

**MOTION REGARDING DRAFT
NOTIFICATIONS IN RESPECT OF
DECIMAL COINS—continued.**

SHRI KISHEN CHAND (Hydera-abad): Sir, yesterday when the House adjourned, I was speaking on my amendment to the new decimal coinage system, a system which was accepted by the House by passing the Coinage Act.

Now, I want to draw particular attention to two things. First of all there is no provision made for a tenth part of the rupee. It is very essential for any decimal system of coinage to have the rupee divided not only into hundred parts, but it is also essential to have an intermediate coin obtained by dividing the rupee into ten parts.

The hon. Minister knows fully well that if there is no intermediate coin like an anna, it will lead to great deal of difficulty and will also complicate the arithmetical calculations considerably because big numbers will have to be added and the result has to be paid in coins. If, however, an intermediate coin of an anna is introduced, it will simplify matters very considerably. The hon. Mover of the Resolution has pointed out that in our country persons cannot count upto 100; generally, their total counting ends at 20 or 30 and you know, Sir, that in many places the number is given as a multiple of twenties, that is, they will say, "Three twenties plus five instead of 65" because their knowledge of counting does not extend to that limit. Therefore, if we do not introduce an anna in between rupee and paisa, it will be very difficult. In the rural areas if 37 and 29 have to be added, we will have to explain 37 as three tens and seven and similarly, 29 will have to be explained as two tens plus nine. I know that the hon. Minister will raise the objection that if we use the word anna, it will lead to confusion. He raised similar objections in the matter of paisa and, but for the intervention of the hon. Prime Minister, this word naya paisa would not have been accepted. I do hope

that the hon. Prime Minister will intervene again and persuade the hon. Minister to accept the word new anna. I do not think that adding the words naya anna is going to create difficulties. I may point out, Sir, that I come from Hyderabad where during the last few years we have changed from the local currency to the Indian currency. Both the Hyderabad and Indian currencies had anna and paisa and yet even the poorest villager was not confused by it. I submit that during the two years, not even one complaint was received where there had been cheating of the poor rural folk by palming off the local currency instead of the Indian currency which was of a higher value. If we make this change, if we introduce this new anna in between the rupee and the paisa, I do not think it will lead to confusion; on the other hand, it will greatly¹ facilitate arithmetical operations of the rural people.

I come now to the main amendments that I have sent in. They are regarding the size and weight of the coins that have been propo-ed. We are very soon going to adopt the metric system for weights and measures; we are going to replace our inches and feet by centimetres, millimetres and metres. Similarly, our seer and tola and chattak are going to be replaced very soon by grams, milligrams and kilograms. When this has been accepted and we are going to adopt it, will it not be better if the size of our coins also is fixed in such a way that they are exact multiples of the units of length and width which we are going to adopt very soon? The hon. Minister has suggested that the size of the rupee coin of 100 naye paise will be circular with a diameter of 28 millimetres. We had the old rupee and paisa and the size of a paisa was exactly with a diameter of one inch while the weight of the rupee was exactly one tola. Here, the hon. Minister has somehow or other selec-

ted the very odd number of 28 millimetres. My humble suggestion is that if instead of 28 millimetres, we accept the figure of 30 millimetres, at least

it will be a complete unit of size in the new metric system that we are going to adopt. Therefore, my suggestion is that instead of 28 millimetres for a rupee coin and 24 millimetres for a half rupee coin, we should have 30 millimetres and 25 millimetres. A variation of 2 millimetres in the size of a rupee and one millimetre in the size of a half rupee will not be so large as to make the rupee or the half rupee too bulky to be carried in the pocket. It will have the added advantage that the rupee and half rupee can be used for roughly measuring small distances between two points.

