand what the hon. Member means when he says that we should keep a register of equipment. That I do not understand. There is no equipment—no small equipment—spread out all over India to manufacture atomic energy. Perhaps, he may be thinking of things like isotopes.

Shri K. Santhanam: Small cyclotrons in the universities.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Cyclotrons cannot manufacture atomic energy. Reactors and much more complicated things are needed. Where do you draw the line between an ordinary equipment for the study of atomic physics which every college should have, I think, and the other equipment? An hon. Member pointed out the deficiency in the standards of our teaching. Well, I entirely agree with him. We have to improve the standards of our universities. Now, they may keep cyclotrons but what is the point in keeping a register of cyclotrons? Not that there are many; everybody knows that. At present I do not know how many there are—perhaps one or two—in India but that is a different matter. But what is the good of keeping a register of small equipment, I do not understand. Every university and college—they have not got it—should get it. But as far as isotopes are concerned, a register is kept. The Atomic Energy Department supplies them to hospitals and other places and for that a register is kept.

As for the invention business, I do not again understand the hon. Mem-ber. I might inform him that this is based on the recommendations of Mr. Justice Rajagopala Iyengar who was appointed to examine and advise Government on the existing patent law—not atomic energy and he has dealt with it at some length. No question can arise, no possibility can arise, of any foreigner trying to produce atomic energy in India except with the permission, and under the supervision, of the Government. It is impossible; it cannot be done. We do not recognise any patent just as I do not think we should recognise patents in many things, apart from atomic energy. I think we should not recognise patents in drugs. I think this drug racket is a bad thing and we should not recognise it. Some countries don't in fact. But in atomic energy we cannot recognise any patents. We are going to use all the information we have, or we can get, without paying royalty or we come to agreement with a foreign government or if necessary with a foreign firm. This is a matter to which we attach such considerable importance that we are not going to recognise any patents in atomic energy. It will produce all manner of confusions and restrictions on our work.

The Deputy Chairman: The question is:

"That clauses 14 to 20 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 14 to 20 were added to the Bill.

Clause 21—Principles relating to payment of compensation

Shri V. M. Chordia: Madam, I move:—

7. "That at page 16, after line 31, the following be inserted, namely:—

'(2A) Where the amount of compensation is not paid by the due date such amount shall be paid with interest thereon, at such rate as the Central Govern-
The question was proposed.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I submit, Madam, that it is wholly unnecessary. Either it is agreed to and compensation is paid or there will be an award and the award will specify the conditions of payment even to the extent of saying that interest may be paid. Sometimes it is done, I am told. Anyhow, it would be wholly out of place here.

5 P.M.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is.

7. "That at page 16, after line 31, the following be inserted, namely: —

'(2A) Where the amount of compensation is not paid by the due date such amount shall be paid with interest thereon, at such rate as the Central Government may by order specify, from the date it becomes due till its payment;'."

The motion was adopted.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 21 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 21 was added to the Bill.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: At five o'clock we have fixed the time for a 'Half-an-hour discussion' but with the permission of the House I would like to finish this Bill and take up the other discussion later on.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: We are in agreement. We are waiving the rule now. Only because of the Prime Minister I am agreeable to suspending the rule to accommodate him. I want to make it absolutely clear and, therefore, I am in favour of your suggestion. But it should not be a precedent.

(No hon. Member dissented)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House has given its consent. There are no amendments to clauses 22 to 24.

Clauses 22 to 24 were added to the Bill.

Clause 25—Offences by companies

SHRI V. M. CHORDIA; Madam, I move:

8. "That at pages 18 and 19, for lines 35 and 36 and 1 and 2, respectively, the following be substituted, namely: —

'Provided that any such person shall be liable to punishment if"
it is proved that the offence was committed with his knowledge or that he did not exercise all due diligence to prevent the commission of such offence."

9. "That at page 19, for lines 12 and 13, the following be substituted namely: —

'Provided that any such person shall be liable to punishment if'

The motion was negatived.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is;

9. "That at page 19, for lines 12 and 13, the following be substituted, namely: —

'a) "company" means a company as defined in the Companies Act, 1956.'"

The motion was negatived.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 25 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 25 was added to the Bill.

Clause 26—Cognizance of offences

SHRI V. M. CHORDIA: Madam, I move;

10. "That at page 19, line 16, after the word 'conizable' the words 'and bailable' be inserted."
THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is:

10. "That at page 19, line 16, after the word 'cognizable' the words 'and bailable' be inserted." The motion was adopted. THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 26 stand part of the Bill."
The motion was adopted. Clause 26 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 27 to 31 were added to the Bill. Clause 32—Repeal of Act 29 of 1948

SHRI V. M. CHORDIA: Madam, I move:

11. "That at page 21, the existing clause 32 be re-numbered as subclause (1) of that clause and after the sub-clause as so re-numbered, the following be inserted, namely:—"

'(2) Anything done or any action taken including the orders, notifications or rules made or issued in exercise of the powers conferred by or under the Atomic Energy Act, 1948, shall, in so far as it is not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, be deemed to have been done or taken in the exercise of the powers conferred by or under this Act as if this Act was in force on the day on which such thing was done or action taken'."

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is:

11. "That at page 21, the existing clause 32 be re-numbered as sub-clause (1) of that clause and after the sub-clause as so re-numbered, the following be inserted, namely:—"

'(2) Anything done or any action taken including the orders, notifications or rules made or issued in exercise of the powers conferred by or under the Atomic Energy Act, 1948, shall, in so far as it is not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, be deemed to have been done or taken in the exercise of the powers conferred by or under this Act as if this Act was in force on the day on which such thing was done or action taken'."

The motion was negatived.

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 32 stand part of the Bill."
The motion was adopted. Clause 32 was added to the Bill.
Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.
SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Madam, I move:
"That the Bill be passed." The question was put and the motion was adopted.
HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION RE: HINDI POLICY OF ALL INDIA RADIO

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Madam, I move:
"That the Bill be passed." The question was put and the motion was adopted.
HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION RE: HINDI POLICY OF ALL INDIA RADIO

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Madam, I move:
"That the Bill be passed." The question was put and the motion was adopted.