

Rules referred to in item (i) above.

[Placed in Library see No. S.-442/56 for (i) and (ii).]

Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (2) of section 52 of the Bihar and West Bengal (Transfer of Territories) Act, 1956, a copy of the Ministry of Law Notification S. R. O. No. 2713, dated the 15th November, 1956, publishing the Bihar and West Bengal (Transfer of Territories) Delimitation of Constituencies Rules, 1956. [Placed in Library, see No. S.-465/56.]

REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE HINDU ADOPTIONS AND MAINTENANCE BILL, 1956.

SHRI P. N. SAPRU (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I beg to present the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to amend and codify the law relating to adoptions and maintenance among Hindus.

REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSES ON THE COPYRIGHT BILL, 1955.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR EDUCATION (DR. K. L. SHRIMALI): Sir, I beg to present the Report of the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Bill to amend and consolidate the law relating to copyright.

EVIDENCE TENDERED BEFORE THE JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSES ON THE COPYRIGHT BILL, 1955.

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the evidence tendered before the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Copyright Bill, 1955, on the 17th, 19th and 20th October, 1956.

CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT OF THE WORLD BANK AND THE FINANCE MINISTER.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, I have given notice of a

motion "for papers" to discuss the correspondence between the President of the World Bank and the Finance Minister of our country. The matter is of urgent importance and, as you know, the correspondence was released when Parliament was not in session. I would very much request you, Sir, to ask the Government to arrange for a discussion as early as possible so that we can express our opinion on this matter. We consider the matter to be serious enough to require the attention of this House. The hon. Finance Minister is here and I would like to know whether he would agree to such a discussion being held.

THE DELIVERY OF BOOKS (PUBLIC LIBRARIES) AMENDMENT BILL, 1956.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR EDUCATION (DR. MONO MOHAN DAS): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to amend the Delivery of Books (Public Libraries) Act, 1954, be taken into consideration."

Sir, the present amending Bill, the Delivery of Books (Public Libraries) Amendment Bill, 1956, seeks to amend the principal Act, the Delivery of Books (Public Libraries) Act of 1954. This Act was passed by both the Houses of Parliament and came into force in 1954. This Act imposes a statutory obligation upon all the publishers in the country except those in Jammu and Kashmir. There is a statutory obligation on all these publishers to send, free of all charges, one copy of each of their publications to the four libraries which the Government of India decided to set up. One of these four libraries was already in existence and it is still in existence, namely, the National Library in Calcutta. Sir, hon. Members of this House are aware that the library facilities in this country are badly inadequate and highly unsatisfactory. From the time our National Government came into existence, it has been the policy of the National Government to

[Dr. Mono Mohan Das.]

extend and develop the library facilities in this country by setting up new libraries wherever possible and by improving the conditions of the existing ones. In pursuance of this policy, Sir, in the year, 1953, the Government of India decided to set up four public libraries in four corners of this country. One of these libraries was already in existence, namely, the National Library in Calcutta. Since the Act was passed in 1954 and up to now, two other libraries have been set up, namely the Connemara Library in Madras and the Central Public Library in Bombay. These two are State Government Libraries. The fourth one of this series is yet to be set up. This fourth one will be established in Delhi under the name of Central Reference Library. A provision of fifty lakhs of rupees has been made in the second Five Year Plan for setting up this Central Reference Library in Delhi. The plans and estimates of the building for this library have been finalised and it is expected that the construction of the building will begin soon.

The Delivery of Books (Public Libraries) Act was passed in 1954, as I have said. This Act was passed to ensure the free supply of one copy of all the publications in this country to each of the four public libraries that were to come into existence in this country. This Act was not made applicable to the territory of Jammu and Kashmir. This Act ensures that all books, including pamphlets, musical works, maps, charts and plans either printed or lithographed should be sent, one copy each, to each of these four libraries, but the newspapers published in this country were not brought within the purview of this Act, the newspapers were excluded and the result has been that the public libraries which are now in existence, namely, the National Library at Calcutta, the Connemara Library, Madras and the Central Public Library, Bombay are getting free of cost one copy each of all publications of books, maps, charts, plans, etc., published in this country but they are not

now getting the newspapers published here. This amending Bill which is before the House now, provides for the free supply of all the newspapers published in this country to each of these four public libraries. This is a very simple and a small measure, Sir and I hope that this measure will receive the blessings of the House in no time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

“That the Bill to amend the Delivery of Books (Public Libraries) Act, 1954, be taken into consideration.”

