

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

- "That the Bill to amend the Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1956, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Sir, I do not wish to make a long speech. I think my friend, Mr. Bhnepesh Gupta, who delivers long speeches and also wants others to make long speeches, will not expect me to say much on this.

Sir, the object of the Bill is very simple. It seeks to extend the Standards of Weights and Measures Act passed by this House in 1956 to the State of Jammu and Kashmir so that there may be a uniform system throughout the country. The Act could not be made applicable to the State of Jammu and Kashmir in 1956 "because at that time Parliament was not competent to enact legislation for that State in this respect. Recently Entry 50 of the Union List in the VII Schedule of the Constitution has been made applicable to the State of Jammu and Kashmir by the Constitution (Second Amendment) Order of 1960 and, therefore, this Bill is proposed to be made applicable to that State.

The House will appreciate that without this reform being introduced in that State, which is a part of India, there would be a lot of difficulty in inter-State trade. Therefore, the metric weights and measures will be introduced there. Of course, the Bill provides that the period of ten years which was laid down in the original Act will be counted from now on from the date this Act comes into force, and the adoption of the metric system in that State will be completed by 1970 instead of 1966. I request the House to accept the provisions in this Bill.

The question was proposed

DR. R. B. GOUR (Andhra Pradesh): "Mr. Deputy Chairman, of course, we have to support the Bill. There is nothing in particular, but I would

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just like to know one thing from the hon. Deputy Minister. You are giving ten years to Jammu and Kashmir from now. Then what will happen? There will be a period when Jammu and Kashmir would not have totally adopted this measure whereas the rest of India would have totally adopted it. In that case will there be no discrepancy in trade? What are you going to do for that period? That is the only thing I wanted to know.

I have another fear regarding this, Mr. Deputy Chairman. Though we have adopted the metric system of weights, even today I find that in the schools the old systems are taught. I should like that at least in Jammu and Kashmir this new system should be taught immediately.

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA: It will be our effort to expedite the introduction of the system in Jammu and Kashmir. But as a lot of preparatory work has to be done in the beginning, people have to be educated in the new system by publicity and propaganda, it takes time. However, it shall be our effort that the process is expedited as far as possible and the time-gap between the complete adoption of the system in the rest of the country and the State of Jammu and Kashmir is reduced to a very minimum.

As regards text-books, we have been assured by the State Governments that new arithmetic books which are now being printed lay more emphasis on the new system. All the new text-books which are to be printed will primarily lay emphasis on the decimal system of coinage and the metric system of weights and measures. Of course, there are old books and we do not want to discard them. But in spite of old books continuing at present, every effort is being made in class rooms to teach the new system to students. The future text-books, of course, will be based on the new system. I think that we have made satisfactory progress and it continues to be made.

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 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 CESSSES (CONVERSION TO METRIC UNITS) BILL, 1956

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR 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