

to attend any day of the current session of the Rajya Sabha, I shall be grateful if the House will permit me to be absent."

Is it the pleasure of the House that permission be granted to Professor A. R. Wadia for remaining absent from all meetings of the House during the current session?

No Hon. Member dissented.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Permission to remain absent is granted.

ALLOTMENT OF TIME FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE RAILWAY PASSENGER FARES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1960, AND THE TRIPURA EXCISE LAW (REPEAL) BILL, 1960

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have to inform Members that under rule 162(2) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I have allotted for the completion of all stages involved in the consideration and return of:

- (i) the Railway Passenger Fares (Amendment) Bill, 1960; and
- (ii) the Tripura Excise V. (Repeal) Bill, 1960.

MOTION FOR ELECTION TO THE CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF RESEARCH IN INDIGENOUS SYSTEMS OF MEDICINE, JAMNAGAR AND PROGRAMME THEREOF

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (SHRI D. P. KARMAKAR): Sir, I move:

"That in pursuance of item (7) of rule 4 of the Central Institute of Research in Indigenous Systems of Medicine Rules, this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Chairman may direct, one member from among the Members of the House to be a member of the Gov-

erning Body of the Central Institute of Research in Indigenous Systems of Medicine, Jamnagar."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have to inform Members that the following dates have been fixed for receiving nominations and for holding election, if necessary, to the Governing Body of the Central Institute of Research in Indigenous Systems of Medicine, Jamnagar: —

1. Number of Members to be elected. One
2. Last date and time for receiving nominations. 19th December, 1960 (Up to 3 P.M.)
3. Last date and time for withdrawal of candidature. 20th December, 1960 (Up to 3 P.M.)
4. Date and time of election. 22nd December, 1960 (Between 3 P.M. and 5 P.M.)
5. Place of election. Room No. 63, First Floor, Parliament House, New Delhi.
6. Method of election. Proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote.

THE INDIAN POST OFFICE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1960

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (DR. P. SUBBARAYAN): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Sir, this is a very simple measure. As we are now going into the metric system, the postage is being translated from tolas to grams, and we have found that we will have to adopt decimal points if this is to be introduced properly. As a matter of fact at present what is allowed for postal

envelopes is one and a half tola which is about 1749 grams. But we have said 15 grams because 17-49 grams will be very difficult to work into the decimal system. Besides we have found on examining the various envelopes that are sent by post that mostly we use less than 9 grams, not even 10. As a matter of fact if really people use the old 11 • 66 grams as a tola, we would be gaining about Rs. 40 lakhs. I admit that. But we will not gain that because we are sure that people do not write more than about four pages of ordinary paper which amount to about 8-5 grams. Therefore,, there is really no increase. Besides I would like to point out to hon. Members that the post card which goes out as the ordinary poor man's implement of post causes us a loss of nearly Rs. 1 crore, and, therefore, this is a matter which I hope might end in a profit of Rs. 40 lakhs though I do not anticipate it. Therefore, I would like this measure to be passed into law.

The question was proposed.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH (Madhya Pradesh); Mr. Chairman, my hon. friend has said that it is a very simple Bill. I admit that it is a simple Bill, and the arithmetic in so far as the letters are concerned is very correct. I admit that generally the letters do not weigh more than about 10 grams. But, Sir, when it comes to the question of parcels, I am afraid my friend, the hon. Minister, has forgotten that the parcels are now going to weigh at least 16" 6 per cent, less than what they used to do.

[ME. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair]

Now, Sir, my friend has said that the actual gains may not be exactly Rs. 40 lakhs. I do admit that a little extra money to the Government is not grudged by anybody. But I do not see any reason why the hon. Minister should have raised the question of the post card. Post card is a public utility thing, and for a public utility thing the Government has got to do some subsidising.