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): Mr. Chairman, there is no doubt that a measure of this kind is required when we want to promote public libraries in our country and I am glad the hon. Minister has taken this opportunity of giving us some idea of the policy of the Government with regard to this matter but what he has said is dismally disappointing. The Congress has been in power for so many years and the present Government has been there, after the new Parliament was elected, for about five years. All that we have been told is that they had set up only two new libraries and that another one will be started soon. The first one, of course, has been in existence for a long time. This is not a record which does credit to the Government but it only shows that in so far as the policy of promoting public libraries in this country is concerned, Government has been dismally negligent in the matter and has done practically nothing to promote such libraries. I think that on that score Government well deserves condemnation from all sections of public opinion in our country. Now, do we understand that the Government does not have resources for starting such libraries? I do not think that that will be the contention of the Government that it does not have the wherewithal to start such libraries? They have plenty of cash and they can certainly employ that for starting public libraries. Therefore, on that score at least, Government cannot seek justification for the

policy followed in this matter. Then, what comes in the way? Mr. Chairman, I have a feeling that these are matters which are considered to be of extremely secondary importance by the Central Government. Sometimes something is done with a view to putting up a show or at least for saying that they are going to do something but actually no better step is taken to develop such institutions as public libraries. Had it been otherwise, we would have got by now a larger number of libraries than we have got today and yet we know that the people in the cities, at any rate, require these facilities extended to them, not only in the big cities but also in smaller towns and so on. Government has done nothing of the kind. I can tell you something about the policy of the Government even when it has acted in the matter. Take, for instance, the National Library in Calcutta. A disreputed Viceroy's House has been found for accommodating the library. It is far away and out of place. People cannot easily go there and unless you have a car or you are prepared to put up with a great deal of inconvenience, you cannot go there to use that library. I am not saying that that library should be shifted to some other place but a demand has been made from all sections of public opinion in Calcutta that with a view to making the library readily accessible to the reading public there should be better transport. Nothing has been done in that regard by the Government so far with the result that many of our research scholars, students and others who care to read in the library do not have the minimum facilities of transport to get there in time and to do some work there. This is one example of callousness in regard to such matters; yet it is a very simple matter which could have been remedied by improving transport facilities.

Now, about other places. We find from the Government statement that Madras, Bombay and Calcutta are the three places where we will have

public libraries under the aegis of the Government. There are very many cities in our country and some are very important from every angle. There are places of culture where we have got big universities and also for other reasons the places are known for their activities which require library facilities. What about those places? The Government does not have any scheme; even in the second Five Year Plan such matters have not been given due attention at all by the planners. We know that there has been a lot of cut in the allocations of funds in the second Five Year Plan for education. The Ministry of Education has justifiable grievance on that score but at the same time they should make it known to the public that these are the indispensable schemes for which they require aid from the Government or the Planning Commission so that public opinion could be mobilised about that. I know there have been Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Secretaries and all that who have complained against the allocations that have been made as being very very inadequate. I share their sentiments and I share their views but at the same time the Government have not produced any arresting scheme with a view to attracting public opinion behind them so that more money could be had for this purpose. Now, it is a matter of misfortune that the Education Ministry should not have started libraries all over the country. I think every town and every city having a population of one lakh or more should have at least one public library. In other big capitals or cities of the world I have seen that there are existing many libraries and facilities are available to the citizens of these places but in our country you leave it to the private enterprise and resources to set up such libraries. And their resources are undoubtedly very very limited indeed, and as you know there has not been any progress at all in the matter despite the very best attention on the part of many eminent men of learning who want such institutions to grow up in our country. Therefore I think that the Government should adopt a vigorous policy in this matter. Now, conferences

[Shri Bhupesh Gupta.]

have taken place and many constructive suggestions have been made with a view to helping the Government and I do not know what attention the Government has given to those suggestions. We would like to know from the Minister who has spoken on this subject as to what they have done with those suggestions.

Then there is the question of how the libraries are run. Merely it is not enough to say that we have big libraries; it is a question of how you are running them. Now, I have met a number of readers—I have myself been a reader at the National Library, Calcutta—and I find that they have a lot of things to complain against, specially about the administration of such libraries and the way things are done there. They are by no means attractive enough and there are a lot of things on which people have got complaints. These people have no axe to grind except that they want better facilities and unfortunately it is the feeling of the readers that the Government does not listen to them. Some of the books and materials are not even readily available to the readers. There are also complaints about newspapers and other things. It is good that newspapers should be made available at such libraries which are open to the public and run on public funds but, as you know, newspapers are sent to them and they are dumped somewhere and there is a lot of selection made in this matter. Newspapers which are supposed to hold opinions opposed to that of the party in power or the Government are treated with an amount of neglect—to use a very mild expression. They are relegated to the shelves which nobody looks at and they are kept in places which are not easily approachable, which do not catch the eye of the reader. These things are done deliberately. I do not mean to say that the Minister is responsible for it but I say that the policy is such that this kind of practices are pursued in these libraries. I am not blaming the Government Ministers for it but what I say is this. They should see to it that

this kind of malpractices or rather uncreditable practices do not take place in such institutions. The Congress Government can look after itself very well. There are many towering personalities to do that. If an opposition newspaper is placed in the proper place along with the newspapers belonging to the Congress Party, Heavens would not come down. The people are entitled to read opposition papers just as any other paper. That is what I would ask the Government to do but that is not being done. I do not know whether the hon. Minister has been to any library recently. If he had been there, I would like to know what has been his experience. I know the Ministers do not have much time for going to libraries and all that. Even before he became Minister, I do not know if he has cared to spend some time in the libraries. If he had, surely he would have known how things are managed there. It is very bad management. I do not say that the staff is always bad. What I say is, there is no policy, there is no drive and there is no outlook in such matters and we go on in the routine way as if nothing has changed. That is very bad. As far as newspapers are concerned, I think all important newspapers in the country which are sent to the libraries should be kept in prominent places so that people can come in and read whichever newspaper they like. That is how it should be done.