There is no mention about the weight of the new rupee or the half rupee. I have suggested that the weight of the rupee should be exactly 10 grams and the weight of the half rupee should be five grams. I have also suggested that over and above the quarter rupee coin, it is very essential to introduce a coin of 20 naye paisa. Supposing a person has to pay 90 paise, he will have to be using a number of coins. I want the minimum number of coins to be used. If there is no coin of 20 paise, then he will have to use a half rupee, that is 50 paise, and four coins of ten paise or he can use a coin of 25 paise, a coin of ten paise and a coin of 5 paise. In any case, he will have to use four coins. Instead of having a coin for a quarter rupee, if we have a coin for 20 paise, he can easily pay 90 paise by only three coins, one coin of half a rupee and two coins of 20 paise each. I can go on giving any number of examples why and how the use of a coin of 20 paise will facilitate the payment of amounts below one rupee. Our object in having coins is to use the smallest number of coins available for paying any amount. In practice also, one anna and two anna bits have become very familiar. Everybody says "ek anna, do anne" and if we continue to keep the same word and use one anna and two annas, there will be no trouble and in usage also there will be no change. People will find it very convenient to continue to use

the same words as at present. The only change will be in the half rupee as far as its Urdu equivalent is concerned. The half rupee will remain; at present it is called an "aath anne" while under the new nomenclature it becomes five annas and people may use the word "panch anne." So, Sir, it will simplify matters very much.

The two anna coin at present in use is a square coin and it will be very convenient if we continue to retain it as a square coin and slightly vary the size so as to distinguish it from the present coin. If we adopt a square size of 17.5 millimetres and keep its weight as 2 grams, it will meet the needs fully.

Now I come to the coins below one anna, that is, half an anna, two paisa coin and one paisa coin. Here also I submit, Sir, that the hon. Minister has somehow or other selected all odd numbers. Now his 10 naye paisa coin is a 8 scalloped coin with a diameter of 23 millimetres—even now an anna coin is a scalloped coin—it has got 8 scallops on its periphery. I have suggested that instead of 8 scallops it should have 10 scallops. We are thinking of the decimal system, but the hon. Minister has not reconciled himself to the decimal system, and wherever possible he always uses 8 and 4. Somehow or other he seems to be enamoured of the figure of 8. Instead of 8 scallops I have suggested 10 scallops and instead of a diameter of 18 millimetres I have suggested 15 millimetres and so on. I humbly submit that if we are really sincere on the decimal system, in every place and in every size we should introduce a size which is an exact multiple of the centimetres, so that later on the coin can be used for measuring small distances. Sir, I am sure the hon. Minister will come forward and say something about the size. I have not brought the paper coins of that size to show them to him that they will not be of such a large size that they will be inconvenient. As a matter of fact, the sizes suggested by me are smaller than the sizes proposed by the hon. ¹ Minister, that is, instead of 16 milli-

[Shri Kishen Chand] metres I have suggested 15 millimetres and instead of 18 millimetres, 17J millimetres and so on. So I will conclude by saying once more that the hon. Minister should sincerely adopt the decimal system both in the size and weights of the coins that he is proposing, that he should accept the idea of introducing the anna coin being equivalent to 10 naye paise and that he should introduce a new coin of 20 naye paise, that is a new 2 anna coin.

With these words I commend my amendment and the additional part to be added on to the motion.

THE MINISTER FOR REVENUE AND DEFENCE EXPENDITURE (SHRI A. C. GUHA) : Mr. Chairman, I am glad that Dr. Raghbir Singh has taken so much interest in these matters. He is an eminent scholar and historian and he has cited many authorities, particularly about 'panam'.

I am not sure, Sir, how long 'panam' was in use as a coin, but I think during the British period there was no such coin in South India. As was pointed out by some hon. Member there might have been some coin in Travancore-Cochin by that description. The suggestion was considered by the Government who did not find it acceptable.

Then he has mentioned something about the present pie coin and he seems to be very much worried about some confusion that might take place between some of the new coins and the present pie coin. Sir, the pie coin has not been minted since 1942 and there is hardly any pie coin current now. As far as I could gather, the number must be very very insignificant. So there is hardly any chance of a pie coin creating any confusion with the coin that might be introduced.

Then he has mentioned some other coin. Sir, I might place this thing for your inspection and of the -Members, and you will find that his apprehension regarding the proposed '5 naye

paise' coin and the half-anna piece in vogue to-day is not quite justified. The size of the proposed half-anna piece would be quite big and appreciably different from the present two-anna piece. The hon. Member can see this thing and similarly, other coins also will be quite different from the coins that may be in circulation now.