Now, Sir, I have only one point to make in this connection. The hon. Minister has come to us with this measure which will mean a little more burden on the consumer. We have been told time and again that this Department is managed on a commercial basis. I have to remind my friend, the hon. Minister, that no commercial business can afford to be incompetent. I am afraid, Sir, the incompetency—the inefficiency—in his Department has been on the increase. I may remind him that since the last strike the position about efficiency in the Postal Department has gone much worse. I think it was only the other day that I pointed out to him in this House that the consumer has been told that he cannot expect the telegrams to be delivered in time unless and until they are urgent ones. We have time and again been told that nothing can be done about them. I think the hon. Minister himself told us only the other day that he cannot do anything about express deliveries. What a pity that he cannot do anything about express delivery. I have only one thing to tell him. "You charge us 13 nP. more and you cannot deliver these letters in time. Then better stop it and end this hoax." I have also to inform the hon. Minister—probably he may not be aware of it because any items of his post cannot be taken away by the sorters—that those of us who receive newspapers and magazines know to our horror that they are not delivered to us regularly. At least in my case during the last year, out of the twelve issues of "The Readers Digest" that were sent to me, three were lost in transit, and whenever I talked to the postal department about this, they said that it was unregistered and, therefore, it cannot be traced. The hon. Minister probably does not know that the issues of "The Readers Digest" are taken out when the sorting is done and are sold off at out-of-the-way stations. The English magazines are sold like that. The Hindi magazines are also just taken away; probably the sorters read them at leisure. Maga-

[Dr. Raghbir Singh.] zines posted under postal certificates have never reached the addressees for months together. I do want that any Department of the Government of India which works on a commercial basis should be more efficient and work better. I do hope that the hon. Minister, when he has come to the House to ask for this revision in rates, will also assure us that he is doing something to increase its efficiency. If it had not been a Government Department but a private firm, it would have been forced to close the shop a long time ago with such efficiency.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK (Orissa): May I know whether the hon. Member gets copies of "China Reconstructs" regularly in place of "The Readers Digest"?

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Well, I do not get it because the Communists are not so very liberal with regard to their publications.

श्री निरंजन सिंह (मध्य प्रदेश) : मैंने जब इस बिल को पढ़ा तो मुझे . . .

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: If the hon. Member speaks in English, it will be better because I cannot follow Hindi.

SHRI NIRANJAN SINGH: The Deputy Minister is there.

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: He has already asked questions in English.

SHRI NIRANJAN SINGH: Both are responsible.

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: I am only making a request to him. I will be able to follow his remarks if he speaks in English, and I know he is acquainted with English.

SHRI NIRANJAN SINGH: Mr. Deputy Chairman. I was rather amused when I went through this Bill. As a matter of fact, it is written here "Post cards 5 naye paise" "Letter-cards 10 naye paise" and "Letters 15 naye

paise." In fact even now it is written on the post card "5 naye paise", on the inland letter "10 naye paise" and on the envelope "15 naye paise". So what is the necessity for introducing a Bill about rates which are already in existence?

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: This Bill is for changing *tolas* into grams and not pies into naye paise. Of course, it is in decimals of 5, 10 and 15. What we are doing is we are having ten grammes as the weight (*Interruptions.*) There is no question of weight at all there. In regard to the post card, there it is a matter of posting it, no weigh; is considered at all there. The card is supplied by the Department itself and it bears the impress of 5 naye paise.

SHRI NIRANJAN SINGH: I am not talking about your selling post cards or about the rate you charge. You have introduced the decimal system and by this Bill you want to apply it in regard to weight also. I want to know whether the Government is getting any profit through this. As a matter of fact, he said that there would be an additional revenue of Rs. 40 lakhs. But, I think, it will be more than Rs. 40 lakhs because the sale of post cards is increasing day by day. But it is the poor people who will suffer by this method. You do not want to adopt economical methods but you want to increase the income by a roundabout way, by circumventing the whole thing. As a matter of fact, when the decimal system was introduced here, the rates were increased and now according to this new method, they are taxing the poor people. So, what I say is when you are introducing this Bill, it is your duty to see that the people are not harassed or are not taxed in this manner. The Government should reconsider the position and adopt such measures as will not tax the poor people.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND (Madhya Pradesh): Mr. Deputy

Chairman, I have only to make a few observations on this Bill because these observations cannot be made when questions are asked. A point was raised by the previous speaker, Dr. Raghbir Singh. But I would like to explain that point a little further. When bringing in a Bill in connection with postal rates of postal articles, I personally think it is better not to bring in piecemeal legislation in this respect; all the aspects which have been put again and again before the Ministry by Members through letters or through questions or suggestions in the press should be taken into consideration.