Secondly, as far as the libraries are concerned, I think the Government policy should change and the Government should consult eminent people, men of learning and education in such matters and work out a policy which would promote libraries all over the country and which would speed up this process. This is what we would ask the Government to do. If there is lack of funds we shall support them in getting funds. In the matter of selection of books also, the policy should be a democratic one. Here again a lot of money is sanctioned but when it comes to the question of spending money on books, buying new

books and all that, you will find all kind of narrow prejudices coming into play. Such things should not be allowed. The hon. Minister and the Government know in which world they are living. Therefore representative books of all types should be procured by the libraries and made available to the readers. I have come across a number of readers, regular readers, who complain that some of the new books are not purchased or even if they are purchased, they are purchased very late, long after their publication. This is a complaint which requires a little examination by the hon. Minister.

Then, books written by our authors do not find favour with them. There is a bias for books written by foreigners. Take, for instance, the National Museum. If you go there.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: We are not talking about the National Museum now.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I am sorry. Take the National Library. They sometimes publish a catalogue of books which they procure and you will find that there is a bias for books written by foreigners. Certain books written by foreigners should be procured; I am not against it but it is also necessary for such libraries to find out the works of our own people in the country.

DR. MONO MOHAN DAS: With your permission, may I inform the hon. Member that it is not necessary for the public libraries to purchase books which are published in India? We get those books free from the publishers.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I know that books are sent to them. But as far as the buying is concerned, you buy many books. The important books you buy from abroad, I am not opposed to it; but a kind of bias is there. If the hon. Minister would accompany me to the National Library in Calcutta, I would point out to him the bias that exists there now. I am

sorry I have said it—things might change meanwhile. But if you were to make a surprise visit this afternoon to the National Library in Calcutta, you would immediately see what bias is given in favour of certain types of literature that emanate from foreign countries. This is what I say. If I am wrong, I would be very happy to admit that I am wrong. Such things I would not like to see in our libraries. As far as the books are concerned, you get these books and the function of the library should not be somehow or other to hoard books. National libraries are not hoarders of books. They get books in order to make these books available to the readers and there should be adequate arrangements for doing so. This is what I say. I send books, anybody in India publishing anything would send to you, but you should be interested in seeing whether these things are used. You, Sir write many books and I know that there are many men of learning who have written many books in India. What are our national libraries doing in order to promote the reading of such books? Such libraries should, therefore, include a plan whereby the readers are attracted to read such books. I have known countries where efforts are made in that direction in order to draw the attention of readers to particular types of books. They bring out bulletins. Public libraries bring out bulletins giving a review of books. These are hung out on the library walls, so that the readers know these are the books of particular importance and they should be read by them. Some such thing should be there. There again they do not follow any 'Macarthy' policy, as sometimes is followed in the National Archives here in Delhi. But be fair with regard to all publications, representative publications and publications of authority and learning—and draw the attention of the readers that go to the library to read such things. The policy should also include that. I do not know what the reaction of my hon. friend, the Minister, is in regard to this matter, but this is also a question which requires his attention. Don't get agitated.

DR. MONO MOHAN DAS: Surely not, Sir. I only wanted to tell him that he is misinformed. That is my reaction.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Library is a subject which should call for the least agitation. All that I say is, listen to the complaints that have been made. There are complaint books in the libraries. Many people write many things and I would like some of the Ministers, for a change, to go through some of them to see what the readers have said. Do not listen to me very much, because you may be carried away by political bias, but take the books that are there in the library entrance hall and where people may put down their remarks. Go through them yourself and see what kind of a thing is required by the people and make necessary arrangements, so that you can meet the requirements of the readers. This is all that I say. The library policy of the Government is a deplorable one and needs to be changed for a vigorous policy for the promotion of libraries in our country.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA (Uttar Pradesh): Mr. Chairman, it is a wonderful piece of legislation to which the sponsor of the measure has asked to give our blessings. Blessings I can give in plenty, especially when I find that it bears the name of our great leader and patriot, Shri A. K. Azad, the Education Minister. But then what is this Bill for excepting to add "newspapers" in the list of those things which are to be delivered in the libraries. In the libraries what else will be delivered? Eggs are not laid in the libraries. It is only the books and newspapers that are sent to the libraries. So, I do not understand the significance, the sense and the purport of bringing forward this Bill, just to include the newspapers also amongst the goods which will be delivered in the four libraries which have been so kindly established by the Government.

(Interruptions.)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order. order.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA: My friend refers me to the fact that the books are to be compulsorily purchased.....