Then he has said something about one anna. I had stated on the last occasion—and he quoted from my speech then—that there may be one anna piece but, for the present, we have decided not to introduce one anna piece in the new coinage because, as rightly surmised, we want to avoid confusion as much as possible. There is this paisa and with it the naye paisa and along with this if you put the anna and a new anna, that may be causing some more confusion for the ordinary village people. But, Sir, I can give this assurance that, when the old coins would be withdrawn in about four or five years' time, then we may consider the idea of introducing a new anna piece. Without making any firm commitment in this matter I think that our idea at present is that, after this interim period is over, we shall introduce a new anna piece so that our traditional one anna, two anna (ek anna, do anne) terms may remain.

SHRI S. C. KARAYALAR (Travancore-Cochin): Will it be equivalent to the present one anna coin?

SHRI A. C. GUHA: It will not be like that. The rupee will be equivalent to ten annas.

SHRI S. C. KARAYALAR: You are going to call it an anna, although it will be 10 cents.

SHRI A. C. GUHA: Ten new paise will be one anna. You cannot have it on the basis of 16 annas to a rupee; that won't conform to the decimal system.

Then he has mentioned something about the slot machines. We realise that there will be some difficulties

and we are discussing this matter with the different Ministries, particularly the Railway and the Communications Ministries and we shall find out some means to avoid the difficulties as far as possible. If the new coins were introduced during the transition period there will be some difficulties and that was known to the Members of this House when this Bill was debated and it was approved by the House.

Then his another point is about publicity. We quite appreciate his anxiety for publicity and I have given an assurance, when the Bill was debated here, that we shall take recourse to all the avenues of publicity and propaganda to make it known to the people that a new coinage system has been introduced. His suggestion is that a short note in all the Indian languages may be circulated to all the primary schools, secondary schools, etc. Personally speaking, I feel that this suggestion deserves serious consideration of the Government and it may be possible for us to do something like that. We have already been preparing some leaflets and these will be translated in all the languages of India and be widely circulated.

Then there will be some difficulty about the conversion of the price of postage stamps, revenue stamps and railway tickets in terms of the new coins. 12 NOON

That also we have been discussing with the Ministries concerned and we shall work out a conversion table which will be widely circulated in all the languages throughout India. While converting the present price to the new coinage system, I think, in some cases the new price may be a bit higher than the existing price and in some cases it may be a bit lower than the existing price. But there is no other alternative.

I think I have covered all the points mentioned by Dr. Raghbir Sinh. I

particularly appreciate his suggestion for publicity which, as I have already stated, we shall consider and I think it may be possible for us to accept that proposal.

As for Mr. Kishen Chand's suggestions, one is about changing the dimensions and size of the coins. His two other suggestions are for introducing one anna and two anna pieces. For that I have already stated that there is no idea to introduce the two anna piece for the present. There shall be a four anna piece or one-fourth of a rupee piece. Two anna piece can only be on the basis of one-fifth of the new rupee and that would not be necessary. As I have already stated, it may be possible for us to introduce one anna piece after the interim period. As for the size and dimensions of the coins, I think these are mostly administrative matters and not significant part of the notifications. He said that the Government notification has not said anything about the size and dimension of the rupee coin, but I think the notification has not said anything about the size and dimensions of any other coins either.

But there is another thing from which I find that we have decided something about the size and dimensions of all the coins including the rupee coin but that does not form part of the notifications which are the subject-matter of discussion here. Sir, I have nothing more to say and I hope that the Government Notifications will be accepted by the House.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH (Madhya Pradesh): Mr. Chairman, I am very grateful to the hon. Minister for giving due thought to my suggestions. I note what he has said in respect of one anna. I have already read in yesterday's proceedings what he has said on that point in the other House. In this connection I note that he has in mind to reintroduce the one anna piece at a future date when the period of transition is over but I would like to press on him one point and that is, that the need for one anna coin is all

