

successor of the Imperial Bank of India will have nothing imperial about it. I was fed up with the Imperial Bank because it did not only bear the name of the Imperial Bank of India, but it had all imperialistic things around and about it. And therefore I am glad to congratulate all of us on the fact that the 'Imperial' business is over, and I hope that this amending Bill will meet the approval of the entire House.

SHRI A. C. GUHA: Sir, I think I have not been correctly quoted by the hon. Member. I did not complain that so many lawyer-Members did not improve that Bill. When it was pointed out to me by several hon. Members in their speeches that the Government had failed in their duty to have foreseen this difficulty, I said in my reply—Yes, that was a lapse on the part of the Government no doubt, but the Bill was debated in this House for 20 hours and yet this defect did not strike to any of the lawyer-Members also. When the Members moved amendments, surely they moved them in order to improve the Bill and to point out the lacunae and the defects in the Bill. And how can the hon. Member say that it is not the function of the hon. Members to improve the Bill?

SHRI R. U. AGNIBHOJ (Madhya Pradesh): What is the use of all this when it is all over?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned till 2-30 P.M.

The House then adjourned for lunch at one of the clock.

The House re-assembled after lunch at half past two of the clock,

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

THE INDIAN COINAGE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1955

THE MINISTER FOR REVENUE AND DEFENCE EXPENDITURE (SHRI A. C. GUHA): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Coinage Act, 1906, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Sir, this Bill is the first step in India's adoption of the metric system. Other steps will follow, and other Ministries, especially the Commerce and Industry Ministry, will come forward with another Bill very soon. I think it is not necessary to impress this House about the benefits of the metric system, as these will be known to and realised by, Members. Fifty countries of the world covering three-fourths of the population of the entire world have accepted this system. The principal exceptions are the United Kingdom, India, Pakistan and some other Commonwealth countries. It is not correct to say that all Commonwealth countries have kept out of the metric system. Some Commonwealth countries have already introduced it. The only principal country in Europe which is still resisting is the United Kingdom. In Asia only India and Pakistan are the two important countries which have not accepted this system.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY (Mysore): Have all the European countries accepted it?

SHRI A. C. GUHA: Yes, I think—all the European countries have accepted it, including the U.S.S.R., and China also in Asia. In our weights and measures, there is a sort of chaos or anarchy reigning. We may use the same terms 'maunds', 'seers' or in the case of measurement of land 'bighas' but the connotation differs from one State to another State. Sometimes in weights, the maund of one region would mean double the weight of the maund of the neighbouring region. Sir, India being one country, you will

[Shri A. C. Guha.]
 appreciate that it is not possible to allow this sort of anomalies to continue for long. So, we are naturally trying to introduce the metric system. It will make accounting very much easier, and I think that the future generations of students will bless the Members of this House for making their examinations easier, especially in mathematics.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: There will be no paper on mathematics,—only this will be much easier.

SHRI A. C. GUHA: Surely there will be some paper on mathematics. Sir, this may be an occasion for us to remind ourselves as well as the people of other countries that it was in India that the zero was first invented. It was the Hindus who first invented the zero and replaced the old counting frame, the most cumbersome system of counting, with the place notation system of numerals and the introduction of the zero.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: The decimal system was Indian in origin.

SHRI A. C. GUHA: Undoubtedly it was Indian in origin. I think that in the second century B.C. or the latter part of the third century B.C., one book 'Chanda Sutra' by Pingala made mention of the zero. Sir, I was rather very much amused when I had to read in some books of history of mathematics to prepare myself for this Bill, that the present arithmetic as taught even now in our schools was almost completed by Aryabhatta who wrote his book in 499 A.D., but this present system of arithmetic could not attain its full stature in Europe and other countries till about the 14th century. So, we were ahead of other countries in this sphere by about a millennium. Both in arithmetic and algebra India was the pioneer and the inventor. In Ashoka inscriptions also.....

DR. RADHA KUMUD MOOKERJI (Nominated): Asoka uses the number 256.

SHRI A. C. GUHA: It was some-time before 200 B.C. that 'Chanda Sutra' was written by Pingala.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Dr. Mookerji says that Asoka uses the number 256.

SHRI A. C. GUHA: I must take his information. He is an authority in these matters. I am just an amateur.

In the Asoka inscriptions also we find a sort of decimal system of accounting. 'Ako', 'Duo or Dve' 'Tri or Tin', etc. were there. Ten was 'dasa'. Twelve was 'dwa dasa'. Thirteen was 'thrayo dasa'. Hundred was 'satani' and so on.

Much before that, Sir, Indian genius counted up to several figures. In the Vedas particularly in the Yajur Veda we find counting running into several figures, much beyond millions and billions, with their specific names—e.g. Sata, Sahasra, Ayut, Niyut, Prayut, Orbhud, etc. Sir, it was something of an irony that in spite of our having invented the zero, our country has not been able to take the fullest advantage of the decimal system in our daily life.

The Indian rupee with its present weight of one tola was first introduced, I think, by Sher Shah and he gave the name "Rupaya" to it from the name of the silver of which it was made. The weight was also determined by him as one tola or one-eightieth of a seer. That is the weight of a rupee.

At the time of, I think, Akbar, a suggestion or attempt was made to introduce decimalisation of coins, but nothing was actually done. Then under the British rule, in the year 1870, this matter was discussed and the Government came to the conclusion that it should be introduced in different stages. There was a note prepared by one Mr. Strachey—a very useful note—about this decimalisation. But nothing more was done. Then the matter came up for consideration in 1944 in connection with the

post-war minting of coins. It was thought that after the war there might be some rearrangements of coins. At that time this decimal coinage system, it was thought, could be introduced. Opinions were invited from different public bodies, commercial houses, chambers and also from the provincial governments. These views were generally favourable. In 1946 a Bill was introduced. This Bill was circulated for public opinion and in 1947, the Central Assembly, the predecessor of this Parliament, started discussing the Bill. But suddenly the Central Assembly came to an end and the Bill was allowed to lapse with the sudden demise of the Assembly.

Then came the pre-partition period, bringing in unsettled conditions; political and social conditions, as also commercial and industrial conditions became disturbed. These were not quite stabilised. Moreover, in the political field also our Constitution was still under discussion. So this matter was not taken up then, though there was again a discussion in 1949 when the new coins bearing the Asoka pillar were started to be minted. Then also because of these uncertain conditions—political, social and economic—we could not proceed with this matter. We felt that first we should frame our Constitution and have a stable social and administrative set up and then this matter could be taken up.

In the meantime, an enormous amount of preparatory work had been undertaken, not only for coins, but more specially in connection with the weights and measures. Sir, as the House will realise, with the introduction of the decimal coinage system, our postal stamps, our railway freights, registration stamps and all these things would require certain readjustments and certain Acts, both of the Central Government and of the State Governments would also require some readjustments and amendments.

The Planning Commission in the meantime, took up the matter and it recommended that it was now time

for the Government to proceed with this subject. The Indian Standards Institute set up an expert committee to examine this matter and that committee recommended that this decimal system should be introduced in several stages, in 15 years time. The first period should be utilised for propaganda and subsequent periods for the introduction of the necessary legislation and then the whole thing was to be gradually and fully implemented.

Sir, previously, the Government were advised that decimalisation of weights and measures should precede the decimalisation of coins. But later on, the Standards Institute, through the Expert Committee that I referred to, recommended that the decimalisation of coins should precede the decimalisation of weights and measures. Sir, I think this is the right course, because it is somewhat easier than the decimalisation of weights and measures which is a much more complicated thing. Decimalisation of coins is more or less limited to Government offices, but the other will have repercussions throughout the country, in every village, market place, in every shop and all such places. So it was thought quite fit and proper that that matter should be taken up later and the decimalisation of the coinage should precede the decimalisation of weights and measures.

If hon. Members had taken care to read the present Bill they would have found that the rupee, the half rupee and the quarter rupee will remain of the same value. Changes will be introduced only in the coins of lower denominations. Our original idea was that the lowest coin should be a "cent" that is to say, one-hundredth part of a rupee. But on account of opinions expressed in the other House, Government have had to move some amendments to the original Bill and by these amendments it has now been left to the Government to decide on the name of the lowest coin or unit. The present Bill, as amended by the Lower House, says that the rupee

[Shri A. C. Guha.]

will be divided into one hundred lowest units. What the name of this lowest unit should be, will be decided by the Government.

Sir, the Prime Minister stated in the other House that the Government have no objection to retaining the name 'paisa' as it is known throughout the country. We do not like to create any more confusion than is absolutely necessary. We have no objection to retaining the name 'paisa', but in the meantime, for the interim period, we will have to devise some other means to distinguish the present 'paisa' from the new 'paisa'. Members should realise that it will not be possible just in a day to withdraw the old coins and put new coins on the market. It will be a slow process and it may take four or five years to complete the withdrawal of the old coins. During this interim period, both the coins, the old and the new, will be legal tender and will be current in the market. If all our Mints work to their full capacity—we have got, really speaking two Mints, the Bombay and the Alipore Mints and a small Mint at Hyderabad—then I think we would require about three or four years to produce sufficient number of small coins to meet the requirements of the market. It will not be possible even after the passing of this Bill just within two or three or four months to place any appreciable number of small coins on the market. I think it will take some months before the new coins can be put on the market in any number. We expect that by April 1960, all the coins below quarter rupee would be withdrawn. But I would like to make it clear that this is only our expectation. I am not quite sure that by this date it will be possible to withdraw all the coins. The new coins would vary somewhat in weight and dimension from the existing ones according to the unit in the metric system of weights and measures. But we may try to keep their dimensions and weights as far as possible to the present position—i.e., at least of the top three coins.

Sir, I have stated that 50 countries of the world have accepted this system and it is fit and proper that the country which invented this Decimal System should accept this policy, as soon as the country has come to its own. So long, we were under the shadow of foreign rule. Now when we have attained our nationhood, our sovereign authority, it is proper that we should introduce this system. Almost a few years after the achievement of independence, the U.S.A. broke away from the English system of Pounds and Shillings and introduced this Decimal System of coinage, by introducing the Dollar in 1792. The next big step was taken by revolutionary France which, in 1799, introduced the Decimal System not only in coins, but also in weights and measures. At that time, in the U.S.A. Jefferson, a great man and one of the pioneers of the American War of Independence, introduced this system. In France, it was Talleyrand who introduced this system. He said that this enterprise would one day belong to the whole world, though conceived and created in France. Really, Sir, it now belongs to the whole world; just as those revolutionary leaders of France claimed that though conceived and created in France this would belong to the whole world, we can also claim that, though the zero and the decimal systems were conceived and created in India, these have been accepted by the whole world and this is our proud heritage. I hope the House will pass this Bill.

SHRI KAILASH BIHARI LALL (Bihar): May I know, when the old and the new paisa are in circulation, what will be the relation between the value of the old and the new ones?

SHRI A. C. GUHA: These are the complications for which we have retained authority with the Government to devise means so as not to cause any avoidable confusion and difficulties for the people.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Coinage Act, 1906, as

passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

I have to remind hon. Members that we have got 120 minutes and I have got names of about 8 speakers before me. So, each speaker will please confine himself or herself to about 10 minutes each.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: (West Bengal): Sir, I would like to submit that we have saved a lot of time yesterday in the Bills that we discussed. So, if there is any necessity for a longer period of time, I hope you will take that into consideration.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY (My-sore): We have saved a lot of time.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There are other important Bills.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: We can save on others also.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH (Madhya Bharat): This is a very important measure. This new coinage will go down in history for centuries and the future historians will deal with it. We cannot rush like that.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Business Advisory Committee has considered the importance of each and every Bill and has fixed the time.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND (Hyderabad): The House has got a right to take longer hours, if necessary.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, we will see about it.