PROF. HUMAYUN KABIR (West Bengal): Not purchased.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA:are to be displayed and exhibited in their premises. That is all right. But all that could have been said in the matter of books and libraries has been said, and more than it has already been said by my friend, Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, with this exception that I would advise him to spend his time, extra time that he now has, in cultivating a better taste for reading and the reading public rather than in advising people to go to libraries and study them. So far as my blessings are concerned, on my behalf as well as on behalf of other friends in this House, I give them in plenty and in abundance to the hon. Minister sponsoring the Bill.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Chairman, I welcome this Bill. Mr. Bhupesh Gupta has pointed out the defects in the management of the libraries, which is irrelevant to this Bill. This Bill relates only to the giving of four copies of all books and all newspapers printed in India as a free gift. Whether those things are used and read by the visiting public or not, that is a separate question. These big libraries more or less keep these things as a record. While I welcome this Bill, I would draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the fact that ours is a very big country and we have got fourteen States. Will it not be better if, over and above these four copies, we request that another fourteen copies be given free of all books that are printed in English and in Hindi to the State Governments? I admit that 'library' is a State subject and the State Governments should encourage the reading habit and open new libraries. You are aware that there is a growing library movement in our schools and colleges. Almost all State Governments are making earnest efforts in opening new libraries, but that is a separate question—what steps are

being taken by State Governments to open new libraries? But my request to the hon. Minister is that if he can add to the number of these four copies and get something like eighteen copies so far as books published in English and Hindi are concerned, they will be supplied free to these four libraries and one copy each to the fourteen State Governments now established in our country.

Then comes the question of books published in Indian languages. As regards books published in languages, if we had the same eighteen copies, it would be far better if those fourteen copies which are left over after taking four copies for central libraries are given to the State Governments where the regional language is the language of the book. My whole object is that in our financial condition, when the Government cannot spend large amount of money on libraries and on the purchase of books, if they get from publishers free copies and build up libraries in their State capitals, it would be very welcome. I am sure some hon. Members will raise the objection that by asking for 18 copies, you are depriving the publishers and authors of the sale proceeds of so many copies. Where two thousand and three thousand books are printed and sold, I think it will not matter very much if these eighteen copies are given free to all the State Governments and these main four libraries. With this suggestion to our hon. Minister, I support this Bill.

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SHRI JASPAT ROY KAPOOR (Uttar Pradesh): Mr. Chairman, I heartily welcome this measure and congratulate the Government for the very active and early steps that they have taken during the short period of only about a year and a half in establishing two other public libraries. I do not know what reasonable justification there exists for Shri Bhupesh Gupta to criticise and condemn the Government for their slowness in this respect for, if he had referred to the principal Act, he would find that all

that it provided was that the Government shall establish no more than four public libraries in this country. It is entirely a different matter that we should wish and request the Government that they should establish in this country more than four public libraries. So for the time being they have got to confine their activities within the four corners of the principal Act. It provides only for the establishment of three other public libraries in addition to the Calcutta National Library. That being so, when we find that the Government have already established two other libraries during the short period, it is a matter for us to congratulate the Government rather than condemn them. I hope and trust that the fourth national library—the one at Delhi—will be soon established.

Sir, I would have very much wished the hon. Minister to give some more details about the position of the existing three libraries. I am not yet aware—and I plead my ignorance—as to whether the two other libraries that they have established—one at Bombay and the other at Madras—are really functioning in an active manner; what is the amount of money that they have spent in building the two premises in which these two libraries have been located; what is the number of books that they already have got in these two libraries and if possible, they might tell us what is the number of books that they have now in the National Library at Calcutta. I would have very much wished also that the scope of this measure had been a little more widened and it may then be possible for the Government to extend this measure to the State of Jammu and Kashmir. This measure, I am sure, even the Government of Jammu and Kashmir would welcome to be made operative in that State also. Thereby, it will then be possible for the Union Government to establish, if they so choose, a Public Library in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. I for one would very much like that one such public library might be established in Srinagar, for that is an ideal place for people to go and stay and make a serious study

[Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor.]

of the various subjects in the cool and healthy climate of Kashmir. I am sure that if, the Union Government contacts the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir, they will welcome this suggestion and if an agreement is arrived at between the Union Government and the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, I would very much wish that a good public library might be located in Srinagar where, as I have said, not only many citizens of the rest of the country can go and spend a good time in seriously studying the various subjects, but even the foreigners who visit that State in large numbers would have the advantage of some study, if they are so inclined, in that public library.

For the time being, as I have submitted, this principal Act provides for the establishment of only four libraries. Would it not be possible and desirable, Sir, that the Government should not confine its activities only to these four libraries and may consider the advisability of amending the principal Act so as to make it possible for them to establish more than four libraries if and when they find themselves in a position to do so? There are in the country some very good libraries already existing in very good and spacious buildings. As for instance, I mention the case of Allahabad and Agra. Allahabad has already a very big library. We have only very recently established a very big library in Agra. Of course, it is the Agra University Library located in one of the finest buildings. And I am told that probably there is no such other fine building as this in Asia. I do not know how far it is correct, but even if it is not so, obviously it is a very big and fine building. If that library also could be declared a public library, we can have one more fine library to which these newspapers, periodicals and books that are published in the country would be sent. We should also not forget the fact that ours is such a wide country and if we have only five libraries located at very distant places, it is not easy for the poor students and also scholars—our scholars and educationists are

not very rich—to travel such long distances. If we have a few more libraries—one, if possible, in each State, but perhaps that would be a very ambitious suggestion to make—if this number is increased from 4 to 7 or 8, it will more easily serve the purpose of this measure than it is able to do at present.