[Dr. Raghbir Singh] the greater during this period of transition because in this period of transition the first difficulty that will arise would be of conversion. Conversion tables will have to be used from day to day and every hour. Now at this stage when conversion tables are to be used if an ordinary villager has got to count, add and subtract any figures above 30 or 40, it will be a real difficulty for him, I can understand the hon. Minister's hesitation to introduce a coin called *naya anna* but we have already suggested to him that a new name should not be taboo. We have changed so many things; we can accept some new names also. When the new metric system of weights and measures is going to come, I do not think my friend will talk of having a *naya inch* and a *purana inch*, and making a scale also of inches and feet in decimal system. I do not think he is going to do that while introducing the centigrams and milligrams. When we have taken a bold step to have a new system of coinage altogether, I think he should not have much hesitation in accepting a new name. Therefore I would still press on him that he may examine this question about the need and urgency of an *anna* coin at this stage from the point of view that I have placed now. The difficulty of the villager is going to be all the more at this stage when the period of transition is there. If he is going to introduce the *anna* piece after another, say, five years when the major difficulty would have been overcome, it would be just trying to help the poor man when he has almost reached the shores. The difficulties which the poor man will have to face is something that should be taken note of. I note that the hon. Minister has just judiciously remained silent on the major point. He has not said whether he still wants to stick to his *naya paisa*. I believe his love for '*naya*' is there and he does not want to part with it. As I said yesterday this addition of the word '*naya*' is completely superfluous and I hope that he will give this matter some deep consideration.

Now, I am happy to find that the question of slot machines is being examined and looked into. I also find that on the basis of the doubts raised in the other House the hon. Minister has referred to conversion tables and also hinted as to how efforts are being made to meet the difficulties in respect of postal and railway rates.

I am very grateful to the hon. Minister for having promised to give my suggestion regarding publicity his sympathetic and favourable consideration. I knew that he was going to give some publicity to this scheme but my complaint is only this that eight valuable months have been irretrievably lost. I admit that he had this difficulty till now and in the early stages that the names were not settled finally. Therefore, he did not know what names he should put across in his publicity campaign but on the question of the need and on the shape and the general structure of things to come some sort of publicity campaign to some extent should and could have been carried on during the last eight months. Sir, we know that it is intended that the new coinage should come into effect from 1st April, 1957, and from today not more than eleven months remain; I am afraid it is even less than eleven months. So I feel this loss of eight months that have elapsed and that have been allowed to go unutilised is very deplorable. The hon. Minister has mentioned of some pamphlets and some notes that are being prepared. I must humbly but emphatically say that my opinion about such pamphlets prepared and distributed by the Government of India is that they are a very poor publicity. They are so dry, they are so.....

SHRI A. C. GUHA: I have no objection to have the help and co-operation from those Members who are ready to help us in this matter.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINGH: Well; I shall be only too happy to help Mr. Guha in this matter. What I say is only this, that the common man wants to know

he is not worried about the various details. If you once prepare the ground, details will automatically come in. I feel that if those very pamphlets—some of those pamphlets that he wants to put in—are written in simple, straight but clear language, they would do a good deal to make the introduction and later success of this new venture fully certain.

Sir, I had hoped that Dr. Radha Kumud Mookerji would have said something on the controversy about the panam. I had a talk this morning with our revered colleague, Dr. P. Subbarayan, about the question of panam and he said that ordinarily in South India wherever you say the word panam it ordinarily means a two-anna piece. I am not an expert in Tamil language.

SHRIMATI T. NALLAMUTHU RAMAMURTI (Madras): That is right. I am a Tamil from Madras; in the South we still use the term "panam" for two annas.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: I have to take my cue from other people and that is why I had to quote others who know that language. Sir, I have felt strongly that at this juncture, when we are going to make a change, acceptance of a word from South India would have been a good gesture. I hope Mr. Guha will still consider that request of mine and accept this suggestion.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY (Mysore): Suggest a Bengali word.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: I am sure Mr. Guha has not got that much parochialism to accept only a Bengali word and not think of a Tamil word. So, my only submission to him is that he has it in mind to introduce a new coin, at a latter stage and I have only to appeal to him with all the persuasion and emphasis at my command, my friend, if you want to do it, do it now. Why delay it and increase the

agony <end the pangs of the birth of a new system? Thank you.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND: Sir, on a point of order, the hon. Minister said that there is no mention of the size of coins in the draft Notification. I have a copy of the draft Notification in the name of the Ministry of Finance in which the size of the rupee, half-rupee, quarter-rupee and other coins is fully stated. May I lay it on the Table so that the hon. Minister may be corrected about his statement?