श्रीमती सावित्री दैवी निगम (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, आज सदन के सामने भारत में नई मुद्रा प्रणाली लागू करने के लिए जो यह विधेयक लाया गया है, उसका मैं समर्थन करती हूँ। किन्तु फिर भी इसके सम्बन्ध में मेरे मन में कुछ शंकाएँ हैं और मैं चाहती हूँ कि उनका क्लैरिफिकेशन हो जाए, इसलिए इस पर मैं अपने विचार प्रकट करना चाहती हूँ। इसमें सन्देह नहीं कि दशमलव प्रणाली के जिस आविष्कार का महान् गौरव हमारे देश को प्राप्त हो चुका है

वह अनेक देशों में प्रचलित है, और पश्चिम के अनेक देश आज पूरी प्रकार से इस प्रणाली द्वारा लाभ उठा रहे हैं।

श्रीमन्, अब हमारा देश भी तरक्की के रास्ते पर बढ़ रहा है और हमें उन तमाम रास्तों का, जिनके द्वारा तरक्की में प्रगति लाई जा सकती है, अवश्य ही अपनाया पड़ना चाहे वह कितने ही कीठन क्यों न हों। हमें उनका अनुसरण करना होगा, ऐसा मैं मानती हूँ। इसके बारे में कोई दो राय नहीं हो सकती कि गणित के लिए दशमलव प्रणाली अत्यधिक सरल साबित हुई है। हम सभी यहाँ अनुभव कर चुके हैं कि जो सवाल अन्य प्रणालियों द्वारा हल नहीं हो सके वे दशमलव प्रणाली द्वारा सरलता और आसानी से हल किये जाते हैं। उसी प्रकार हम लोग यह भी देख चुके हैं कि वैज्ञानिक यंत्र युग होने के कारण जिन देशों ने इस प्रणाली को अपनाया है, उनके जीवन की कार्य विधि और आर्थिक व्यवस्था में भी इस प्रणाली ने बड़ा योगदान दिया है। किन्तु, श्रीमन्, सुधार का कोई भी कदम उठाते समय मंत्र सरकार से यह अनुरोध है कि चतुर डाक्टर के समान वह इस बात को ध्यान में रखे कि जिस प्रकार एक डाक्टर कोई भी दैनिक दौरे समय हमेशा इस बात को ध्यान में रखता है कि आया रोगी की पाचन शक्ति इस काबिल है कि वह इस दैनिक को हजम कर ले, उसी प्रकार सरकार को हमेशा इस बात का ध्यान रखना चाहिए कि जब वह कोई सुधार का कदम उठाती है तो यह देखे कि जनता का शिक्षा का स्तर और जनता की समझदारी का स्तर क्या इतना है कि वह इतने बड़े सुधार को इस प्रकार

शीघ्रता से गृहण कर लेगी या नहीं।
3 P.M. श्रीमन्, जो अत्यन्त विचारशील लोग हैं उनके मन में भी यह शंका उठती है कि अभी जब हमारे देश में इस प्रकार अशिक्षा फैली हुई है, इस प्रकार तीन चौथाई जनता अज्ञान और अशिक्षा के अंधकार में भटक रही है, उसके साथ साथ एक ऐसा तबका भी हमारे देश में है जो अत्यन्त चतुर और चालाक है और जो उस भाले भाले तबके को, जो

[श्रीमती सावित्री दंबी निगम]

अपनी अनभिज्ञता के कारण भूलें करने की सम्भावना रखता है, ठगने की तरह तरह की तरकीबें रचा करता है। ऐसी स्थिति में यदि यह प्रणाली शीघ्र प्रारम्भ कर दी गई जैसा कि इस बिल से ज्ञात होता है, तो कहीं लोग धोखा धड़ी करना न आरम्भ कर दें और विशेषरूप से अपढ़ जनता को नुकसान उठाना पड़े। यदि सरकार ने जनता को धोखा धड़ी से बचाने के लिए कोई उपाय सोचे हों, तो मैं चाहूंगी कि उनकी सूचना यहां सदन में अवश्य ही दी जाए।

श्रीमन्, सैंकड़ों वर्षों से हम एक प्रणाली के अभ्यस्त हो गए हैं। अनपढ़ों को जाने दीजिए, बड़े बड़े पढ़े लिखे लोगों को भी दूसरी प्रणाली को एकाएक अपनाने में काफी कीठनाई का सामना करना पड़ेगा। इसलिए यदि यह परिवर्तन बहुत ही सुनियोजित रूप से बहुत ही समझदारी के साथ न लाया गया तो हमारे देश की ग्रामीण जनता को जिसकी संख्या अत्यधिक है विशेषरूप से बड़ी कीठनाइयों का सामना करना पड़ेगा।

श्रीमन्, अच्छा होगा कि जनता और विशेषज्ञों की एक समिति तुरन्त मुकदर कर दी जाए और उसके सुपूर्द यह काम कर दिया जाए कि वह जल्दी से जल्दी नये सिक्कों के नामों और नये मानदंडों का निर्माण करे। उस समिति पर यह भी दबाव डाला जाए कि वह इस प्रकार इन सिक्कों का निर्माण करे कि नये और पुराने सिक्कों में काफी साम्य हो।

एक माननीय सदस्य : साम्य क्या ?

श्रीमती सावित्री दंबी निगम : नामों में समानता हो, जिस प्रकार रुपए का नाम रुपया रहेगा, पैसे का नाम पैसा रहेगा। इसके लिए मैं सरकार को बहुत ही मुबारकबाद देती हूं और मैं चाहती हूं कि इसी प्रकार का साम्य और भी सिक्कों के लिए ढ़ढ़ने का प्रयत्न किया जाय।

मंत्री महादय से मैं एक बात और निर्वादन करना चाहती हूं और वह यह है कि पुरानी मुद्रा के साथ नई मुद्रा के चलाने की बात जो उन्होंने कही वह काफी उलभनपूर्ण और कीठनाईपूर्ण

साबित होगी। ऐसी दशा में दोनों मुद्राओं को साथ साथ चलाने के पूर्व सरकार को बहुत अच्छी तरह विचार कर लेना चाहिए क्योंकि कहीं ऐसा न हो कि जनता अकारण ही उलभनों में फंस जाए। कई एक उदाहरण हमारे सामने हैं जब कि ऐसा करने से देश में उलभनपूर्ण परिस्थिति उत्पन्न हो जावेगी और कभी कभी मुद्रास्फीति का खतरा बढ़ सकता है। यदि दोनों प्रकार की मुद्राएं देश में एक साथ चलेंगी तो गलतफहमी और रियुमर फैलाने वालों को अपनी गलत कार्यवाहियां करने का एक अच्छा अवसर मिल सकता है। यदि हम इतिहास के पन्नों को उलटें तो हमें ज्ञात होगा और तुरन्त ही वह घटना हमारे सम्मुख आ जाएगी जब मुहम्मद तुगलक ने नेकनियती के साथ अपने सिक्कों का परिवर्तन किया था, किन्तु बाद में उसे एक बड़ी असफलता का सामना करना पड़ा।

श्री अकबर अली खां (हैदराबाद) : मुहम्मद तुगलक ?

श्रीमती सावित्री दंबी निगम : हां मुहम्मद तुगलक ने ऐसा किया था। अब देखना यह है कि उसे किस प्रकार की कीठनाइयों का सामना करना पड़ा।

डा० रघुबीर सिंह : वह मुद्राओं का सवाल नहीं था। वहां तो token currency का प्रश्न था।

श्रीमती सावित्री दंबी निगम : नहीं, वह मुद्राओं का सवाल था और उसके कारण देश को बड़ी कीठनाई उठानी पड़ी थी। इसलिए यह बहुत आवश्यक है कि एक अवधि निश्चित कर दी जाए और उसी के अन्दर नये सिक्कों का मूल्य निर्धारित कर दिया जाए और उनके नाम निर्धारित कर दिए जाएं। उन सिक्कों के नाम और मूल्य निर्धारित करने के बाद, नये और पुराने सिक्कों के मूल्य को कम्पयर करते हुए, रीडिया, बुलैटिन आदि प्रचार के साधनों के द्वारा उनका खूब प्रचार किया जाए ताकि बाजार में आने से पहले लोगों को नए सिक्कों का पूरा परिचय प्राप्त हो जाए और कोई गलती की सम्भावना न रह जाए। इसके अतिरिक्त सोना-चांदी और

अनाज के भावों को नए सिक्कों में नित्य प्रतीत अखबारों और रेडियो से बराबर प्रचारित किया जाए क्योंकि साधारण जनता का इन चीजों से अधिक सम्बन्ध रहता है। तो मेरा निवेदन यह है कि बजाय इसके कि पुराने और नये दोनों सिक्कों एक साथ चलाए जाएं, होना यह चाहिए कि पहले पूरी तैयारी कर ली जाए, पूरा प्रचार कर लिया जाए और एक दम से कुछ थोड़े दिनों की अवधि देकर पुराने सिक्कों उठा लिए जाएं और फिर नये सिक्कों चालू किये जाएं। मैं सम्झती हूँ कि यह अधिक उचित होगा।

डा० रघुबीर सिंह: ऐसा कैसे सम्भव हो सकता है ?

श्रीमती सावित्री देवी निगम: थोड़ा सा समय इसमें जरूर लगेंगा, लेकिन इससे कोई गड़बड़ी नहीं होगी। जो इस विषय में विशेषज्ञ कहे जाते हैं, जब मैंने उनसे राय ली तो उनसे यह मालूम करके मुझे बड़ी प्रसन्नता हुई कि यह भी सम्भव हो सकता है कि हम पुराने सिक्कों को उठाने के साथ साथ थोड़े दिनों का अन्तर देकर नए सिक्कों को जारी करें। इसलिए इसमें जल्दबाजी करने की आवश्यकता नहीं है।

SHRI KISHEN CHAND: Mr. Deputy Chairman, I wholeheartedly welcome this Bill. You remember Sir, that only two years back, a similar Bill was introduced in this House but the hon. Minister thought it to be too premature. Somehow or other, now he has been prevailed upon to introduce this Bill and, as I said, I wholeheartedly welcome this Bill, but I beg to submit that this Bill though based on a good idea, contains certain defects which the hon. Minister has not understood and which I shall try to point out to him.

I submit, Sir, that as he started and said that India is very proud of having introduced the zero and introduced the decimal system, the hon. the Prime Minister also stressed this point in the other House that India had the proud privilege of introducing the decimal system. I entirely

agree with it, Sir. But India had the privilege of introducing the decimal system, not the centesimal system. The hon. the Finance Minister or Shri Guha is now introducing this centesimal system. It is not decimal system because the fundamental idea in the decimal system is always division into ten. You can certainly say that 100 is also a multiple of 10. You can divide it into one thousand parts, but that is not the original idea of decimal system. If you really follow the decimal system, the basis of a decimal system is arithmetic of one digit. The moment you change over to centesimal system you come to an arithmetic of two digits. I beg to ask the hon. Minister and I would ask other hon. Members whether they can easily add up two digit figures. If it were asked how much did 59 paise and 37 paise come to, can they say instantly that it would be 96 paise? To do this arithmetic they may have to use a paper and pencil, but if, as rightly stressed by the hon. Minister he had introduced the decimal system, there would be no complication. If it is only a question of nomenclature, he can call it an anna or give some other name. It is immaterial what name you give it, but the rupee should be first divided into ten units and that one unit should be further divided into ten units. I have sent certain amendments to this effect, that the rupee may be divided into ten annas and then the anna may be further divided into ten paise. So you really get one hundred paise in a rupee, but there is an intermediate stage so that the performance of arithmetic is simplified for the young boy or girl who is going to learn it. At present they have got to convert the pies into annas by dividing the total by 12 and again convert the annas into rupees by dividing them by 16 and fractions are involved. All that process will be much simplified when we introduce this system.

Sir, the hon. Minister gave at length the examples of other countries and I think he mentioned the case of France where the French franc is divided into 100 cents. But he did not

[Shri Kishan Chand.]

mention that the French franc is about one-twentieth of a rupee and that in that country though on paper there are hundred cents, they never use less than 10 cent coins. 10 cent is more or less the minimum there, though their franc is divided into 100 parts, it really amounts to division into 10 parts.

When their smallest unit is 10, it will be all multiples of ten, 10 cents, 20 cents, 30 cents and so on. They do not have this problem of 37 cents. As I said before, in our country we must see that the coinage system suits the economy of our country. In our country murders have taken place on quarrels arising out of two pice. If you go to any bazar or any market you will see that the women will be selling vegetables on the basis of one pice, two pice and three pice and their whole days earnings and expenditure are within one rupee. Their whole economy is based on pice and annas and they never think of units of ten. It will be really very unfair and absolutely unconnected to the economy of our country if we try to divide our rupee into a hundred units and give the name of paisa to one unit and not have an intermediary unit of an anna.