I have one doubt in my mind, which I would like the hon. Minister to clarify whether this measure—this amending measure or even the principal Act—would cover periodicals on scientific subjects or religious subjects, which are published monthly or once in three months or once in six months and which had not previously come within the definition of newspapers as now enunciated in this amending measure. I have gone through the principal Act and I am not sure whether the definition of 'book' therein would cover such scientific and religious periodicals. If the principal Act does cover them, well and good. If it does not, I would earnestly request the Government to consider whether it is not desirable and even absolutely necessary that it should be obligatory on the part of a publisher of a scientific or religious magazine to send that also to these public libraries.

Lastly, I would suggest that we should make a provision for even the foreign publications that are imported into this country to be sent to these libraries. Of course, that requires a new amendment—I do not know whether to this Act or to some other enactment, it is for the Law Ministry to consider that question. But if the Education Ministry comes to the conclusion that it is necessary and desirable that even foreign books and periodicals published in other countries, when they are imported into this country, must necessarily be sent to the public libraries, they may consult the Law Ministry on the subject and bring in the necessary amending legislation. I am sure hon. Members of this House would agree with this suggestion that these public libraries must get foreign publications also. It is not a very difficult affair and I am

sure that the foreign publishers, if they care to send their books to this country for sale, would not grudge sending them to a few—four or five or half-a-dozen, at present only four—public libraries. With this suggestion, I heartily support this measure.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA (Mysore): Mr. Chairman, I wish to associate myself with the appeal that has been made by the hon. Members of this House for extending the facility of libraries to a larger portion of our country. I am not at variance with the scheme of things that the present Bill envisages, but I feel, whether it is a question of amending the present Bill or otherwise, that the whole idea of the library movement in this country must be placed on an altogether different basis, so that as large a proportion of the reading public as possible can take advantage of these libraries. They are the fountain-heads of knowledge, the springs of wisdom and there is an insatiable thirst now for knowledge. And I am afraid that the facilities open to people to meet that demand are very meagre and very few. So, whatever may be the pattern of the four public libraries which this Bill envisages, I feel that we must reconsider the whole question with regard to the development of this movement all over the country.

I should suggest that something like a Library Grants Commission or a Committee be constituted to help the various libraries springing up all over the country, specially in the mofussil parts. I know for a fact that almost all the important towns and cities in India have got their own libraries but I am afraid they are very poorly stocked and their financial resources are very limited and if the suggestion that the hon. Members have made which I humbly reinforce is accepted and the hon. Minister considers the question of helping the progress of this movement all over the country, I think that will be a distinct service. Otherwise the present tendency to have a few large or big institutions in a few centres, however useful they may

be to those particular cities, will not be of general good to the country as a whole. I would therefore make a humble appeal to the hon. Minister to consider this aspect of the question.

DR. RADHA KUMUD MOOKERJEE (Nominated): Sir, I don't think that this Bill calls for any comment. It must be universally acceptable but I am only to make a few suggestions. Of course we have travelled far away from the times when on principle, learning was not reduced to writing because the principle was that knowledge should not be treated as a kind of furniture to be stored externally. On the contrary, the idea was that a learned man was a custodian of available knowledge of those days and he must be treated as a living or a walking library. Those were the days when education was imparted by a system of oral teaching. Therefore I say that at least for a thousand years this educational principle held its ground in India. Now the real difficulty is this. You may have libraries. You may multiply libraries. You may give libraries fine buildings but all these arrangements do not produce the reading habit in the people. It is very difficult for people to be induced or to get them to read the many expensive collections of books in the library. That does not mean that I am against the multiplication of libraries.

My second point is this that I hope the States would be empowered also to pass legislation whereby the State Central Libraries might also have the benefit of free gifts of publications as they are issued. I have seen, as many Members have seen, many well-stocked public libraries all over the country and the only way by which these libraries could be fed would be to see that the States also follow the lines of this Central legislation so that each State might choose for itself what should be its central library for purposes of this kind of patronage. I think therefore that although the four libraries are being recognised by legislation, I think perhaps it may be possible for the Central Government to

[Dr. Radha Kumud Mookerjee.] send out a kind of directive whereby the States also may proceed along the lines of this legislation.

KAKASAHEB KALELKAR (Nominated): Sir, I don't know why they have selected only four cities in the country. The unit should be either the great University Centres or better still, the language regions. If we want to have the spread of knowledge, we should regard each language area as a natural unit. What happens today is, that generally people know only two languages—English and the regional language. Authorship and Research in English get adequate publicity. Research and authorship in the regional languages do not get adequate publicity. If the Bill so arranges that there should be adequate number of copies supplied free which should be sent to the various language regions, then there will be adequate publicity for research.

Therefore, I would suggest that this number four should be dropped. There should be at least 14 or 18 or 20 copies asked for the different regions, and libraries there should be supplied, especially with books in Indian languages. Research in an Indian language does not get adequate publicity and therefore oftentimes the work is duplicated. We rarely know what the people in other linguistic regions are doing in the matter of research etc.

It might be objected as to why we should send books in languages that the people don't know. What is the good of sending those books? I should say that sending such books to the various regions alone will encourage people to learn the sister languages. It is not enough that we learn English and Hindi. We must learn as many languages of India as possible and there should be greater co-operation amongst the language groups. The library movement should help in this direction.