Reference was made to the express delivery letter. The other day, in reply to a question, the Ministry was pleased to say that he was quite right in his premise with regard to express delivery letters that . . .

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: On a point of order. How the question of express delivery letters comes in this connection, I do not understand, because we are dealing with weights only.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: That is what exactly I was saying. It would have been better for the Government to bring in a Bill regarding all these four or five matters. Otherwise, even this is not quite relevant.

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: I am trying to point out to the hon. Member that this matter is urgent because it should have been adopted long ago. We were waiting till now, and we have introduced a measure with regard to weight only. It has nothing to do with express letters at all.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: I do not see any irrelevancy about it. In regard to letter-cards and post cards, there is no mention of grams here. Is he quite correct in saying that it will be only 10 naye paise for the letter-cards or 5 naye paise for post cards? Grams apparently refer to letters only. There is

no question of weight in regard to these two cases.

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: I would like to inform the hon. Member—I know she is very earnest about what she says—that there is already the 10 naye paise stamp on the article which is supplied by the post office itself. Therefore, there is no weight involved in it at all.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: What I am asking is this: When moving the Bill with regard to weight, why are there matters which do not involve weight at all? I am a little relevant with regard to this matter which is connected with postal rates, and I say that this should have been done. When referring to the rates, I may mention about stamping. It would have been better if the Minister had brought in two reforms. The point is in regard to express delivery letters, stamps are stolen. And if he thought that anybody who wanted to avoid sending a letter by registration to save postage, would send it by express delivery, it is not correct. The extra stamps affixed for express delivery are not guaranteed. The only guarantee is that the letter is sent by express delivery but the stamps are liable to be stolen. And they are very often stolen in mofus* sil places where in place of one 13 nP. stamp people put five or six stamps' of the total value of 13 nP., and the stamps being prominent attract their removal.

Now in the matter of postal articles send under certificate of posting, in this Bill itself the charge of two pice for a certificate of posting should have been changed to 3 nP. That change should have been brought in in this Bill itself. That was very necessary, and I do not know why that correction is not made with regard to the rate for certificate of posting. You may abolish the system of certificate of posting because there is nothing shown on the letter sent under certificate of posting that it is so sent. Only it is acknowledged on the chit

[Dr. Shrimati Seeta Parmanand.] given to the bearer who paid the fee for certificate of posting. When on the article, so sent by the sender, there is nothing indicated by the post office in the shape of a seal or some such thing it becomes meaningless and nobody knows that it has been sent under certificate of posting and has got to be delivered. Thus it has no relevance at the time of delivery. So there are two contradictory things. One is that while posting an express delivery letter there is no guarantee of its being expeditiously delivered. Another is with regard to certificate of posting; that although a chit is given for the fee charged, there is no guarantee that it will be delivered. I think after all there are very few occasions on which such slightly irrelevant things have got to be brought to the notice of the Ministry and with regard to the rates that are being charged suggestions can be made and I do hope, therefore, that the hon. Minister will not be touchy about it. Receptive, as he is, to the suggestions made, I hope he will give due consideration to the suggestions made.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL (Gujarat): Sir, I will not take much time. The introduction of the metric system is going to cost the tax-payer more. It cost him once when the money was changed and it is going to cost him when now the system of weight is going to be changed. The change-over to this new system is going to cost us Rs. 40 lakhs more. May I request the hon. Minister to see that at least some little recompense is given to the person who uses the ordinary post card or envelope? We used to be supplied with these long embossed envelopes by the post offices but these long-sized envelopes have been discontinued.

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: That you are getting; I mean the hon. Member can get the 15 nP. embossed envelopes even now from any post office.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: What you are making available is this small-sized envelope. In the past these long-sized envelopes used to be available at the post offices.

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: Sir, I would like to point out that the cost of stationery has gone up. As a person who deals with these things he is well aware that we have got to pay more for paper now than before.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Then the most honest way of dealing with the situation is to increase your rate and not make us pay more indirectly in this manner, make us pay Rs. 40 lakhs more on account of the introduction of the metric system of weights.