Then, Sir, the hon. Minister said something about weights and measures and I suppose when that comes about we shall consider it. Here again I would like to point out that it should not be like the French system which has kilogram, gram and so on. They have got intermediate weights but they are not well known. If we make a similar mistake in our country, then I suppose it will become still worse, worse than what it is at present. I had introduced a Bill for weights and measures. I have no doubt that a seer can be divided into ten chhataks and then into 100 tolas and so on.

The hon. Minister has pointed out that there should not be a sort of overnight transition. This has not been the practice. I come from Hyderabad State where during the last two or three years the experiment of

changing from one coinage to another has been going on and I can assure you that it is a very simple process. People very easily get used to it. The Hyderabad rupee was divided into 96 pice and that was equal to six-seventh of the Indian rupee. You can imagine the number of fractions that were involved and yet it was such a simple thing that the four paisa of Indian currency were equivalent to seven paisa of Hyderabad currency and transactions were carried on very easily. Six annas of the Indian rupee were equivalent to seven annas of the Hyderabad rupee. Even illiterate persons somehow or other adjusted it into multiples of six and had their business conducted easily. Lower down three annas of Indian rupee were equal to $3\frac{1}{2}$ annas of Hyderabad currency. Being a small unit, they could easily adjust from one currency to another. Similarly, now our rupee has 64 pice. If we change it to have 100 paisas, the normal rule will be that the present four pice will be equivalent to six new paisas. Exactly it will be $6\frac{1}{4}$ paisas but normally it will be made available when you reach 16 pice which will be equivalent to 25 paisas. The hon. Minister put some stress on a quarter rupee. From a sentimental point of view it may be of importance but it goes against the very spirit of the decimal coinage. Before the early Indians invented the decimal system and the zero, the whole arithmetic was based on this division in two parts. The earth was divided first into two parts, then four and so on. Then three came in, then six, then 12 and so on. 12 is very important in Indian astronomy because it is a multiple of both two and three. So if the hon. Minister is keen on introducing the decimal system and at the same time wants to retain the quarter rupee, it will be basically against the fundamental idea of the decimal system. Eventually it will have to be withdrawn. If he keeps any coin it must be 10 paisas, 20 paisas and so on. That is why I would prefer to call them as one anna, two annas, five annas and so on. Somehow in the entire literature of our country the word anna has got a

place. We have all along been using that word and if that word is now entirely omitted the future generation while reading the old literature whenever they come across this word 'anna' they will not understand what it meant. If we keep that word there might be a slight confusion during the transition period when we change from the old to the new currency. Every time people will have to say 'new anna' and 'old anna'. Once they get a grip on that, they can easily pass from one currency to the other. The old four annas will become equal to $2\frac{1}{2}$ annas of the new coinage. And as the hon. Minister stated, our coins must have relation to weights expressed in the metric system. Of course even the metric system is not ideal from a mathematical point of view. I submit that the French people have found out that there had been some mistake in the measurement of a metre but it cannot be changed now. That has come to stay. Constants cannot be expressed in whole numbers because there was some mistake of measurement but anyhow it has come to remain.

Then I would humbly submit that in the old days the diameter of pice used to be one inch and as a small child I remember I used to measure ordinary lengths by the use of pice by putting two or three pice side by side. We are using currencies where neither the weight nor the diameter has any relationship with the units of weights and measures. Therefore I would humbly submit to the hon. Minister that when he mints new coins he will keep the diameter and weight of the new coins in such a way that they will be simple multiples of the units of length and weight. If these changes are made, we will be really following the decimal system and bringing some relief to the young children in our country who are going to learn arithmetic. But if he keeps the present method and leaves it for the Government later on, after being advised by a foreign expert or an American expert to bring forward an amendment saying that

they had made a mistake and that the second Amending Bill is necessary, it will not look nice. The hon. Minister said that he would be prepared to accept amendments provided they were reasonable. Sir, there are certain amendments going to be moved and I do hope that he will accept some of them.

SHRI A. C. GUHA: Yes, provided they are reasonable.

DR. RADHA KUMUD MOOKERJI: Sir, I congratulate the hon. Minister in charge of this Bill on the wealth of material which he has adduced in support of this measure. He has gone far afield in search of evidence to support the system of decimal coinage. I would like, however, to support him by presenting before him the most ancient evidence imaginable.

Sir, to India belongs the credit of having the earliest human conception of decimal coinage, and I say this on the basis of a very remarkable passage occurring in one of the earliest works not merely of India but of humanity, the work known as *Satapatha Brahmana*. There we find certain technical terms of very great monetary significance. The first term used is *Satamana*, a coin based on hundred units and the units are called *Krishnalas*. A hundred *Krishnalas* would amount to that superior coin known as *Satamana*, so that the very term indicates the system for which it stands.

Then coming down to later times following the period of the Vedic literature, we find Panini the great Grammarian, and the author of a monumental grammatical work known as *Ashtadhyayi*, and who lived in 750 B.C. using the term *Vimsatika*. That is an important technical numismatic term that he has used. That is made up of 20 *Karshapanas* which is a Sanskrit term. Its Pali equivalent is *Kahapana* and the *Kahapana* also occurs very frequently in older Pali literature. For instance, according to the canonical Buddhist work known as

[Dr. Radha Kumud Mookerji.]
Vinayapitak at the city of Rajgriha—
 Rajgir of Bihar—there were current
 coins which are described as *Vimsati-*
masako Kahapana. That is to say, the
 unit is *Vimsatika* which is first refer-
 red to by Panini. This was current in
 Buddhist India at the time of about
 500 B.C. There also this coin is defined
 as consisting of 20 *Kahapanas*.

I do not know what the smallest
 unit of our new Indian coinage would
 be called but I will give you certain
 technical traditional Sanskrit and Pali
 terms for your consideration. You
 simply call it *Pana* which is used in
 Kautilya's *Arthashastra* for the small-
 est unit of coin. Kautilya's *Artha-*
sastra is a very authoritative work of
 about 3rd century B.C.

Then, again, I find that there was
 in use a silver coin named *Dharana*
 which was also split up into twenty
 parts, so that you find from concrete
 evidence that there were coins based
 on this conception of decimal coinage.
 I, therefore, think that the Minister
 in charge of this Bill is really dis-
 charging a sacred national duty in
 trying to revive the coinage of free
 India on the basis of our indigenous
 traditions.

श्री रामेश्वर अग्निशौजः : मैं इस बिल का
 समर्थन करते हुए इस सम्बन्ध में अपने विचार
 व्यक्त करना चाहूंगा। आप जानते हैं कि
 किसी भी शासन या राज्य में मुद्रा का बहुत बड़ा
 महत्व होता है, और किसी भी राष्ट्र या देश
 की जो सर्वशक्तिमान् शक्ति शासनकर्ता हुआ
 करती है वही अपनी मुद्रा उस राज्य में चलाती
 है और इसीलिए कई देशों में मुद्रा को सौवरन
 कहा गया है। किसी देश ने उसको डॉलर के
 नाम से पुकारा। संसार में स्वर्ण मुद्राएं चलीं,
 रौप्य मुद्राएं चलीं और ताम्र मुद्राएं भी चलीं।
 हमारे देश में जहां तक मैं समझता हूं रौप्य
 मुद्रा चलती है। रौप्य चांदी को कहते हैं और
 शायद रौप्य से ही रुपया बना है। यह जो
 रौप्य मुद्रा हमारे देश में चल रही है उसके

आने और पैसे में बांट कर हिस्से किये गये हैं। अब
 हम उस आने और पैसे को बदल कर किसी
 दूसरे रूप में पेश करना चाहते हैं और रुपये
 की गिनती का मान उसके सौवें हिस्से से करना
 चाहते हैं। ऐसी स्थिति में हमारे भिन्न, जिन
 को मैं बहुत श्रद्धा और आदर की दृष्टि से
 देखता हूं, यह कहते हैं कि इस रुपये को सौ
 हिस्सों में बांटना चाहिए परन्तु जहां तक हो
 सके उसका नाम वही रहे जो रुपये के हिस्से का
 पुराना नाम अब तक रहा है। मैं इससे
 बिलकुल सहमत नहीं हूं क्योंकि वैसे ही हमारे
 देश में आर्थिक क्षेत्र में काफी कफ्युजन है
 और ऐसी स्थिति में जब कि लोग रीढ़ियों सुनना
 नहीं जानते, आपके बुलेटिनों को नहीं समझते,
 अंकगणित नहीं समझते, तो फिर उनके लिए यह
 समझना मुश्किल हो जायगा कि अब तक एक
 रुपये के जो ६४ होते थे उसके जब सौ पैसे होने
 लगेंगे तो कैसे हिसाब लगाया जाय। यदि
 रुपये के ६४ और १०० हिस्से के मान को एक
 बता कर उसे पैसे के नाम से पुकारा जायगा तो
 इससे देश में खास कर गरीब जनता और
 करोड़ों आदिवासी और अपढ़ लोगों के क्षेत्र में
 इतना बुरा उपयोग होने वाला है कि जो कुछ
 भी उनके पास दमड़ी छदाम है वह भी वहां
 के व्यापारी, वहां के बीनये, वहां के रोजगार
 करने वाले, गुड़, नोन और तेल बेचने वाले
 उनको ठग कर साफ कर देंगे। आपके नये पैसे
 का मूल्यांकन होता है १.६२५, यानी यह आपकी
 इकाई बनेगी और उसका जो डॉट यूनिट होगा
 वह हमारे वर्तमान पैसे से कुछ कम होगा। ऐसी
 स्थिति में पैसे के नाम को फिर से कायम रखना
 मैं बिलकुल उचित नहीं समझता। आखिर
 इस "पैसा" शब्द से हमें क्या मोह है? इस
 पैसा शब्द की उत्पत्ति कहां से हुई, इसकी
 धातु क्या है, यह पैसा किसने नाम रखा, यह
 पैसा कहां से पैदा हुआ? मैं समझता हूं कि
 यह कोई आसमानी चीज है। कोई पादशाह
 होगा या कोई बादशाह होगा उसने अपने नाम
 से यह सिक्का चला दिया होगा। उसकी कोई
 धातु नहीं, अर्थ नहीं, वह एक निरर्थक शब्द है
 और इसीलिए हम अब भी उस "पैसा" नाम से

चिपकें रहें, यह मैं बिलकुल अनुचित समझता हूँ। इस लिए मैं यह चाहता हूँ कि पैसे को आप पैसा न कह कर, रुपये को जो आप १०० हिस्सों में बांटते हैं, तो हर हिस्से को आप शतांश कहिये। मैंने इस बार मैं एक संशोधन भी रखा है। “शतांश” शब्द मैं इस लिए कह रहा हूँ क्योंकि जब यह बिल निकला था तो ऐसी चर्चा हुई थी कि जो हमारी इकाई पैसा की है उसको “सेंट” नाम से पुकारा जाय। यह सेंट शब्द हमारे भारतवर्ष के लिए और हमारी हिन्दी भाषा के लिए बहुत बेहदा शब्द है क्योंकि उसका अर्थ होता है “one hundredth of a dollar” यानी जब हम सेंट परसेंट कहते हैं तो उसका अर्थ होता है सौ सैकड़ा लेकिन जब खाली एक सेंट कहा जाता है तो उसका मतलब होता है एक डालर का सवां हिस्सा। इस दृष्टि से रुपये के सौवें हिस्से को सेंट का नाम देना यह एक बहुत गलत चीज है। शतांश को यानी १००वें अंश को यदि रुपये की इकाई के लिए कहा जाय तो बहुत उपयुक्त होगा। इसीलिए अपने यहां के सिक्कों के नाम को यदि आप “शतांश” रखें और जैसा कि अभी प्रॉ० मुखर्जी ने आपको “शतमान” इत्यादि शब्दों के उदाहरण दिये, तो वह शब्द ही ऐसा है जिसके शब्द में अर्थ है। उसके शब्द में पूरा अर्थ है, सम्यक अर्थ है। इसीलिए हम उस “पैसे” शब्द पर कायम न रहें, हम रुपये को सौ हिस्सों में बांट कर उसकी इकाई को शतांश कह कर पुकारें।

हमारे मंत्री महोदय ने और अन्य मित्रों ने कहा कि जो शून्य शब्द है, जिसको अंग्रेजी में जीरो कहते हैं, हमारे ही देश का ईजाद किया हुआ है और उसकी ओर हम फिर से वापस आ रहे हैं। अगर हमारे देश ने केवल जीरो पैदा किया होता तो ये बाकी के अंक तब कहां से आ गए। मैं कहता हूँ आपकी संस्कृति और सभ्यता ने शून्य भी पैदा किया और बाकी अंक भी पैदा किये, इसीलिए शून्य के लिए अभिमान करना कि केवल शून्य हमने पैदा किया इस लिए हम उस पर वापस जा रहे हैं तो क्या आप