DR. MONO MOHAN DAS: Sir, I have listened with great attention to the speeches that have now been delivered by hon. Members of this House.

While listening to the speeches, I was convinced of one of our great defects—I mean the defects of the Education Ministry and the defect was that we, the Education Ministry of the Central Government, have not been able to send adequate information to keep the hon. Members of both the Houses properly informed about the activities of the Education Ministry. Many things have been said in this House. Many suggestions have been made by hon. Members in the course of their speeches which have already been accepted by the Central Government and steps have already been taken to implement those suggestions. For example, the most important suggestion that has been made or the criticism that has been made is that with the exception of these four libraries, the Central Government has done nothing to improve the library services in the country. It is an absolutely incorrect information that hon. Members have. In our first Five Year Plan we had allotted or provided for lakhs and lakhs of rupees. We have formulated schemes which should be worked out by the State Governments and the expenditure should be met from the Central Government's coffers to a large extent.

SHRI JASPAT ROY KAPOOR: How much have you spent during the first Five Year period in libraries?

DR. MONO MOHAN DAS: If you ask me that question, perhaps I am not in a position to give the exact amount.

SHRI JASPAT ROY KAPOOR: Later on.

DR. MONO MOHAN DAS: But I request you to go through the literature that has been sent to every Member of both the Houses regarding the first Five Year Plan and you will find that for extending the library services in the country we have formulated schemes and asked the States to accept those schemes for which we have given them considerable amounts of funds. The schemes are, so far as I remember, that there will be one Central Library in the Capital of the

State, then in the district town there will be another big library and then it will go down to sub-divisions and to the villages.

Sir, from my personal experience I can inform the hon. Member that only the other day, a week back, I was in my own district town in West Bengal—and perhaps I might invite the attention of my hon. friend Shri Bhupesh Gupta, because here I am speaking of West Bengal—I was in the district town of Burdwan where two years ago there was no library for the use of the public at all. But now there exists a big library. Not only in that district town but also in another place—an industrial town, Asansol—there is another library and even in each sub-division there is a branch of that library. I am not here going into minute details, but I am only giving the broad picture of the district. In my own village, about three years back, a few young men set up a small library and now during the last two years, Rs. 400 have been contributed to that library in my village. That is not through our Department; but the whole thing is being conducted and is being implemented by the State Government. The Central Government only gives them the finance, because libraries form a subject of the State Government and so the Central Government cannot establish any machinery for doing this work. They have formulated the scheme and sent the scheme to the State Governments. The State Governments are invited to accept the scheme and implement them for which they are given money. So these schemes are being implemented by the State Governments. Perhaps Shri Bhupesh Gupta is aware that in Calcutta itself, the West Bengal Central Library is going to be established. It is to be in the garden of one of the Thakur families—I think, on the Barrackpore Road, where they have allotted, some fifty or sixty acres of land with a big garden.....

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Tell us about the books, we know about the gardens.

DR. MONO MOHAN DAS: I am telling the hon. Member that in every State of this vast country libraries are being established through the funds supplied by the Central Government. My hon. friend may not be aware of that, but that is the fact. I would only beg of the hon. Member to go through the literature and go through the schemes of the Central Education Ministry. Then he will come to know about it.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: How much funds have you supplied?

MR. CHAIRMAN: They have not done as good a propaganda as they should: they should learn from you.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM (Uttar Pradesh): On a point of information, Sir. May I know how many libraries have been opened during the first Five Year Plan period? And how many books can be bought with Rs. 400.

DR. MONO MOHAN DAS: I shall be very happy indeed to reply to the hon. Member, if she puts it as a separate question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has not got the information here now. Yes, go on Dr. Das.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: But how much funds have been supplied to the State?

DR. MONO MOHAN DAS: The next question is: Why not have more libraries? That is a matter of finance. Before the national Government came into existence, as you know, there was only one Central Library—the National Library, or as it was then called—The Imperial Library at Calcutta. Now we have already set up two more public libraries and another will be set up soon in Delhi—the Central Reference Library in Delhi. That will be the fourth in the chain. We shall indeed be very happy if funds permit to ask the States to have more libraries.

SHRI JASPAT ROY KAPOOR: But my suggestion was that they could

[Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor.]

easily have more where there are facilities. If I may give an instance, there are some libraries big enough to be worthy of being declared public libraries, for which you need not spend even farthing. In Allahabad and Agra, they have big premises which are already lying without books.

DR. MONO MOHAN DAS: I may inform the hon. Member that these libraries are not maintained by the Central funds. They do not come under the administration of the Central Government. I am doubtful whether the Agra University library can be handed over to the Centre, whether the Agra University will be prepared to hand it over to the Central Government. So far as Universities are concerned, I remember that for the Delhi Library, we have given, during the last few years, Rs. 6 lakhs for having its own building. To the Aligarh University we have given another Rs. 6 lakhs and to several other Universities also we have given financial assistance. I do not have the exact figures with me.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: For what?

DR. MONO MOHAN DAS: For construction of the library building, and for equipment also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: And for books. That is what he wants to know.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Yes, but he does not believe in that.