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: If the hon. Member would have listened to me I also said that it was just a calculation, of getting Rs. 40 lakhs more. Eventually it may not result in any profit at all.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: May I point out, Sir, that your estimate may be Rs. 40 lakhs but it may be anything? But you are taking more money from us while at the same time you are withdrawing the small concessions that we used to enjoy. As Mayor of Bombay I inaugurated the issue of a new stamped envelope at the post office in Bombay at the time of the postal centenary celebrations and this, the large-sized envelope that I hold in my hand, is the one that I inaugurated. In this longer envelope I could put the question form which I used to do very often to send my questions to the Rajya Sabha. But in this small-sized envelope it does not get into, fold it, however, you may. However, the Rajya Sabha Secretariat was kind enough to reduce the size of the question form and this envelope somehow can be used now. But then how are the other people who have their other business forms to manage and how can they get their forms cut to this size? Sir, this is very unfair.

We are all dealing with the ordinary man in this country. He was used to a certain type of convenience. You change the currency and you take more money from him saying that it is just a change of the nomenclature of the currency—though whether you call it the decimal system of coinage or rupees and paise or whatever it is. Whether it is the decimal system of coinage or the metric system of weights and measures, every time you make a change you cut the pocket of the common man. Every time you cut the size of the postal articles or withdraw the concessions, you cut the poor man's pocket. Have you no mercy, have you no consideration for him?

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: Sir, I shall first deal with my friend Dr. Raghbir Sinh because he seems to have a lot of complaints about the way the various letters are delivered. If he knows the percentage of letters which are not delivered in time he would not have made such a remark. I have worked out the calculations; it is about '02 per cent only. Therefore, when you deal with lakhs of letters your mistake is only this much, and I think you must admit that the post office is working to the best of its efficiency. I have been trying since I came into this office to see whether even this cannot be reduced and I have been pulling up the post office people to see that the public do not make this complaint. I think in a year's time you may see the results of what has been done now.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: I am prepared to wait a year longer.

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: Thank you very much for the consideration but really speaking, if you consider what is being done by the post office, if you consider the number of letters they carry, the number of parcels, etc., I think they should be complimented upon rather than be complained of because, after all, it is human to err sometimes, as everybody knows.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Since the last postal strike the efficiency has deteriorated.

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: I deny that, Sir. There has been no deterioration at all; on the contrary we are trying to pull up and get to the required standard. As I said, after all you are dealing with human beings, and sometimes mistakes do occur, and sometimes not at all. You are simply imagining, if I may say so . . . (Interruption.)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order, order.

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: The hon. Member wants evidently to carry on a conversation with me during this debate. He can do it outside, in the lobby if he wishes to, but what I said is this, that as far as the post offices are concerned, my hon. friend admitted that it is a commercial concern. Of course, we are trying to meet the needs of the poor and, as I said, the post card is the cheapest form of postal communication that is available anywhere in the world today; and our post card rate is much less than other countries'—hon. Members will realise.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: This is exactly what the foreigners told you when you were in the opposition in those days. I remember, Sir, when the price of a post card was raised from one pice to two pice and when the Members of the Central Assembly in those days protested against it, this is exactly what the British bureaucracy told you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order, order; you had your say. He is not yielding to you.

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: I am sure my hon. friend will realise that being in the administration is different from being in the opposition. That is the only answer I can give him with regard to that. When you are inside

[Dr. P. Subbarayan.] you know the troubles, because the man who wears the shoe know, where it pinches.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): Being in the Treasury Benches is different from being in the back Benches on the same side.

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: I do not grant that. Of course Mr. Bhupesh Gupta having not occupied the Treasury Benches would not know the troubles of the Treasury Benches.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: From a look at you.

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: Well, Sir, as I have said, we have tried to fix these grams as best as we could so that the working of it will be easy, not only to the Government but to the public also because in the interest of the public itself I would say that the gram is going to be much more useful because decimalisation is really better than all these odd things we have in the present system which we are following.

