

SHRI K. SANTHANAM (Madras): I want to raise only one point. The hon. Minister would have done us a great service if he had given a tariff schedule at the end of the Bill as in the case of other Bills so that we could compare whether the conversion has been satisfactory. In other Bills we were able to point out one or two mistakes.

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: The hon. Member is referring to a Bill which I have to move next. I am yet on the first Bill.

SHRI K. SANTHANAM: The other point is that all this conversion of metric units . . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That Bill is not yet moved.

The question is:

"That the Bill to amend the Standards of Weights and Measures 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 and 3 were added to the Bill.

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

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be passed."

The question was proposed

SHRI K. SANTHANAM: I would like the hon. Minister to make proper boards about these and have them put up in all the secondary schools, if not in the primary schools also, all over the country. There must be intensive education of the people to use these conversions, otherwise there will be a lot of trouble to the people.

SHRI D. A. MIRZA: (Madras): I suggest in markets also these should be pasted.

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: In the last 3 or 4 years we have given wide publicity. We have published these conversion tables. They have been published in every regional language. They have been distributed in large numbers. Special journals have been brought out. Some books have been published specially for the teachers in schools and I think that everybody now in the country is well aware of the system. We are still trying and the State Governments have been requested to give as wide publicity as possible. The suggestion which the hon. Member has given is a useful one, that the boards can be put up in the primary schools. We can certainly draw the attention of the State Governments to it.

SHRI D. A. MIRZA: What about the vendors and small businessmen in the markets?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted

THE CUSTOMS DUTIES AND CESSES
(CONVERSION TO METRIC UNITS)
BILL, 1960

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATISH CHANDRA): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill further to amend certain laws relating to customs duties and cesses for the purpose of adopting metric units in those laws, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Again, I do not wish to say much. My friend, the Minister for Revenue and Civil Expenditure, moved for consideration another Bill and it was passed by this House only today. This Bill is very similar to that passed a few minutes ago. It simply seeks to express the rates of customs duties and the various cesses in metric equivalents. No attempt has been made to increase

or decrease the rates that were being charged but in the process of rounding off, some small variations have become inevitable.

Customs duty is charged on a little over 150 items and according to a rough calculation, the Government will suffer a loss of about Rs. 2 lakhs on a total income of Rs. 150 crores. It is a pure rounding off according to a fixed principle. Of course where the rate is less than Re. 1 per unit, it has been rounded off to the nearest naya paisa and when the rates exceeding Re. 1 per unit have been rounded off, it has been done to 10 naye paise except where the rates or the margins or preferences are bound under international agreements such as the Indo-U.K. Trade Agreement or the GATT. The duties in such cases have been rounded off after conversion to the nearest naya paisa. The rounding off has been done according to the well known rule of fractions. Fractions equal to or above half are rounded upwards and fractions less than half are rounded downwards. The conversion will not therefore result in any appreciable gain or loss to the revenue. Apart from the Tariff Act, the other Acts, which are sought to be amended are the Indian Lac Cess Act, the Coffee Act, the Coir Industry Act, the Oilseeds Committee Act, the Indian Cotton Cess Act, the Cocoanut Committee Act, etc. Cesses are levied under the provisions of these Acts. They will all be expressed in terms of metric equivalents. No principle is involved. The House has already accepted the introduction of metric weights and measures and the decimal coins. This is only a consequential measure which, I am sure, the House will accept with pleasure.

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 10 and the Schedule were added to the Bill.

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

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be returned."

The question was put and the motion was adopted

THE INDIAN TRADE UNIONS
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 1960

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

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, as passed by the Lok Sabha be taken into consideration."

Sir, this is a short Bill, having a few clauses of a non-controversial nature, although very important for the sound development of trade union movement in the country. These clauses were considered at the tripartite conference and agreed to there also by the representatives of the trade union organisations. One of the clauses is to fix membership fee of 25 naye paise per month. The intention is that the trade union movement should stand on its own legs and should not have the need of financial support or help from outside trade union organisations. It is very much felt that the financial position of the trade unions, which had a very bad effect on its working, will improve considerably. Another item in this Bill is regarding giving power to the Registrar or his nominee to inspect the trade union's records. This is with a view to ensuring proper working of trade union organisations and removing complaints which are being received from time to time involving trade union organisations and their office-bearers in litigations in law courts. That would also be minimised to a great extent.

There is an additional clause to give authority in addition to the