DR. MONO MOHAN DAS: So it is all a question of finance and if the resources are there, if we have got enough money, then we shall be very happy to have more libraries of this kind.

KAKASAHEB KALELKAR: The question before us is not as to how many libraries you are going to establish. The simple question before us is how many books will be required from the publishers to be supplied free. The Government may or may

not be able to start thousands of libraries; but that is not the question. Are you prepared to demand about a dozen or two dozen books to be sent from the publishers to the libraries? How many books should be received from the publishers and supplied *gratis* to the various libraries? That is the question. We need not go into details as to how much money has been spent and how many libraries are to be maintained by the Central Government and so on.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND: I have made a suggestion fixing the number.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Instead of asking for four books, ask for fourteen books and distribute them to the fourteen regional areas. That is what they are asking for.

DR. MONO MOHAN DAS: At present there are two Acts which impose statutory obligations upon the publishers to supply books free of charge. One is the Press and Registration of Books Act of 1867, which if I remember right, has been amended recently. Under these Acts, the publishers are required to supply three copies of the book to the State Government. The State Government should send one copy to the Parliament Library and another copy to the Central Press Register. One copy has to be retained by the State Government. So under the Press and Registration of Books Act of 1867, three and in some States, four copies are being requisitioned by the State Government. And then under the principal Act which we are going to amend—The Delivery of Books (Public Libraries) Act, we are demanding four copies. So in all it comes to about 7 copies. Seven copies of the book are to be sent free of all charges, even postal charges are to be paid by the publishers. That is what we are demanding at present and I do not think we should demand from the publishers more copies.

SHRI ABHIMANYU RATH (Orissa): Why not get fourteen copies?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why not 21? It will be 3 plus 4 plus 14.

DR. MONO MOHAN DAS: For the present we think this number seven, will be enough for serving our purpose. If the occasion arise....

MR. CHAIRMAN: He will consider that question.

DR. MONO MOHAN DAS: Yes, Sir.

KAKASAHEB KALELKAR: But the occasion has already arisen.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, he will consider.

DR. MONO MOHAN DAS: One question was raised by Shri Kapoor, whether the provisions of this Act will cover scientific and religious periodicals. So far as our information goes, the provisions will cover scientific and religious periodicals.

Another suggestion made was that a copy of all imported books should be sent to Government. This is an international question, because such books as are imported are by authors of foreign countries and if we legislate here saying that books imported into this country should come free to some of our libraries, then reciprocal arrangements will be required in the other country also and it will be a question to be settled between the two countries and it is not a matter within this country alone. We have to take it up with the other countries, I think.

SHRI JASPAT ROY KAPOOR: I hope he will do it.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: He is conscious of these complexities and he is just thinking.

DR. MONO MOHAN DAS: Sir, I think I have replied to the questions, and suggestions and criticisms made by hon. Members.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

“That the Bill to amend the Delivery of Books (Public Libraries)

Act, 1954, be taken into consideration.”

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now we take up the clause by clause consideration of the Bill. There are no amendments to clauses 2 to 7 of the Bill.

Clauses 2 to 7 were added to the Bill.

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

DR. MONO MOHAN DAS: Sir, I beg to move:

“That the Bill be passed”.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

“That the Bill be passed”.

SHRI JASPAT ROY KAPOOR: Mr. Chairman, I must, at this stage, take the liberty of expressing a little disappointment at no adequate information having been given to us even though a special request was made to the hon. Deputy Minister. He has, of course, very kindly suggested to us that in order to get more information, we should refer to the first Five Year Plan, the second Five Year Plan and some other things which may have been published or may be under contemplation of the Ministry for publication but if I ventured to seek more information from the hon. Deputy Minister, it was because of my presumption that he, having read all those reports very carefully and closely, would be in a position to come out straight with more information on that subject. However, I accept his advice and will look into the various literature which he has suggested which would give me the necessary information on the subject.

One particular thing which I would refer again is the suggestion that some of the existing libraries which are big enough and which even now do not contain sufficient number of books but which are important enough to be declared as public libraries should be declared as such by bringing in the necessary amendment to the principal

[Shri Jaspal Roy Kapoor.]

Act, amending it to the extent that such of the libraries as are declared as public libraries by the Government should be provided with books and magazines and newspapers which are published in this country. The hon. Deputy Minister said that it involved the question of finance. Obviously not, Sir. My suggestion is not that we should necessarily have more public libraries built up by the Central Government. I may repeat again that my suggestion is only to declare some of the existing libraries as public libraries. That is all; no more than that.

[MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.]

In doing that, you will not have to incur one single pie and one such library that I would suggest is the Agra University Library. Another difficulty mentioned by the hon. Deputy Minister as likely to come in the way of accepting my suggestion is that that library is under the management jurisdiction of the Agra University; true, but I do not know, Sir, why must necessarily the Central Government look forward to taking over the management of any particular library in order to give it the advantage of receiving free books and periodicals published here? The Government does not lose anything and an important and responsible body like the Agra University which has been created by a special statute of the Government could well be trusted to properly manage its library. Even in the construction and maintenance of the library—I do not know whether the Central Government has made any contribution—the State Government surely has contributed and that being so—and the University is practically an institution created by the Government itself—it could well be trusted to look after its affairs properly. That being so, I do not see any reason why this simple suggestion which will be of great advantage to the country as a whole cannot be easily and readily accepted.