समझते हैं कि वही हमने कोई महत्वपूर्ण बात कर दी है। शून्य का तभी महत्व होता है जब अंकों के साथ उसे जोड़ा जाता है, अंक के आगे रखने से दशमलव का स्थान ले लेता है और बाद में रखने से संख्या वृद्धि कर देता है, नहीं तो शून्य का मतलब शून्य ही होता है।

श्री हर प्रसाद सक्सेना (उत्तर प्रदेश) : शून्य को हमने महत्वपूर्ण बना दिया; जो बिलकुल व्यर्थ था उसको महत्वपूर्ण बना दिया, यह सिग्निफिकेंस है शून्य का। आप उसके सिग्निफिकेंस को ही नहीं समझें अब तक।

श्री रामेश्वर अग्निभाऊ : मैं खूब समझता हूँ, पर उसका सिग्निफिकेंस तभी है जब उस के साथ अंक हो। परन्तु मैं कहता हूँ कि शून्य का मतलब शून्य होता है, उसका कोई और अर्थ नहीं निकलता है। जब वह किसी अंक के साथ जोड़ा जाता है तभी उसका काम होता है नहीं तो नहीं होता है।

तो मैं यह कह रहा था कि मुझे हमारे देश की सबसे अधिक शक्ति है। हमारे मंत्री महोदय ने जो यह अधिकार रखा है कि केन्द्रीय सरकार जब चाहे तब कोई उपयुक्त नाम देकर उसकी जगह बदल दे। इस चीज को मैं बहुत ही अनुपयुक्त समझता हूँ। क्योंकि हमारे देश में संसद् ही सुप्रीम और सावरन बाड़ी है और यह पार्लियामेंट का गौरवपूर्ण कर्तव्य होना चाहिये, यह पार्लियामेंट का अधिकार होना चाहिये कि हमारे स्वतंत्र देश के स्वतंत्र और नये सिक्कों के नाम संसद् रखे। केवल गजट नोटिफिकेशन करके सावरन सरकार या एग्जिक्यूटिव सरकार ऐसा न करे। यदि पार्लियामेंट सुप्रीम है, सावरन है तो हमारा यह कर्तव्य है कि हम नये सिक्कों का नाम रखें। इस लिये मैं यह प्रार्थना करना चाहता हूँ कि नाम रखने से पहले पार्लियामेंट की इजाजत सरकार ले।

इसके अतिरिक्त जब यह नया सिक्का चलाया जाय तो ऐसा नहीं होना चाहिये कि किसी प्रकार का भ्रम, जिस को अंग्रेजी में कंफ्यूजन

[श्री रामेश्वर अग्निभाज]

कहत हैं, फलें। जब आप कहते हैं कि पुराने सिक्कों को वापस लेने में तीन-चार साल का समय लगेगा तो इस बीच में नये और पुराने सिक्के में जो संघर्ष होगा वह बहुत ही खराब होगा। इस लिये मैं प्रार्थना करूंगा कि जब नये सिक्के, जिन को मैं शतांश के नाम से पुकारता हूं, चलें तो सौ के नीचे जो शतांश के सिक्के चलें वे एक शतांश, दो शतांश, चार शतांश आदि के अनुसार चलें।

श्री पांडुरंग वामन काणे (नाम निर्दिष्ट) :
उसका संस्कृत अर्थ क्या है ?

श्री रामेश्वर अग्निभाज : इसको आप सरीखे विद्वान लोग संभाल लेंगे। तो मैं यह कह रहा था कि रुपये के नीचे १०, २५, ५० और ७५ सेंट के सिक्कों से आप पूरे सिक्कों का काम चला सकेंगे। इतना कह कर मैं इस बिल का समर्थन करता हूं।

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: Sir, this Bill seeks to modify our coinage system to the decimal system. This idea has been before the country for over three decades. At least since 1946 it has acquired some legal form.

Sir, since the first Bill was introduced to change the coinage system to decimal system, the country has been examining this question. I have also been watching closely the views that have been expressed in several quarters about this system. As the coinage system of a country is a part of the system of that country, and it is the basis of the economy of that country, the repercussions of any change in that system will not be easy to be understood. And much less can they be understood by laymen who have no knowledge of what coinage is and what the coin science is. Therefore, Sir, I have been closely watching and examining the opinions expressed in several quarters. The Indian Federation of Chambers of Commerce and several State Chambers of Commerce and business interests and stock brokers have expressed their opinion in favour of

changing to a decimal system. But small business interests and rural interests have found it very difficult to appreciate it. The reasons they advance are very important. I have not been able to understand them, and I have not been able to see, when all those opinions are there, how advantageous this would be over the present system. Nor has the speech of the hon. Minister brought out the advantages of this system very clearly. Beyond the point that this makes accounting easier there is no other advantage that he has placed before this House. Anyway, I am not opposed to the change. But I want only to understand how this system would confer an advantage. Particularly when the ancient system that has been more in vogue here is to be changed to a new system, we should rather do it after understanding it thoroughly.

Well, Sir, the difficulties are these. First of all, it is an unnatural system. Although India claims the privilege of having founded the decimal system, as our hon. doctor friend has pointed out to us very clearly, still India has not adopted it. Why did the founders of this decimal system, if it were such an easy system, not adopt it in their economy? That is one thing. Secondly, Sir, this decimal system which also means metric system in weighing is an unnatural system, inasmuch as it is based upon the idea of length. As far as I can gather, it seems to have grown up like this. The meter is based upon the one-ten millionth part of the distance between the equator and the pole, and the cube of a tenth part of this meter is a unit which is called 'litre', and the weight of a milli-litre of water 4 deg. C is a gram. This shows that even weight is based upon the standard of distance. The present system, they say, is natural in the sense that we measure our distance in the shape of paces; we say three paces, six paces and all that. We measure the depth by the height of the man and distance by paces. And our weight also is not based on any extraneous factor like distance. Our

weight, Sir, as everybody knows, is based upon what we call the ratti, a nut. That is the thing which we use. That is the basic element of our weight. And we express weight in rupees, annas and pies also; we say, two annas worth of gold, or four annas worth of gold and so on and so forth. For calculation also they say that this is a very easy system. But this has been discussed by our merchants, and they say "If the decimal system is easy, we will show and demonstrate that our method of reckoning is much easier. You bring a wagon-load of figures and we will be able to solve them without any difficulty." Supposing I buy 13 yards and 7 giras of cloth at Rs. 9-15-0 a yard. Well, unless you take some paper and pencil in the decimal system, you cannot work out the total cost, whereas the merchant counts his fingers and gives the answer in a trice. Our merchants count by rupees, four-anna pieces, two anna pieces and by annas. And in our accounting system, Sir, we have seen that they put horizontal dashes and vertical lines and then whatever figures we may dictate to them, they will add them up in no time and give us the figure required. Anyway, Sir, it may perhaps be said that because they are used to that system, it looks easier for them to do all these things. But we have seen, Sir, that they find no difficulty at all. I can understand the advantage of this decimal system when we want to compute large figures. But when we have to compute small figures, I do not understand how convenient this system will be over the present one. They ask: If this system had any advantages, why did Mahatma Gandhi oppose it? In fact, a Bill was introduced in 1946. The Planning Commission examined it, the Institute of Standards examined it, and the various Chambers of Commerce gathered an expert opinion. After all that, they ask, why did Mahatma Gandhi oppose it? It was before him for some time, but he opposed it because he found that this system was not in consonance with the natural growth of the sys-

tem that was in vogue. And there are no difficulties. I agree with my hon. friend that there is confusion in our weights today. By a 'maund' we mean one weight in one place and quite a different thing in another place, but, then, if this is so, standardise them all by means of the rupee or tola weight. Let every State adopt this. But as Shrimati Savitry Nigam said, for people who are not literate, I would like to know whether this would be easy to work out. I might tell the Finance Minister that I have not made up my mind against this Bill, but this difficulty is real. People feel that as far as reckoners are concerned, so far as the educated people, the chartered accountants, etc. are concerned, this system is the easiest, but then would it be equally easy to the ordinary people to reckon in terms of the decimal coinage? This is the difficulty which I would like the hon. Minister to explain to me. As the Standards Institute Committee have pointed out, the country will not be able to appreciate this system and reconcile themselves to work it out until the masses are educated in it. So, they have themselves felt that there would be difficulty in the masses comprehending this and working it out. So, I would like to know from the Minister as to how he would make it easier for them. I am awaiting his clarification.

SHRI J. S. BISHT (Uttar Pradesh): Mr. Deputy Chairman, I wholeheartedly support this measure. While listening to the speeches here, I was wondering whether the Hindus are not as conservative as the British are alleged to be, because I have been seeing during the last three years that, whenever a measure of reform is brought in, there are always innumerable difficulties and objections raised. Is it not tragic that we should be debating this point over the last 88 years. I have brought here the report of the Government of India. An engineer, Lt. Colonel Richard Strachey, who was at the time Director General of Irrigation, was a Member of the Committee on Indian Weights and Measures in 1868 and he

[Shri J. S. Bisht.]

strongly pressed that the decimal system of coinage and the metric system of weights and measures should be adopted in India. I will just read para. 20 of his Minute of Dissent. He says:

"I am no fanatical advocate of the metrical system. I regard all standards of magnitude as being essentially arbitrary, and as having very little in their ultimate character to make one preferable to another. But the metrical system has the great practical advantage of being based on proper scientific principles; of being the only such system actually in use; and of being in operation, at least partially, over the most advanced part of continental Europe. These advantages are such as to satisfy me that it will never have any real competitor when the day for change has come. The true importance of international uniformity in these things is at last beginning to be properly estimated, and the movement which has commenced in its favour cannot cease until it has been successful."

This he prophesied 88 years ago. I have brought a list here of the countries which have adopted this modern system since then. I find that since 1920, the following countries have adopted this: Poland, Malta, Greece, China, Russia, Japan, Morocco, Persia, Afghanistan, Syria, Indonesia, Indo-China, Korea and Thailand. Surely we are not less advanced than they are. We are not less developed than they are. When they adopted this metric system, they also must have had some sort of coinage and weights in their countries, and we have not heard that there was any great hardship brought about by this change during the transitional period in those countries. You will further note that in 1946 the hon. Sir Archibald Rowlands moved a similar Bill. In fact, clauses 2 and 3 of that Bill have been exactly reproduced here in this Bill. Only in sub-clause (i) there is some slight change. This Bill was

very strongly supported by our scientific bodies and no less a person than Shri C. Rajagopalachari wrote an article in *THE STATESMAN* on the 23rd February 1947 in which he strongly recommended that this system of decimal coinage and metric system of weights should be adopted in the country. He said:

"India, it is well known, is the land where the decimal system of notation was born. It is appropriate that she should put her weights and measures today in line with the international scientific world, adopting what is truly her own decimal system. Internal commerce has now crossed the borders not only of districts but of provinces, and everyone but incorrigible lovers of confusion would welcome a uniform seer all over India which would be statutorily recognised and enforced. We may love variety and variation in art but weights and measures are in their very nature fundamental social machinery. Uniformity is the essence of it."

I will also quote here the statement issued by Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, President Elect of the 34th Indian Science Congress and Professor Afzal Hussain, President of the Indian Science Congress Association:

"The Indian Science Congress Association has supported for many years the movement for the decimalisation of currency, weights and measures. At the Bangalore session of the Science Congress held in January 1946, the general body of members in meeting assembled unanimously passed a resolution in favour of a comprehensive policy of decimalisation in India."

We have got all these in our favour, and I don't see why there should be any difficulty.

With regard to certain points that were raised by Mr. Kishen Chand, I am in agreement with him, and if the hon. Minister is prepared to accept them, it would be very nice. He said

that the old pice was 1 inch in diameter and so it would be a good thing if the new unit also, by whatever name it is called, is also 1 centimetre in diameter, so that there is some sort of uniformity when we move from the old to the new system.