SHRI A. C. GUHA: I am sorry for the wrong statement. There also the size of the rupee is given as 28 millimetres.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely:—

'and having considered the same, this House recommends that the coin of 10 naya paise shall be called one naya anna and a coin of 20 naya paise shall also be issued and that the diameters and weights of the said coins shall be—

One rupee nickel circular diameter 30 m.m.
wt. 10 grams Serrations 200.

J rupee nickel circular diameter 25 m.m.
wt. 5 grams Serrations 150.

J rupee nickel circular diameter 20 m.m.
wt. 2.5 grams Serrations 100.

1/5 rupee or 2 naya anna nickel oseeular
square side 17.5 m.m. wt. 2 grams.

10 naye paise or 1 naya anna cupro-nickel
(10) Scalloped diameter 20 m.m. wt. 5 grams.

5 naye paise cupronickel circular diameter
17.5 m.m. wt. 2.5 grams.

[Mr. Chairman.]

2 naye paise cupronickel (10)
Scalloped diameter 15 m.m. wt. 1
gram.

1 naya paise bronze circular with
concentric hole diameter 15 m.m.
wt. 1 gram.

and that the reverse of the coins of one
rupee, 1/5th of a rupee and 1/10th of a
rupee shall bpar as eivpn below:—

सी नये पैसे = १० नये आने =
१ रुपया

रुपये का पांचवा भाग = २ नये आने
= २० नये पैसे

रुपये का दसवा भाग = १ नया
आना = १० नये पैसे

and that the remaining parts of the
notifications shall remain'."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: We now pass on to
legislative business.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI S. N.
MAZUMDAR) *in the Chair*]

THE INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1956

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR LABOUR
(SHRI AMD ALI): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill further to amend the
Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, be taken
into consideration."

Sir, I may submit that no new provision is
sought to be inserted in the Industrial Disputes
Act through this amendment. The intention is
to clarify the position, as was originally
intended when the retrenchment and layoff
compensation was provided for in the original
Act. Doubts since then have arisen with
regard to the pay-

I ment of compensation to the retrenched
workers by a transferee employer. Some
conflicting opinions have also been expressed
on this issue. Therefore, what we are
clarifying through this amending Bill is that
workers who are not suffering because of
transfer of ownership with regard to their
service conditions and continuity of service
shall not be entitled to any retrenchment
compensation because they will not be
retrenched. It will be only transfer of
ownership of the establishment or factory and
the workers will not be subjected to any
disability of any kind by such a transfer.

The other part of this amending Bill is with
regard to lay-off compensation. Doubt has
arisen, if workers have been paid lay-off
compensation, in case they have been laid off
continuously for forty-five days in twelve
months, what will be the position in case they
are laid off subsequently as well. That has
been explained as it was originally intended
and their interests have been safeguarded. It is
a very simple amending Bill and is self-
explanatory. I do not want to take the time of
the House any more.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI S. N.
MAZUMDAR): Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the
Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, be taken into
consideration."

SHRI N. C. SEKHAR (Travancore-Cochin):
Mr. Vice-Chairman, even though I welcome
this amending Bill to the Industrial Disputes
Act, I have to point out certain anomalies still
contained in this Bill. The Minister did not, of
course, make a long speech to explain this, for
the objects and reasons have already been
given in the Bill itself. Soon after the original
amendment to the Industrial Disputes Act was
brought in 1947, many cases arose regarding
the refusal of compensation for lay-off,
subsequent to the original forty-five days lay-
off. Many cases had arisen all over the
industrial areas in India and many