Sir, having said that much, I would once more support this measure to

the extent to which it seeks to amend the principal Act.

Lastly, with regard to my suggestion of making it obligatory on the importers of books to give one copy each to all these Libraries of the books and periodicals imported by them, I do not think it would be very necessary to consider this question in an international aspect, for, you need not provide herein that the publishers in foreign countries must send their books free of cost. You can provide herein that the importers must necessarily send these copies. You need not touch the foreign publishers at all; you need only touch the importers who are in this country. You have full jurisdiction over them and if you do that, you will not be under an obligation necessarily to compel your publishers to send free copies of books, etc., to other countries. Confine yourself only to the importers; you can make it obligatory on them to do so. If you do that, you will be doing it without touching any of the publishers in the foreign countries.

BABU GOPINATH SINGH (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I have to make only one small suggestion.

These libraries may be allowed to keep even proscribed literature. Of course, they might not be allowed to be issued to readers for a certain fixed period and even thereafter, they might be given only to scholars on a special permit to be issued by some prescribed authority. My reason for making this suggestion is that what is worth proscription today might not be treated likewise at some future date. During the British regime some publications of great literary and scholarly value were confiscated and even destroyed merely because the Government of the day did not favour their contents to be disseminated to the people at large but today they are considered quite legitimate and innocent and useful. I believe that those notifications in this behalf proscribing such literature, have been withdrawn. Similarly, what is considered as harmful today might not

be so considered in future and those publications might be of historical value. So, if the precaution that I take the liberty to suggest is taken, it may be worthwhile to do it.

Thank you, Sir.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND: You mean proscribed books, not prescribed books.

BABU GOPINATH SINGH: Yes.

DR. MONO MOHAN DAS: I am grateful to the hon. Members for the advice that they have given. I have not the slightest doubt in my mind that the Government, during the administration of this Bill, will bear in mind the advices and suggestions that have been made by hon. Members here.

Mr. Kapoor has raised three of his old points again. He has said that I have not been able to give adequate information about the schemes for improvement of public libraries in this country which have been formulated by the Ministry. I am sorry and I admit I could not give the details of the scheme but it is due to the very short time at my disposal. If I could get at least an hour and a half, then I could bring those details and figures from the Ministry and give them to the House. It was only a matter of half an hour; I have sent my man but he has not yet returned. I am sorry that I could not give the details of the steps that have been taken by the Central Government for the improvement of library service in this country and the activities of the State Governments in regard to the implementation.

SHRI JASPAT ROY KAPOOR: Let the hon. Deputy Minister circulate a note on this subject later on.

DR. MONO MOHAN DAS: I will certainly circulate a note on all that has been done by the Central Ministry for the improvement of library services in this country through the State Governments and the total amount of funds that have been allotted

for that purpose during the first Five Year Plan.

He has again raised the question of the Agra University Library. So far as I remember; there was a question which cropped up about two or three years back for declaring the Parliament Library as a public library so that the Parliament Library which we daily use would have the benefit of getting, free of charges, copies of books that are published in this country. Now, the question was raised that if we declared the Parliament Library as a public library, then it may be contended in the courts and the judgment may be given in favour of the general public that the public at large have the right of access to this Library. That is not the case now. The Parliament Library is meant only for the Members of Parliament and the staff of the Secretariat of Parliament.

It is not open to outside public but as soon as we declare a library as a public library, the public in general will have access to it. I am doubtful whether the Agra University Library can be declared a public library and whether the authorities of the Agra University will agree to allow the general public to have access to their library.

SHRI JASPAT ROY KAPOOR: If they agree to it, will the Government consider the suggestion?

DR. MONO MOHAN DAS: In that way how does it help?

Then he spoke about the importers. It is a very difficult question because importers may not always be big ones. Sometimes there is only a limited demand for a certain foreign book in this country. Say, 50 or 25 copies may be imported against the order of some educational institution. Out of 25 copies if certain copies are to be distributed free of cost, it may not be possible or it may cause some hardship to the importers.

Lastly, again I thank the hon. Members for their advice and I assure them

[Dr. Mono Mohan Das.]

that during the administration of this measure, their advice and suggestions will be borne in mind.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING BUSINESS ON THE 20TH NOVEMBER, 1956

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have to inform hon. Members that the Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1956 and the Indian Tariff (Amendment) Bill, 1956, as passed by the Lok Sabha, will be taken up for consideration on the 20th November, 1956.

ALLOTMENT OF TIME FOR CONSIDERATION AND RETURN OF THE INDIAN TARIFF (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1956.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have also to inform hon. Members that under rule 162(2) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, two hours have been allotted for the completion of all stages involved in the consideration and return of the Indian Tariff (Amendment) Bill, 1956, by the Rajya Sabha including the consideration and passing of amendments, if any, to the Bill.

There is no other business. The House stands adjourned till 11 A.M. tomorrow.

The House then adjourned at fortythree minutes past twelve of the clock till eleven of clock on Tuesday, the 20th November, 1956.