There is another point, and that is with regard to the name of the new unit. The hon. Minister has not yet disclosed his mind, nor the mind of the Government, as to what the name will be. The difficulty in adopting the word 'paisa' will be this that the new paisa would be of a different size and weight from the old paisa which we had before the war. The difficulty then was that due to the shortage of copper during the war period we had first a new type of paisa which was like a washer with a round hole in it. Later it was abandoned and a new type of *paisa* similar to the first but smaller in diameter and less in weight was introduced. The new unit would be smaller than the *paisa*, otherwise it will be something intermediate between the pice and the small *paisa*, and this will create confusion.

I would also suggest that you may call it by the term "dam" because that word is common for we ask क्या दाम है ? What is the price? This word will not create confusion among the illiterate, rural masses in our countryside. Otherwise these coin brokers will try to exploit them and their gullibility in these matters. They will go to the common people and say, "This is the first paisa, this here is another paisa and then here is the third paisa and now comes the fourth type of paisa." And they will make some money from the illiterate people. We are dividing the rupee into 100 parts and the new coin will be one-hundredth part of the rupee while the old pice was one-sixty-fourth part of it. There will only be a little change in the name.

SHRI R. U. AGNIBHOJ: The new coin, a hundred of which make a

rupee and the 64 pice that make a rupee will simultaneously be there.

SHRI J. S. BISHT: That is exactly what I am saying. Therefore this will create some confusion and so I say we shall have to give some new name to the new coin. It need not be a Sanskrit word as was suggested here, but something which is already current among the people and common everywhere. Such a word is "dam". I understand that in Bengal and Assam also it is in common use. Therefore, at least in the north of India there should be no difficulty about it.

With these few remarks, Sir, I support the Bill.

DR. P. V. KANE: Mr. Deputy Chairman, I want to make only a very few observations on this Bill which I am supporting. I have only one or two points to refer to. Whenever any change is made, it always meets with some opposition, because people do not like change, generally. But you see, we are all going on changing. Therefore, let us not be afraid of change as if something bad is going to happen. That is not so. We are all, as I said, changing in so many ways. Don't you see how we are dating our Bills? We call them "Bill so and so of Number so and so of 1954 or 1955" and so on. We have adopted the English method of referring to them. Therefore, let us not be afraid of change because it is a change. Let us see if there is anything in it.

We have had from the very beginning, for some 2,000 years or more, the term *Nanak* and it has been adopted in the *Yajnavalkya Smriti*. But people seem to have become even greater purists than *Yajnavalkya*, for he had adopted the term *Nanaka* (नाणक) and says:

तुलाशसनमानानां कटुकन्नाणकस्य च ।
एभिश्च व्यवहर्ता यः स दाप्यो दममुत्तमम्

[Dr. P. V. Kane.]

That is to say: "The King shall punish the maker of counterfeit coins."

Similarly with the word "Dinara". The Romans had their "Denarius" and the Romans, as we know, had a large trade with us. Therefore, scores of golden "dinars" have been found in many places in India—hundreds even. Gradually from Denarius which is Latin it became the Sanskrit word "Dinar".

SHRI GOPIKRISHNA VIJAI VARGIYA (Madhya Bharat): It is also Persian.

DR. P. V. KANE: The word "Denarius" originally was Latin and our people became acquainted with it somewhere about 200 A. D. Since then it has come down. We find it in the Narada Smriti also. So what I mean is, we should not be afraid of change, for as I said, we have been always changing.

Formerly there was the "Satamana" but that meant something "large"; it did not refer to any coin. Actually in those days there were no coins but only small pieces of silver which were punch-marked. You may call them punch-marked coins, but not coins like the ones we now have. These punch-marked coins used to be issued even by small people like those in a guild. The guilds had their own coins. At present, of course, only the Government can issue coins, but in those days even guilds issued coins.

I would however urge that two things should be borne in mind. Firstly sufficiently long time should be given to make the people acquainted with the new system. In the Bill there is no provision for this time. It only says that the old currency will be current for some time. But how long? I submit that there should be sufficient time given, say, about 5 years or more. Secondly, as Mr. Kishen Chand suggested, the coinage should bear some relation to the weights and measures in the land.

Formerly it did so. "Kahapan" as we know, or the "Pan" had a certain definite weight or mass also. You are now legislating piecemeal, dealing now only with coins, not with our weights and measures.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: He said it will come.

DR. P. V. KANE: But the whole thing has to come together. So let that also be considered.

Sir, there is nothing much in this Bill. After all, decimalisation was something which originated here and from India it went to Europe through the Arabs, who took it to the western world and they were quite ready to take it, because it was more advantageous than their own system which was based on multiples of twelve. The Europeans found the decimal system far better than their system based on multiples of twelve. Of course, they in the West did not directly know us and so they called this system the Arabic system. The Arabs had borrowed it from us. Just as some other people had borrowed it from us, let us also take something from others. I don't think there is any harm in that.

श्री गोपीकृष्ण विजयवर्गीय: उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, इंडियन कोइनेज अमेंडमेंट बिल सन् १९५५ का मैं पूर्णतया समर्थन करता हूँ। मुझे इस बात को देखकर प्रसन्नता हो रही है कि इस सदन में कोई भी आवाज ऐसी नहीं है जो इस बिल के विरोध में हो, इसीलिए यही एक मात्र कानून यहां है जो सर्वसम्मति से पास हो रहा है। अभी तक इस बिल के समर्थन में जितने भी भाषण हुए हैं वे सब समर्थन में ही हुए हैं और यह उचित भी है।

अब हमारा राष्ट्र स्वतंत्र हो गया है और हम हर दिशा में उन्नति और तरक्की कर रहे हैं तब यह आवश्यक है कि सिक्के के सम्बन्ध में भी हम वैज्ञानिक पद्धति का अनुसरण करें। जब हम लॉग दशमलव या दशमान पद्धति से पानी दस दस आगे बढ़ते हैं तो हमारा

सिक्का उसके अनुकूल होना चाहिये। लेकिन इसमें शब्द के विषय में मतभेद हैं। कोई बतलाता है कि शतांश लिखा जाय लेकिन दशक और शतक ये दो शब्द भी शामिल हो सकते हैं। दशक दसवां हिस्सा है और शतक सौवां हिस्सा है जैसा कि किशनचन्द्र जी का अमेन्डमेंट है। यह अमेन्डमेंट यह है कि एक रुपया दस आनों में विभक्त किया जायेगा और आने को दस पैसे में विभक्त किया जायेगा। तो इस प्रकार रुपये के आने दस हो गये और फी आना दस पैसे हो गये। किन्तु पैसे और रुपये के बीच में कुछ न कुछ एक चीज ऐसी अवश्य होनी चाहिये, नहीं तो गांव वालों को कठिनाई होगी। इस परिवर्तन से सब से ज्यादा कठिनाई गांव वालों को होने वाली है। जो लोग शहरों में व्यापार करते हैं, हजारों और लाखों का व्यापार करते हैं उनके लिए कोई कठिनाई नहीं होगी : जो लोग शहरों में मशीनों से जोड़, घटाना और गुणा करते हैं उनके लिए तो बहुत आसानी हो जायेगी। लेकिन गांव वालों के लिए जहां आधा, आधे का आधा और उसका आधा करते हैं, वहां दसवां हिस्सा नहीं होता है। यदि इस तरह का हमारा रुपया बने तो वहां दिक्कत जरूर होगी। सरकार को इस बात का कोई न कोई हल अवश्य निकालना चाहिये। सरकार ने अपने हाथ में ताकत ले रखी है कि वह उचित तारीख से गजट नोटिफिकेशन द्वारा इस प्रणाली की व्यवस्था करेगी। मैं समझता हूं कि इस विषय में जो कमेटी बनाई जायेगी उसमें सभी प्रदेशों के लोगों को लिया जाएगा ताकि वे भी अपने सुझाव दें सकें।

हमारा दश भविष्य में उन्नति करने वाला है इसलिए नये नाम इस तरह से होने चाहियें जिनसे जनता को किसी प्रकार की कठिनाई न हो और वे समय के अनुकूल भी हों। हमें अपने सिक्कों का परिवर्तन साइन्टिफिक और वैज्ञानिक ढंग से करना होगा। अभी माननीय काणे साहब ने कहा कि सिक्के में परिवर्तन करते समय हमें नए और ताल के विषय में भी

ध्यान रखना होगा। जो कमेटी इस सवाल पर विचार करेगी उसे इन सवालों को बहुत गौर से तय करना होगा। हमें फ्लूयिड, ड्राम और औंस के बारे में भी ध्यान रखना होगा। जैसे १०० पॉइंट का एक ड्राम होता है और १०० ड्राम का एक औंस होता है, इस तरह के ये माप के नाम हैं। हमारे देश में भी इसी तरह के नाम होने चाहियें जिससे जनता को किसी तरह की परेशानी न हो। कमेटी जो इस सम्बन्ध में बनाई गई है उसे इन सब बातों को सामने रखकर विचार करना होगा। यह नाप ताल का एक ऐसा सवाल है जिस पर हमारे देश की तरक्की बहुत कुछ निर्भर करती है। इन शब्दों के साथ मैं इस बिल का समर्थन करता हूं।

4 P.M.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA: Mr. Deputy Chairman, time is a great leveller. Two years ago I was frankly opposed to the idea of the introduction of coinage under the decimal system. Wisdom might have dawned upon me and.....

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: Congratulations.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA:.....since the world, day after day, is growing smaller and smaller it is contracting and since we have got to live in the world and live gloriously, I am supporting this. The hon. Minister who is sponsoring the Bill said that sixty countries of the world.....

SHRI A. C. GUHA: Fifty.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA: All right, fifty, fifty countries of the world have adopted this system. Since I want my country to be included amongst the biggest countries of the world, amongst the wisest countries of the world, I am of opinion that we should welcome this Bill and extend to it our hearty welcome.

The only difficulty that I see is this. Our people in the countryside will find it very difficult to get accustomed

[Shri H. P. Saksena.]

to this new system of coinage for the very simple reason that they are used to having a silver coin which is easily divisible into sixty-four parts. They are used to it. The new coin will be divided into a hundred parts. As everybody knows, it can easily be divided into half which is fifty, into a quarter which is 25; but below that it does not go. Half of twenty-five is 12½; half of 12½ is 6 1/4 and half of 6 1/4 is something which is very difficult to pronounce. This will be very difficult. With the exception of having a rupee, half a rupee and a quarter of a rupee, the smaller denominations are very difficult to introduce, I do not know what the Government has in mind but so far as the smaller denominations are concerned, I think, it will be very difficult. (Interruption):

I will sit down if any hon. Member wants to put a question. I will yield so that the question may be put.

श्री बी० बी० शर्मा (उत्तर प्रदेश) : मैं ने यह कहा कि तब इकन्नी और दुअन्नी न मिल सकेंगी।

श्री ४० प्र० सक्सेना : मैंने भी यही अर्थ किया कि इकन्नी और दुअन्नी के लिये बड़ी मुश्किल पड़गी। खर अगर इकन्नी और दुअन्नी नहीं मिल सकेंगी तो कोई बात नहीं है उस से रुखसत ले लीजिये।

श्री जसावं सिंह बिष्ट : आप तो हिन्दी बोलने लगे।

श्री ४० प्र० सक्सेना : तो क्या आप यह समझे थे कि मैं फिलाडेलफिया का रहने वाला हूँ कि हिन्दी बोल ही नहीं सकता।

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI CHANDRAVATI LAKHANPAL) in the Chair.]

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA: In my opinion, this Bill should be introduced, as the hon. Minister sponsoring the Bill himself has suggested, in three stages. The first stage should be the stage of propaganda and we may safely call it a preparatory stage. After some

time will come the changeover stage and finally the final stage. If sufficient time is allowed for these stages to have their own play and all manner of mistakes are committed and rectified—there is no hurry about it, we do not want to hasten the thing in order to jump to the final stage—all the difficulties that are anticipated and apprehended will, I am positive, not occur. Of course, they will occur in some small measure but they will not be occurring considerably.

The other point emphasised by many hon. Members that this new coin must have a direct relationship with the weights, standards and measures that we are going to introduce, must be taken into account. The present position is that a rupee is of a tola in weight; the half rupee is half a tola in weight and the quarter rupee is quarter tola in weight. There are the rattis and mashes also. (interruption.) Now, the rupee of 100 cents that we introduce and the divisions that we may make of that rupee should bear a direct relationship to the weight, standards and measures—of course, in the metric system—that we are going to introduce in the future. They are inter-related, inter-linked and inter-twined; they cannot be separated from each other. That has to be borne in mind.

