

[Shri Manubhai Shah.]

as they have done it, it can be assured that necessary justice to the employees will be done.

Also the House will be glad to know that the Commission has accepted that they will consider the employees of the Commission on a trade union basis, that is, they do not want a sheltered or protected approach to their employees. These employees will have the same bargaining power which any other labour union has. Therefore, the Commission is supposed to be a better and more satisfactory employer than perhaps a private capitalist or a man who in a large-scale industry tries to do something at the cost of labour. Here, the labour is our comrade-in-arms. It is the village worker, it is the man who is spinning the khadi and weaving on handloom, it is the employee of the Khadi Commission who requires the maximum amount of social justice which the Commission has promised to make available to him. We are quite satisfied that wherever the Khadi Commission has employed staff or workers, they are giving them the best possible wages under the circumstances.

With these words I commend the Bill to the acceptance of the House.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

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

Clauses 2 to 14 were added to the Bill.

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

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be passed."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE UNION TERRITORIES (STAMP AND COURT-FEES LAWS) BILL, 1961.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the amendment and repeal of certain laws relating to stamp duties and court-fees as in force in certain Union territories, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Sir, the main purpose of the Bill is to bring about uniformity. With the introduction of decimal coinage, it has now become necessary to specify the rates of stamp fees and court fees leviable under the Stamp Act and the Court Fees Act in terms of decimal coinage. We are concerned with the Union Territories of Manipur, Tripura and Himachal Pradesh in the provisions of this particular small Bill which is non-controversial in its nature and which is a simple matter. In order to have uniformity, the stamp and court fees in force in Manipur and Tripura will be as in the adjoining State of Assam where the court fees and stamp duties have already been decimalised. In the case of Himachal Pradesh, it will be *vis-a-vis* the adjoining State of Punjab. But in speaking of Himachal Pradesh, we have to admit that as far as court fees are concerned, it will be *vis-a-vis* the Punjab State but in the matter of stamp duty it is not possible to achieve in Himachal Pradesh the same objective since the stamp duties have been increased by 50 per cent. and to a greater extent since November 1960. Such steep increase in stamp duties in

Himachal Pradesh, in the present conditions prevailing, would be a hardship on the people of Himachal Pradesh.

We have clause 2 of the Bill which contemplates only the extension of the rates of stamp duty in force in Punjab immediately before 29th November, 1960. I would here remind the House that Punjab had decimalised the rates of stamp duties in 1958.

How would it augment the revenue? As far as Himachal Pradesh goes, the increase would be just marginal because of the rounding off of 1, 2, 3 and 6 annas to the next highest multiple of 5 naye paise. In Tripura, we have to keep in mind what has been going on in Assam. Assam has been revising the stamp duty on State List documents from the year 1922 and no State law has been extended to Tripura. Therefore, the stamp duty will go up by 50 per cent. and in some cases, by 100 per cent. also. In Manipur again, the position will be the same as in Himachal Pradesh if the stamp duty is actually taken into account, as it has been levied sometimes irregularly. Otherwise, it would be the same as in Tripura.

Now, we come to court fees. Since 1952-53 there has been an increase of 33 1/3 per cent. in Punjab which will now be reflected in the rates, after this Bill becomes an Act, in Himachal Pradesh.

In Manipur the prevailing rates are the same as in Assam, as it used to be in 1950. Assam has of course raised its rate since then by 33 1/3 per cent. on suits of small values, the rates of stamp being less on higher values. Similar increases will again ensue in the Union Territory of Manipur.

In Tripura, the increase will be from 33 1/3 per cent., on suits of smaller value, to over 80 per cent. on suits of the value exceeding Rs. 4 lakhs. Therefore, again clause 6 is there which seeks to validate the irregular levy so far as stamp duties are concerned.

Under section 2 of the Union Territories (Laws) Act, 1950, an enactment in force in a State may be extended to a Union Territory by notification but the corresponding law in force cannot be repealed. Therefore, this Bill has been brought forward before the House.

We are now not going into the history of the Union Territories. Many irregularities have occurred in the past even after the Central laws have been enforced. There have been lapses because of the irregularities. Now we have gone into the whole thing and we have brought this simple Bill which would bring in the uniformity that we are seeking because of the enforcement of decimal coinage.

I, therefore, commend this Bill to the House.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

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

Clauses 2 to 6 were added to the Bill.

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

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be returned."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE MINIMUM WAGES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1961

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI): Sir, I move:

"That the following amendment made by the Lok Sabha in the Minimum Wages (Amendment) Bill, 1961, be taken into consideration: