

25 per cent, will be left over to the State Government to meet the demands for relief, test works and other requirements.

The State Government have established a system of approved shops through which all the supplies of rice, wheat and wheat products made by the Government will be channelled. The roller flour mills and chakkiwalas will be directly linked with the approved shops. In order to minimise the chances of passing Governmental supplies as op-yi market commodities, the approved shops will not be allowed to deal in rice, wheat and wheat products other than those supplied by the Government. However, to ensure them a reasonable income, they will be allowed to deal in other commodities such as pulses, sugar, salt, etc.

Propaganda for encouraging consumers' resistance against payment of prices higher than the prescribed ones will be intensified and strict action will be taken against any approved shop which indulges in mal-practices. The overhauling of the distributive machinery and the intensification of inspection and check, it is expected, will minimise mal-practices.

Hon. Members will agree that the West Bengal Government have, for a considerable time, been facing a very difficult and complex situation. In a little more than a month's time, the *Aus* crop will be reaching the market. It should give some relief. Nevertheless, until the main *Aman* crop comes to the market, by the middle of December, the situation will have to be watched carefully. Both the Central and the State Governments are fully alive to the situation and it is hoped that with the co-operation of the people, who seem to fully realise the difficulties of the situation, undue suffering will be avoided.

REQUEST FOR A DISCUSSION ON THE FOOD SITUATION

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, we have heard the state-

ment, but we should have a discussion on the food situation. It is another West Bengal's misfortune that the Government have completely underestimated the gravity of the situation. What about the discussion we had asked for?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We will consult the Government.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: There is no use. Two days have already elapsed. I would therefore request you to impress upon the Government that we should have a discussion. The other House tried to avoid it, but later on the Speaker agreed. I do not see why we should not have a discussion on the food situation which is so serious all over the country. I would request you to impress upon the Government to agree to our proposal for a discussion of this question before we disperse.

REQUEST FOR A DISCUSSION ON THE SECOND FIVE YEAR PLAN

DR. R. B. GOUR (Andhra Pradesh): We, from the Opposition side, had also requested the Government to arrange for a discussion of the Second Five Year Plan here, as it was being discussed by the other House. Even to this request, no reply has so far come to this House.

I would also make 2 small suggestion that, when hon. Ministers make corrections to their answers, the corrections should also be circulated to the Members concerned.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: These suggestions may very well have been made in the Chamber.

THE INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES (BANKING COMPANIES) DECISION AMENDMENT BILL, 1957

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

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Industrial

[Shri Abid AU.]

Disputes (Banking Companies)
Decision Act, 1955."

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Industrial Disputes (Banking Companies) Decision Act, 1955."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI ABID ALI: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Rajasthan): I want to ask one question.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No question at this stage. Afterwards if we have time. You can come and see me afterwards.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: You can listen to me as you listened to Dr. Gour.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Even that was irregular.

THE DHOTIES (ADDITIONAL EXCISE DUTY) AMENDMENT BILL, 1957

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI N. KANUNGO): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to amend the Dhoties (Additional Excise Duty) Act, 1953, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Sir, it is a very simple Bill which was debated *in extenso* when it was passed in 1953. I would not like to take the time of the House in recapitulating the arguments. As we had discussed this at length at that time, suffice it to say that the purpose for which the Act was designed, that is, to give fillip to the handloom weavers in marketing their products by reducing the production of dhoties in the mills to a certain figure, roughly 60

per cent, of the production at a given time, has served its purpose in the sense that there has been some improvement in the production of the handlooms and the acute prices of dhoties which took place at that time in 1953 have been reduced and the conditions have become normal. Under the provisions of that Act of 1953 the Textile Commissioner was given powers to decide upon the quantum of each establishment. Under the Essential Commodities Act, the Textile Commissioner issued notification and wanted to club together the products of different establishments under the same management. It has been operating but a little doubt has been expressed whether the powers available under the Essential Commodities Act and of the original Act are enough or not. Therefore, to make the position clear beyond doubt, this amending Bill has been introduced and has been passed by the Lok Sabha. I commend the Bill for the consideration of the House.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to amend the Dhoties (Additional Excise Duty) Act, 1953, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

DR. R. B. GOUR (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, even though we have not moved any amendment to this Bill because we knew that at this fag end of the Session a real discussion on the amendments is not possible and also because Government could not be persuaded to accept any of the amendments—and of course it is a practice with them that they will not accept any amendment here, still I would say that this Bill is not such an innocent Bill as the Minister has made it appear when he commended it to the House just now. In the very Statement of Objects and Reasons, he has said as follows:

"In order to assist the handloom industry the Government of India