We and Pakistan, accidentally enough, agree on one major point and it is this that Pakistan also has not yet adopted the decimal system. Perhaps just like a loyal Member of the Commonwealth of the United Kingdom, I should say, she is not adopting it because U.K. also has not yet adopted it; but we, in spite of the fact that we are in the Commonwealth—we are a sort of rebel, have always been a rebel—have introduced this system and it is in the fitness of things for us to dash forward to adopt the system which is akin to our ancient heritage which is coming back to our own times. We had lost this; we had sent it away from our borders and we are now wholeheartedly welcoming it back. There is no need for me to wax eloquent over the qualities of

zeros which we introduced; everybody knows it and appreciates it but then I am not in favour of the word Shatansh that my hon. friend Mr. Agnibhoj suggests. Quite astonishingly he pleaded that the Adivasis—poor fellows—will not be able to appreciate and understand the change that the cent would denote and indicate but for all that I know, he thought that Shatansh will be quite a simple and easy work for the Adivasis to understand. I do not think they are so much Sanskrit-minded and Sanskrit knowing that they will understand Shatansh and not understand paisa. Paisa, he said, had no background, had no root. It is nothing like that. If there is so much of prejudice against the paisa, let him, by all means, suggest something else. The whole difficulty is, what is the smallest coin going to be called?

श्री रामेश्वर अग्निभोज : आप क्षमा करें तो मैं बता दूँ कि आदिवासियों के सम्बन्ध में मैंने यह कहा था कि जब नये सिक्के जारी होंगे तो जो सिक्के अभी चल रहे हैं वे भी जारी रहेंगे। ऐसी दशा में एक रुपये के ६४ पैसे और एक रुपये के १०० पैसे बाजार में एक साथ चलेंगे। इससे उन लोगों को बहुत कठिनाई हो जायगी। इस लिये मैंने कहा था कि एक ही नाम के दो कीमत के सिक्के नहीं होने चाहियें।

श्री ह० प्र० सक्सेना : यह तो हममें से हर एक शस्त्र समझता है कि वह जो ट्रांजीशन पीरियड होगा उसमें एक ही नाम के दो सिक्के रहेंगे। एक पुराना रुपया होगा जिस का सोलह आने का हिसाब लगाया जाता है, एक नया सिक्का होगा जिसका इस सेंट से हिसाब लगाया जायगा। इस तरह थोड़े दिनों तक यह दिक्कत रहेगी। हम हैदराबाद में देख चुके हैं। जब हमने वहां का सिक्का बदला तो हमने कुछ वक्त की मोहलत दे दी कि दोनों सिक्के बराबर चलते रहें। यह तो होता ही है। अभी हमारा यहां क्या हुआ ? अंग्रेजी राज्य में भी यही हुआ। उत्तर प्रदेश

में पहले एक पैसा चलता था जो गोरखपुरी या मोटा पैसा कहलाता था। उसी के साथ साथ यह अंग्रेजों के वक्त का भी पैसा चलता था।

पुरानी अशर्फी चलती थी, मैंने देखा है पुराना रुपया भी चलता था, यह भी चलता था वह भी चलता था। असल में सिल्वर की या गोल्ड की जो इंद्रियिक वैल्यू होती है उसी के हिसाब से सिक्कों का वैल्यूएशन होता है। इसमें तो पैसे की इंद्रियिक वैल्यू, जाहिर है, कि डेढ़ सेंट का एक पैसा और एक पैसे का डेढ़ सेंट है एप्रोक्सिमेटली।

एक माननीय सदस्य : एक पैसे का डेढ़ पैसा, डेढ़ पैसे का एक पैसा आपके हिसाब से हो जायगा।

श्री ह० प्र० सक्सेना : वह एक ही बात है। तो यह थोड़े दिन की बात है और उसके बाद जब सब चीजें यूनीफार्म हो जायेंगी फिर उसे विद्वा करने की भी जरूरत नहीं होगी “Good coin always drives away bad coin” गुड वही हो जाता है जो सर्कुलेशन में होता है, जिसको गवर्नमेंट ओन कर लेती है वही गुड हो जाता है। यह तो जाहिर सी बात है।

डा० रघुबीर सिंह : यह तो इकॉनॉमिक्स का प्रिन्सिपल नहीं है। वहां तो सदैव Bad coin drives away good coin ही सत्य प्रमाणित होता रहा है।

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA: This is a matter of opinion. If we differ, let us agree to differ. Anyway I do not want to waste the time of the House in this useless discussion. The point at issue is this that the confusion caused by the change in coinage should be as little as possible. That is the whole point and having requested the sponsor of the resolution to see that the three stages are successively and for a requisite period of time gone through I invite attention to the fact that the Planning Commission, as the Members know, has already accepted

[Shri H. P. Saksena.]
the principle of having the coins according to the decimal system. Now it appears to me that for this House there is no other honourable course left open but to accept the decimal system of coinage whether we like it or we do not.

With these words, Madam, I recommended the resolution for the approval of the House.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Madam, I am grateful to you for having called me. It is quite late in the day to speak on such an important resolution. Madam, after what Dr. Mookerji has said on the subject, it is very difficult to add more on the historical side of this matter. I have only two points to add. *Karshapana* was divided into *ardha* (half) and *pada* (quarter). And then in the case of *pana* it consisted of 20 *mashas* and *masha* was the smallest coin.

Now, Madam, about the point my eminent friend Shri Agnibhoj has made, he asked us as to what was the origin of *paisa*. All I have got to tell him is that it has developed from the word *pada* which in *prakrit* became *pai* or *paya* and from that it has developed as *paisa*. I had a feeling Madam, that my friend Shri Agnibhoj had suspected that the word *paisa* had Portuguese origin, as it is being generally thought of, and Portuguese connections have never been very very happy, but I have to assure him that the word *paisa* was prevalent in India long before the Portuguese ever saw the Indian shores.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: Any shores?

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: They had seen many shores before they came to India. So even in the time of the Lodis. (Interruption.)

I only said he suspected it probably. These days 'Portuguese' are on our nerves. So I thought probably he did not want to have this word on that doubtful score. Madam, all I have

got to repeat is that we should not be scared away by the word '*paisa*'. I think many other friends here have talked of the difficulties, or the confusion that might arise in the minds of villagers. I only want to tell them that they probably very much underestimate the shrewdness and the abilities of the poor villagers. They are in fact very much shrewder than what we think them to be. This I must tell them as it seems that many of my friends have never seen a change in currency. I know what changes in currency have been because in Indian States there have been changes quite recently and the shrewd villagers coin their own new names. For instance when the Indian States had their own currency and when that was being replaced during the early twentieth century, at that time the new British currency was called the '*kaldar*' rupee and '*kaldar*' *paisa* while the State currency was called '*kacha*' *rupiah* and '*kacha*' *paisa*. So there should not be any difficulty on that score. The only thing that I would press on my eminent friend, the hon. Minister, is that three things should be definitely done in this respect. (1) There should be sufficient publicity in advance among the people; (2) There should be proper time-lag and (3) above all, the new designs should be distinctive in their appearance. I had hoped that the hon. Minister would show the same courtesy to this House that he showed to the other House by displaying on the Table of the House the new designs. Unfortunately he has not done that, but.....

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY: Has he any designs?

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: He has designs, I am sure. He made them evident in the other House.

SHRI A. C. GUHA: No, Sir, I am not a designing person.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: I am afraid English is a very difficult language to talk in. Now coming to the

point, Madam, when he put the designs on the Table of the other House I find that he stated there that the new designs will have the words in Hindi 'Bharat Sarcar' instead of the 'Government of India' in English. I would like the hon. Minister to clarify whether he meant the Devnagri script by his saying 'Hindi' because Hindi can be written in Roman script also because in the army we had seen 'Hindi' being written in Roman script also.

SHRI A. C. GUHA: They never called it 'Hindi'; it was Urdu.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: No, it was Hindustani, not Urdu; it was Roman Hindustani.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI CHANDRAVATI LAKHANPAL): The time is limited.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Yes, I am hurrying up. Now as regards the new design, I would also suggest to the hon. Minister that he may consider this point that the word *Shasan* should replace *Sarcar*, for the word *Sarcar* in the past had a very definitive meaning; it was meant to refer to an administrative unit of a small *pargana* or *tehsil* only and in the days of anarchy after the fall of the Moghul Empire '*Sarcar*' was being used for the administrations of the small semi-independent States. The words also, Madam, as you know very well, have their rise and fall, and I find that the word '*Sarcar*' is definitely rising, but I am afraid that it has not yet reached such a stature as to be put on the new Indian coins. Then I fully endorse the view of Shri Kishenchand and other friends that there should be an intermediary coin. I do not know whether it is necessary to introduce any provision about that in the Act itself. In England they have got a Florin and a Crown which are not there in the table of the British currency. In India also in the table of Indian currency it was like this. Twelve pice make one anna and

sixteen annas make one rupee. But pice came in between. Similarly I think some coin can be introduced to represent ten paisas. In that connection I can further add that in the United States the coin of five cents is called a Nickel probably because it is made of nickel. Colloquially it is termed nickel. I would in that connection suggest that a completely new term should be used in place of the anna. My hon. friend Shri Kishen Chand has suggested retaining the term anna to be used for a coin of ten paisas or ten units. May I inform Shri Kishen Chand on the authority of my eminent friend Shri M. Satyanarayana that 'anna' is derived from the original Sanskrit word 'panam' which in that form is still prevalent in the Tamil and other South Indian languages. Therefore I would suggest to the hon. Minister that if an intermediary coin is to be had, instead of calling it 'anna' it may be called 'panam'.

I would also suggest to the hon. Minister and I hope he will agree to it—that the notification about the name should be placed on the Table of the House and any discussion in respect of that notification should take place before the same is put into effect. That would give this House an opportunity to express its views on this subject.

Madam, I won't take up much of your time. All I have got to say now is that sometimes we, Members of Parliament, have wrong notions about ourselves. Probably we think we are very important persons who are now passing such an important measure but the only thing I have got to point out is that in reality we are very insignificant and we are merely moving on the rushing tide of, what I may call, the logic of events and when everyone of us here would have been forgotten, what we are doing today will continue to infuse or confuse the students of Numismatics of posterity for centuries to come.

श्री कन्हैयालाल दूँ बैद्य (मध्य भारत):
उपाध्यक्ष महोदय मैं इस बिल का स्वागत

[श्री कन्हैयालाल दाँ० बँद्य]

करता हूँ। इस बिल के सम्बन्ध में माननीय सदस्यों में से अभी एक ने अपने भाषण में कहा है कि इस बिल के पास करने से शताब्दियों तक आगे कम्प्यूजन चलेंगा। माननीय श्री काण ने कहा कि हमको भय नहीं करना चाहिये। मैं नहीं समझता कि इस बिल द्वारा हमें किसी प्रकार का कम्प्यूजन होगा और न हमारी आने वाली पीढ़ियों में भय से विचलित हो उठेंगी। हम तो परिवर्तन का हमेशा स्वागत करने वाले हैं और परिवर्तन को लाने के लिए प्रयत्नशील रहते हैं। अंग्रेजी राज्य के स्वार्थ के बाद.....