My friend talked about the newspapers and weights of newspapers. There again I would plead that we have tried to do the best we can with regard to parcels, etc. With regard to parcels, Sir, as I have said the new system that has been evolved would be easy to work and will be easy also for the sender of the parcel to know what the weight is. It will be much easier to weigh in grams than in ounces, tolas and things of that kind which vary. That is the reason for it.

I shall now answer my friend, the lady Member. She is, I know, very much concerned with express delivery letters. In answering a question the other day I said we were considering the whole problem anew, because these express delivery letters are issued through telegraph peons to be delivered. I have myself found that sometimes an ordinary letter arrives

before an express delivery letter. That is a fact. I acknowledge it. I told the hon. lady Member the other day that we were trying to work out a system by which there may be quicker delivery of these letters. We are thinking of employing extra postmen to deliver these letters.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Bearing letters may move quicker.

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: They arrive quicker because the post office does make a little money over them by charging twice. Let the hon. gentleman understand that also. It gives a profit to the Government. If you like to post letters bearing, by all means post them . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Then, I will post bearing letters to the hon. Minister. I hope he will receive them.

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: If he sends a bearing letter, I will return it and he will have to bear the cost. I hope he realises that he is taking a risk if he does that. If I find the gentleman going on doing this, I may return it. Sometimes I may accept it out of sympathy and P^Y for a correspondent of mine but if he continues the malpractice, if I may say so, I will realise double from him by sending it back to him, which he will have to pay for himself.

Dealing with the hon. lady Member . . .

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMA-NAND: He said that people resorted to express delivery letters in place of registered letters because they thought it was safer, but it is not so.

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: I am sorry to differ from the hon. lady Member. It does often happen because it is said that they feel it is safer—I do not say that, but the people think so—but registration is, of course, much safer. Anyway, if people think so we cannot help it. As a matter of fact, I am having this looked into to see how

express delivery letters can reach their destination and delivered to the person concerned more quickly than ordinary letters.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Will the hon. Minister see to it that our letters are given to us in time after they are delivered to the intelligence branch of the C.I.D. because all our letters go there?

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: I am afraid the hon. gentleman is at the wrong quarter with regard to the intelligence "branch. I have nothing to do with it, though I am a member of the Government and I know it is being done, may be because the hon. gentlemen carry on propaganda which really affect! the Government itself. He wants to undermine the Government.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: We know that they will tamper with our letters and, therefore, we do not write such things. Do you think we are fools to write all that.

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: I do not know what they think about themselves. It is for them to think whether they are fools or not.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: We are not fools.

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: What he thinks about himself is best. If he thinks he is a fool, I cannot help it.

Now, to deal with the hon. lady Member, her questions were really reasonable and we will try to see what can be done in order to make the delivery of express delivery letters more effective. That is all I have got to say.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is;

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted. S09

RS.—4.

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

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

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

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: Sir, I move: "That the Bill be returned." *The question was proposed.*

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, I have to say a few words . . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No. There is no time

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: We will save time if we do not speak on others.

Sir, he spoke about the mechanism. This mechanism about the gram business we do not understand. I know that they are making a little more money. This is quite clear and this is what he told us. The Supreme Post-Master General told us that he would be making . . .

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): Sir, is it in order to make that sort of remark, to call the hon. Minister the Supreme Post-Master General and all that? That is not in keeping with the dignity of the House.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: It is parliamentary.

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: I am not merely the Post-Master General, as is the case in England, but I am also in charge of the whole lot of communications.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is no such office, Mr. Bhupesh Gupta.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: In the Bill it is written, "The Minister of Transport and Communications, connected

[Shri Bhupesh Gupta.] with the Postal Department". Anyway, you are also the Supreme Transport Officer, shall we say.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order, order. No such insinuations, please.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: It is a good post. There is nothing derogatory about it. How many people would like to become . . .

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: Sir, he should not be allowed to use offensive expressions. You should pull him up.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: All right.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: "All right" is not sufficient. He should withdraw.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: The point is this. He should address himself to the task of reducing postal charge* If some kind of opportunity arises like adjusting from one measure to another, the Government should try to adjust in such a manner that the incidence becomes a little lighter on the people. Instead of that, they say that they will be getting more money Well, Sir-, as far as the Treasury is concerned, it is good to get more money—and it is usual for them to do that—but as far as the people are concerned, it is hard on them.