डा० रघुवीर सिंह: माननीय सदस्य मेरी अंग्रेजी का मतलब नहीं समझे। मेरा कथन भविष्य के न्यूमिस्मैटिक्स के विद्यार्थियों के लिए था न कि आज की गामीण जनता के लिए।

श्री कन्हैयालाल दाँ० बँद्य: माननीय सदस्य ने मेरी अंग्रेजी की अज्ञानता के सम्बन्ध में जो ज़दरता दिखाई है उसके सम्बन्ध में सदस्यगण ही निर्णय कर सकते हैं कि अज्ञानता किस तरह है। मैं इस विषय में और ज़ादा नहीं कहूँगा।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय (श्रीमती चन्द्रावती लखनपाल): कृपया आप अपना भाषण जारी रखें।

श्री कन्हैयालाल दाँ० बँद्य: मेरे कहने का मतलब यह है कि इस विषय में हमें ऐसी स्थिति यहाँ पर नहीं लानी चाहिये और न इस प्रकार का वातावरण बनाना चाहिये कि भविष्य में जनता को इस प्रकार की कठिनाइयाँ होंगी और आगे आने वाले क्या सोचेंगे। सरकार जब यह प्रश्न सदन के सामने लाई है तो उसने अच्छी तरह से स्थिति का अध्ययन कर लिया है और इस सम्बन्ध में एक कमेटी भी कायम की जा चुकी है। स्वयं हमारे राष्ट्र

के नेता श्री जवाहर लाल जी की अध्यक्षता में सन् १९४६ में इंडियन साइन्स कांग्रेस ने मेट्रिक सिस्टम (पद्धति) को अपनाने का निश्चय किया था और यह तय किया था कि हमारे तौल, नाप तथा सिक्के की पद्धति में परिवर्तन होना चाहिये। उसी के आधार पर एक कमेटी कायम की गई थी और उसने कुछ सुझाव दिये थे। उस कमेटी ने इस के तीन स्टैंज बताये थे। पहला ६ साल का प्रोपेगन्डा का स्टैंज बतलाया था जिसमें जनता को अच्छी तरह से इस परिवर्तन के बारे में ज्ञान देना था। दूसरा स्टैंज, तीन चार वर्ष का, इस पद्धति को लागू करने का था। अन्तिम स्टैंज इस पद्धति को फाइनलाइज करने का था। इस तरह से अगर हिसाब लगाया जाय तो यह तीनों स्टैंज करीब १५ साल में कार्यान्वित हो सकते हैं। यह बात ठीक है कि आज हमारे देश की जो स्थिति है, वह अज्ञानता की है। हमारे देश की जनता इस परिवर्तन को आसानी के साथ नहीं समझ सकती है। यहाँ पर फिर माननीय मित्र की चर्चा आ जाती है। उन्होंने अपने अंग्रेजी भाषण में कहा था कि दहात की जनता बड़ी समझदार है, वह तो बहुत ही ज्ञानवान है। लेकिन मैं सिक्कों से ही सम्बन्धित एक-उदाहरण जनता के ज्ञानवान होने का आपके समक्ष रखना चाहता हूँ। जिस समय रानी विक्टोरिया के एक रुपये के चांदी के सिक्के का चलन सरकार की ओर से बन्द कर दिया गया था, उस समय हमारी दहात की जनता, जिसको ज्ञानवान कहा जाता है किस तरह से ठगी गई, यह आप आसानी से अन्दाज़ा लगा सकते हैं। उस जमाने में सुनारों और चांदी के व्यापार करने वालों ने गांव गांव में जाकर दहाती जनता को यह कहकर उस रुपये के आठ आने और बारह आने दिये कि यह रुपया खोटा हो गया है और इसका चलन सरकार की ओर से बन्द हो गया है। किसान इतने ज्ञानवान नहीं थे कि वे व्यापारियों की चालों को समझ सकते और उन्होंने अपना सारा रुपया उन्को कम दाम में दे दिया।

सुनारों और चांदी के व्यापारियों ने रुपया जमा करके उसे गला करके एक रुपया बारह आने में बेचा। इस तरह से जनता की अज्ञानता का फायदा इन व्यापारियों ने उठाया। अब जब कि सरकार इस तरह सिक्के में परिवर्तन करने जा रही है, उसका यह कर्तव्य हो जाता है कि वह जनता को इस परिवर्तन के बारे में पूर्ण ज्ञान कराये। जिस प्रकार प्लानिंग कमीशन ने इस सम्बन्ध में यह सिफारिश की है कि जब यह परिवर्तन होगा तो उस समय देश की जनता में काफी प्रचार किया जाना चाहिये। उस कमेटी ने भी सिफारिश की है कि इस सम्बन्ध में एक कमेटी बनाई जाय जो कि सारे देश में प्रचार के लिए एक कार्यक्रम बनाये, जो कि जनता को अच्छी तरह से इस परिवर्तन के बारे में लाभदायक ज्ञान दे सके। जब सरकार ने जनता को इस परिवर्तन के बारे में अच्छी तरह से समझाने की योजना बनाई है तब तो इस विषय में जनता की ओर से किसी प्रकार का भय नहीं होना चाहिये।

सिक्के के परिवर्तन के सम्बन्ध में यहां पर माननीय सदस्यों ने कुछ सुझाव दिये हैं। जैसे कि नाम का सम्बन्ध है, मेरा भी यही कहना है कि सिक्कों के इस प्रकार के नाम होने चाहिये जो कि हमारे देश के रीति नीति के अनुसार हों। इस सम्बन्ध में कई सुझाव हमारे माननीय सदस्यों ने दिये हैं। मेरा भी कहना यह है कि सिक्कों के नाम हमारे देश की संस्कृति और प्राचीनता के अनुरूप हों। इस सम्बन्ध में सरकार को विशेष ध्यान देना चाहिये। अब हिन्दी हमारी राष्ट्र भाषा हो गई है, इसलिए सिक्कों का नामकरण करते समय इस बात का भी विशेष ध्यान रखा जाना चाहिये कि वे नाम हिन्दी के अनुरूप हों। संसार में सिक्कों के विषय में कई तरह की बातें होती हैं और हुई हैं। प्रत्येक शासक अपना सिक्का चलाना चाहता है। अफगानिस्तान में बच्चा सक्का ने अपने तीन दिन के राज्य में चमड़े का सिक्का ही चला दिया था।

डा० रघुवीर सिंह: बच्चा सक्का तो अफगानिस्तान का था। हिन्दुस्तान में तो.....

श्री २० प्र० सक्सेना: दोनों बच्चा सक्का ठीक हैं।

श्री कन्हैयालाल दा० बैद्य : अगर इतिहास के पृष्ठों की तरफ आपका ध्यान है तो उस का नाम बच्चा सक्का ही है, इतिहास के वे पृष्ठ भुला दिये गये हैं। जहां नये शासनकर्त्ता लोग होते हैं, वहां सिक्कों के विषय में इस प्रकार की कई बातें करत रहते हैं। हमारा राष्ट्र एक स्वतंत्र राष्ट्र है, हमारा जो भी निर्णय हो वह सम्यक निर्णय होना चाहिये जिसका हमारी प्राचीनता से सम्बन्ध हो।

मेरा अन्तिम सुझाव सरकार से यह है कि वह इस कार्य को जल्दबाजी में न करे। जनता को इस बारे में प्रचार द्वारा पूर्ण ज्ञान हो जाना चाहिये। इस तरह से वह उनका विश्वास प्राप्त कर सकेंगी और इस पद्धति को आसानी से क्रियान्वित कर सकेंगी। उसे किसी प्रकार का भय भीष्य के लिए नहीं होना चाहिये। इस सम्बन्ध में उसे विशेष सावधानी रखने की जरूरत है। इन शब्दों के साथ मैं इस बिल का हृदय से स्वागत करता हूं।

SHRI A. C. GUHA: Madam, I am really glad that practically all the Members have welcomed this Bill and I can say that I also anticipated that there will not be any dissentient voice with regard to this Bill. Only my hon. friend behind, Shri Govinda Reddy, mentioned the opinion of Mahatmaj and also expressed certain apprehensions. I can tell him that, subsequent to that article being published in the "Harijan," the Secretary of the Indian Decimal Society wrote to Gandhiji. I think I can say that this gentleman, Mr. P. N. Seth, is an old friend of mine. He was a colleague of mine in days before the First World War and suffered imprisonment, also his whole family. He wrote to Gandhiji for his opinion and Gandhiji wrote to him on the 21st August 1946, as follows:

[Shri A. C. Guha.]

"I received all your letters in due time, I asked Shri Mashruwala to send a reply, as I was too busy. It seems you have not received any.

My opinion is that the matter should be dealt with only by a national Government on its merit. I would prefer to keep my mind still open. My previous objections are to be re-examined. But could you not wait till the present political crisis is over. The question of these reforms in coinage, weights and measures may be taken up by our own Parliament when formed.

I hope this will satisfy you. Excuse delay."

So, I can disabuse the mind of Shri Govinda Reddy that we are not doing anything which was not approved or definitely opposed by Mahatmaji.

Then, Madam, quite a number of Members referred to our rural people. The Members of this House are in one respect very fortunate. They have not to conduct their own elections, at least their own General Elections on adult franchise and we conducted General Elections at least for our own sake. We knew our rural people. How clever and shrewd they are! I think after the General Election Panditji himself spoke on more than one occasion that he was simply surprised by the intelligence and cleverness shown by the rural people and I have this much confidence in our village people that they will be able to understand the distinction between the old coin and the new coin.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA (Mysore): Many of the hon. Members have passed through all these stages of direct elections. I do not think, in order to support his measure, he need speak of the disqualifications of the hon. Members.

SHRI A. C. GUHA: No, no; no disqualification. I said 'fortunate.'

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: I can tell him that there are quite a number of people here who have fought many an election battle.

SHRI A. C. GUHA: Surely, not this General Election; not for themselves. I repeatedly used 'not for themselves.'

Then, I think our experience in Hyderabad also will confirm our optimism that this will not create much difficulty for our village people.

I think Dr. Raghbir Singh mentioned that I have not shown sufficient courtesy to this House by presenting the samples of our new coins.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: I did not mean that any discourtesy was shown thereby. I had hoped that we would have a look at these samples of new coins.

SHRI A. C. GUHA: You may. The difficulty is that those samples are now out of date, out of order and out of court. Those were designed on certain assumptions tentatively formed by the Finance Ministry and the mint authorities. Now, after the deliberations in the other House, we discarded the Cent, we have decided to retain the name *paisa*. Since then, the Government have tentatively decided upon certain other modifications also. I do not think it will serve any purpose to present those samples which are obsolete. If the Members want, I can present them to this House to be kept.

(The coins were handed over to Dr. Raghbir Singh.)

Madam, I am glad that two eminent historians have supported this measure and have also mentioned something from our ancient history. Prof. Kane has repeatedly asked the Members not to be afraid of any change. So many changes are happening. In fact, we are living in a world of change and particularly in this time when we are shaping a new India, I

do not think the House can have any apprehension of change. I need not mention here that an eminent Greek historian, Heraclitus, said that the things around us are changing so rapidly that we cannot have two dips in the same river. After the first dip, if the second dip follows immediately, the river has changed. So, we are living in a world of change. I am sure Members will not mind this little change.

Then, Prof. Kane and other Members have suggested that there should be a preparatory period and Prof. Kane has suggested 5 years at least to be given. In my opening speech, I have mentioned that by April 1960, we may expect to withdraw all the old coins. There, I modified it that it is just an expectation; I am not sure whether it would be possible to withdraw all the coins by April 1960. Anyhow five years time has been conceded.

SHRI J. V. K. VALLABHARAO (Andhra): Can I expect the Ministry to give publicity at least six months before the coins are issued?

SHRI A. C. GUHA: I will come to that. Several Members have suggested that we should do some publicity work and propaganda. Surely, we shall do that. We shall use all the publicity agencies through papers, radio and through all other Government and semi-Government machineries, so that our people may know about this change, the utility of this change, what are the implications of this change; and I can give this assurance that we shall not fail to do due publicity and propaganda work before this is introduced, in the initial stage and also in the final stage of withdrawal. Sufficient time surely would be given so that no one may suffer on account of the old coins remaining in his possession without being exchanged.

SHRI GOPIKRISHNA VIJAIVAR-GIYA: What about the intermediate coin?

SHRI A. C. GUHA: I do not know how the Member could apprehend that there will not be any intermediate coin. In the Bill have been mentioned only the rupee, half rupee and quarter rupee, because these coins will retain the same value. Regarding the other coins we have not anything in the Bill because they will change in value.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: My apprehension was not that there will be no intermediate coins. My only submission is that there should be a definite name for the intermediate coin.

SHRI A. C. GUHA: Surely, as far as I can say, it is a tentative decision. We shall have the lowest unit. Let it be taken for the present as *Paisa*; and there may be a coin for two units. And then, I think even now our idea is that we should retain the name *anna* and most probably it will conform to one-tenth of the rupee instead of being one-sixteenth. The *anna* may appreciate in value; it may be one-tenth of the rupee. So long this is our idea, but the decision about the final shape will take some time.

Then, some hon. Members have suggested that we should place the notification on the table of the House. Surely that will be done. I think the Prime Minister said in the other House that if we do not retain *Paisa* but take any other name, then we might ask for a further debate. But if we retain *Paisa*, in consonance with the views expressed by the majority of the Members of the other House and this House also, then there need not be any debate on that. Anyhow, if any paper is laid on the Table of the House, the House is immediately seized of the matter and if the House wishes it can debate it. Every Member can have a discussion on that notification. Whatever decisions we arrive at, we shall place them on the Table of both the Houses at the earliest opportunity.