Sir, all this change-over, it seems, involves always some additional incidence on the people. That should be avoided and it is no consolation to say that the letter would not exceed that weight and so on.

Then, Sir, one point about the delivery of letters in time and I have finished. The hon. Minister is very happy because he has calculated the percentage. It is point zero something. I do not know how this statistical calculation was made, whether the Indian Statistical Institute was commissioned to do a bit of research work . . .

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Prof. Mahalanobis.

SURE BHUPESH GUPTA:

but I know our postal men are good men. They are like that due to administration, but I do not blame them. I compliment all of them. But due to a certain arrangement somewhere these things are not delivered in time. I posted an express delivery letter from here to somebody in Calcutta. I myself went to Calcutta the next day and asked them whether they had received my letter. They said they had not received it. And after a day I found the express delivery letter arriving. I posted it quickly after writing the letter but Dr. Subbarayan delivered my exp delivery letter much late. That is the position. Such things happen.

There is another thing—delay—as far as the set of our people is concerned. Now, I do not know why Dr. Subbarayan sends our letters to the Home Ministry—to its Intelligence Department. There sometimes another letter is placed inside the cover.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Sir, this is all out of order.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: One day somebody wrote a letter to Mr. N. C. Chatterjee, but a letter written to Mr. Ghate came to Mr. N. C. Chatterjee and Mr. Chatterjee's letter went to Mr. Ghate. Then they both exchanged it. Such things still happen. All this kind of thing is against law. One of the reasons for that is that they are not enforcing law. Though secrecy of correspondence is guaranteed by the law, our gracious Minister in charge of the Postal Department is obliging the Home Ministry. All letters are given there. They are opened there, read and then put in the covers again. And from the manner in which these letters are sent to the addressees, we can say that sometimes they are not put properly. That thing causes delay.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Sir, is it relevant to the provisions of this Bill?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It has no relevancy here. At this stage do not bring in this question.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, the hon. Minister can look after himself very well. He should not send all these mails to the C.I.D. people. As I said, the letters are tampered with and then sent to the addressees which causes inconvenience. I would appeal to him to stop that practice. He is a goodman, an honourable man. At least he can resign on this issue, if he likes.

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: I want to say a word about what he said about censoring, etc. If the hon. gentlemen do not follow the method that they are following at present, there may not be censoring at all.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: What is that method.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He is replying to you. Please hear him.

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: You know yourself best.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Suppose you write a letter to me and that happens, what method do you follow?

DR. P. SUBBARAYAN: It happens because of the receiver, not because of me. Even when addressed to you, written by me, people do suspect that I am keeping wrong company. Therefore, I do not protest because if my correspondence is proper, I would not be put to the indignity of my letter being opened. That is what I have got to state.

He waxed eloquent on censoring. He had come to the wrong door. If he wants a proper reply, let him go to the proper quarters.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be returned."

' The motion was adopted.

**THE APPROPRIATION (NO. 5) BILL,
1960**

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1960-61, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

This Bill arises out of the Supplementary Demands of Rs. 17'91 crores voted by the Lok Sabha on the 7th December, 1960 and the expenditure of Rs. 38.000 'charged' on the Consolidated Fund of India. The Supplementary Demand Statement presented to the House on the 29th November, 1960, gives full explanation in support of these proposals. I would, therefore, content myself with giving a brief description of the more important items included in these Demands.

A sum of Rs. 8'27 crores is required to meet the payment to the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development of the first instalment of India's contribution towards the cost of certain replacement works to be constructed in Pakistan under the Indus Waters Treaty, 1960. The Treaty fixes India's contribution for these works at Rs. 82'75 crores payable in 10 equal instalments, the first instalment being paid within one month of the date of the final exchange of ratification of the Treaty between the two countries. This formal exchange of letters is due to take place very shortly.

I am sure the House would welcome the satisfactory settlement of a very complicated issue which has been under consideration for over 12 years. Although India has agreed to pay a large sum in foreign exchange, hon. Members would no doubt take into account the large benefits accruing to India as a result of this Treaty. The