Then, Madam, Mr. Kishen Chand said something about one-fourth of a rupee. He does not like that there

[Shri A. C. Guha.]

should be any coin of figure not divisible by ten. But I can tell him that in other countries also there are similar coins current, for example, in the U.S.A., in Burma and in the U.S.S.R. He has quoted the case of Franc. But the franc is so small a coin that one-hundredth of it cannot have any market-value. Similar is the case with our pie. It is not used in the market, but it is used only for accounting purposes. And even paisa is almost going out of the market. In most of the towns you can hardly purchase anything for a paisa. It all depends upon the prices of the various articles *vis-a-vis* the value of the coin. So, I do not think there is any reason to object to the existence of one-fourth of a rupee. There are similar coins in existence in other countries also.

SHRI H. C. DASAPPA: Can the hon. Minister give us some idea about the cost that this changeover will involve?

SHRI A. C. GUHA: There is no extra cost involved, because even otherwise we have been minting our coins every day. And now we will be minting new coins instead of the old coins. Only the dies will change. And whenever the dies become old, we change them. So there will not be any extra cost involved in this. But we may have to incur some expenditure over changing the weights and measures and other things. Not only the Government will have to incur some expenditure on these things, but also private businessmen and commercial houses may have to incur some expenditure. Anyhow, that is not quite relevant for the purposes of this Bill, and I do not think I can give any approximate figure of the cost that may have to be incurred for that purpose.

Madam, I can assure my friend. Mr. Kishen Chand, that there is hardly any difference between the Government's point of view and his amendment. There is an English phrase "Difference between tweedledum and

tweedledee". I think, between him and the Government, there is not even that much difference. He has suggested that there should be paisa, and I have already indicated that we shall retain paisa. He has suggested that there should be anna. I have also said that for the time being at least our idea is that we shall retain the anna. And that will be one-tenth of the rupee.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Will the hon. Minister not take into consideration my suggestion about *panam*?

SHRI A. C. GUHA: I am afraid, if we retain paisa, how can all those things come?

Then, Madam, Dr. Raghbir Singh asked if I could give them any idea about the size and the design of the coins. For the present, our decision is that there will not be any inscription of 'Bharat Sarkar'. The inscription will be 'Bharat' in Devanagari script and 'India' in English script; and I think for cent it will be 'paisa', but for the time being it may be 'naya paisa' in order to differentiate it from the present paisa.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: My submission in that case will be this. Let the design be a little different, because nobody will be looking to the words.

SHRI A. C. GUHA: Dr. Kane has suggested that there should be some relation, in the matter of size, weight and dimensions, of the coins, with the metric system. And I think I have indicated in my opening speech that there might be a slight change in the size, weight and dimensions of the coins, and that will be in consonance with the metric system to be introduced in weights and measures.

Now, Madam, I think I have replied to all the points raised by the hon. Members, and there is nothing more to be said.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI CHANDRAVATI LAKHANPAL): The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Coinage Act, 1906, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI CHANDRAVATI LAKHANPAL): Now we take up the clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2. There are some amendments.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND: Madam. I beg to move:

1. "That at page 1, for lines 9 to 17, the following be substituted, namely:-

'14. (1) (a) The rupee shall be divided into ten annas and the anna shall be divided into ten paise;

(b) nickel coins of 5 annas, 2 annas and 1 anna and copper coins of 5 paise, 2 paise and 1 paise shall be issued;

(c) the nickel coins and copper coins shall be distinguished from each other by inserting a hole in the latter;

(d) the weights and diameters of the new coins shall be related to metric measures of weight and length by simple multiples;

(e) these coins, subject to the provisions of sub-section (1) and sub-section (2) of section 13 and to the extent specified therein, shall be legal tender in payment or on account accordingly."

2. "That at page 1, line 18. for the word 'coins' the words 'old coins' be substituted."

3. "That at page 1, line 19 for the words 'annas, pice' the words 'old annas, old pice' be substituted."

4. "That at page 2, line 1, for the words 'sixteen annas, sixty-four pice' the words 'sixteen old annas, sixty-four old pice' be substituted."

5. "That at page 2, line 2, for the words 'one hundred new coins' the words 'ten new annas or hundred new paise' be substituted."

6. "That at page 2, line 9, for the words 'annas, pice' the words 'old annas, old pice' be substituted."

SHRI R. U. AGNIBHOJ: Madam, I beg to move:

7. "That at page 1, lines 10 to 12, for the words 'and the new coin representing such unit may be designated by the Central Government, by notification in the Official Gazette, under such name as it thinks fit' the words 'namely, शतांश (Shatansh)' be substituted."

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI CHANDRAVATI LAKHANPAL): Clause 2 and the amendments are now open for discussion.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND: Madam, the hon. Minister, while replying to the debate, pointed out that there is no fundamental difference between my amendments and the original proposition. In a way, it is right. But these amendments are moved to focus attention, and even if they are not accepted by the House, it will at least remain on record that the idea behind the Bill is that the rupee should not be directly divided into 100 units, but firstly into ten units. I think the Bill is incomplete without mentioning that idea, and because in my humble opinion the Bill is incomplete, I have sent in my amendments. Even if the hon. Minister is not agreeable to accept them, I would press these amendments.

And as I have got this opportunity, let me point out that Mr. Govinda Reddy raised certain objections about the arithmetical difficulties that may arise in the working of this decimal system. Such difficulties will certainly arise if the coinage is divided into

[Shri Kishen Chand.]

the decimal system and the weights and measures are not so divided. But if the weights and measures are similarly divided, there will be absolutely no difficulty. I know as a teacher in arithmetic and mathematics that there are certain formulae by which the local Mahajan or the local dealer quickly calculates the value of any fractions of seers and maunds into rupees annas and pies. But that requires an elaborate training. If you take into account the number of years spent by these young children in learning their manipulations, I think, you will come to the conclusion that it is sheer waste of human labour and sheer waste of the child's mind to train him up in that type of calculation work. There are 16 annas in a rupee, and 16 chatanks in a seer. There is a formula which says, if so many seers per rupee, there will be so many chatanks per anna.

And so it goes on. There are many sets of rules. If the decimal system is introduced in our weights and measures and also into our coinage, similar rules and formulae will be evolved, and the calculations will become much simpler. The dealer who was formerly taking five seconds in calculation with the introduction of the new system, he will take about two seconds. The hon. Minister has more or less accepted the idea that the word 'anna' will be retained, and if the word 'anna' is retained, there will be confusion wherever the old and the new coins are together. There must be some sort of distinction in their weight and appearance.

There is also one amendment of mine about the weights and diameters of the new coins. The hon. Minister said that he does not see any objection to the retention of the four anna coin. I don't see any objection either, but when the decimal system is introduced, the quarter rupee has no place. Because certain foreign countries have not seen it proper to change it, is no argument why we should not change it. Probably later when they see a more

scientific system introduced in our country, they will come round and admit their mistake. I don't know whether there is any quarter dollar coin in America. To my knowledge, there are only the 50 and 10 cent coins. The hon. Minister may be right—he must have collected information—but that is not as the facts stand.

I would press my amendments and I think the hon. Minister should not have any objection in accepting them, when he accepts the fundamental basic idea behind them.

श्री रामेश्वर अग्निभाऊ: सभानेत्री जी, मैं अपने भाषण में अभी बता चुका हूँ कि एक रुपये के १०० वें हिस्से को क्या नाम देना चाहिए। मैं यह भी कह चुका हूँ कि मैं इसको सेंट नाम दिये जाने के पक्ष में नहीं हूँ, और यह कि रुपये के १०० वें हिस्से को पैसे कह कर पुकारना भी निरर्थक और अनुचित है। चूंकि हम रुपये को १०० खंडों में बांट रहे हैं, तो जो वह एक अंश होगा उसको जब हम एक इकाई बनाना चाहते हैं, उसको यदि हम शतांश कहें तो बहुत उपयुक्त होगा। इसके साथ ही मुझे यह एक विचित्र सी बात लगती है जब मैं अपने मित्रों की तरफ से या सरकार की ओर से इस तरह की भावना देखता हूँ कि आने के स्वरूप को कायम रखने के पक्ष में होते हैं। मैं यह कहता हूँ कि जब आप सौवें हिस्से की इकाई में या शतांश में अपना कार्य करना चाहते हैं तो फिर नई चीज "आना" को और रखकर गणित को अनुचित रूप में नहीं बढ़ाना चाहिए और रुपये के अलग अलग खंड नहीं करने चाहियें। इसलिए मैं चाहता हूँ कि व्यवहार के लिए जो आप सौवें हिस्से की इकाई बनावें तो उसमें सिक्के इस तरह से बनावें कि एक शतांश का एक, दो शतांश का दूसरा, पांच शतांश का तीसरा और दस शतांश का चौथा और इसी तरह आगे २५ शतांश, ५० शतांश और ७५ शतांश के सिक्के हों। उससे यह होगा कि यदि किसी को ४ शतांश देने हैं तो वह दो दो शतांश के दो सिक्के देगा, तीन शतांश देने हैं तो दो और एक मिला के तीन दे सकता है, यदि सात देने हैं तो

५ और २ शतांश के सिक्के मिला के दूँ सकता हूँ, ५ दूँगा है तो ५, २ और १ के मिला के दूँगा, ६ दूँगा है तो ५, २ और २ के मिला के वह ६ के बना सकता है। इसी तरह से आगे १० शतांश, २५ शतांश, ५० शतांश और ७५ शतांश के सिक्कों में यह संख्या जोड़ी जा सकती है।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI CHANDRAVATI LAKHANPAL): You must be brief now.

श्री रामेश्वर अग्निभाज: इस तरह से यदि सिक्के चलाये जायें तो ज्यादा अच्छा होगा।

अन्त में मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि मुद्रा और सिक्के निकालने का सर्वोच्च अधिकार यदि किसी को है तो पार्लियामेंट को ही है, इस लिए सरकार को चाहिए कि पार्लियामेंट की अनुमति के बिना वह इस सिक्के का नाम निर्धारित न करे और बिना उसके निर्णय के उसको गजेट नोटिफिकेशन में प्रकाशित न करे।

श्री क० बी० लाल: 'पैसा' शब्द तो आपको मंजूर है।

श्री रामेश्वर अग्निभाज: नहीं।

SHRI A. C. GUHA: I am afraid I cannot accept any of the amendments, especially Mr. Kishen Chand's amendments, for the simple reason that we want to keep some amount of discretion in the hands of the Government particularly in this interim period. My friend, Shri Agnibhoj, has repeatedly mentioned that this should be the special privilege of Parliament and that it will be rather an insult to this Parliament if the Government retains this authority for itself. Under section 6 of the Indian Coinage Act that authority already vests with the Government. The only thing is that we are changing the values, and for that we have come here to take special permission.

"Denominations, dimensions, designs and composition of coins.—Coins may be coined at the Mint for issue under the authority of the Central Government."

This is the wording of section 6. We are only taking authority under section 6. If the Parliament gives that authority to the Central Government, I think Parliament will do that only by exercising its sovereign authority. The Parliament only empowers the Central Government to do certain things under the authority given to it by Parliament. I don't see how there can be any insult or anything derogatory to Parliament in this. Whenever the names are decided, we shall place the notification before Parliament, and if then Parliament so chooses, it can surely discuss the matter. Madam, I cannot accept any of the amendments moved.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI CHANDRAVATI LAKHANPAL): The question is:

1. "That at page 1, for lines 9 to 17, the following be substituted, namely:—

"14. (i) (a) The rupee shall be divided into ten annas and the anna shall be divided into ten paisa;

(b) nickel coins of 5 annas, 2 annas and 1 anna and copper coins of 5 paisa, 2 paisa and 1 paisa shall be issued;

(c) the nickel coins and copper coins shall be distinguished from each other by inserting a hole in the latter;

(d) the weights and diameters of the new coins shall be related to metric measures of weight and length by simple multiples;

(e) these coins, subject to the provisions of sub-section (1) and sub-section (2) of section 13 and to the extent specified therein, shall be legal tender in payment or on account accordingly."

The motion was negatived.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI CHANDRAVATI LAKHANPAL): Amendments Nos. 2, to 6 are barred as they are consequential.

SHRI R. U. AGNIBHOJ: I would like to withdraw my amendment.

*Amendment No. 7 was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI CHANDRAVATI LAKHANPAL): The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

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

SHRI A. C. GUHA: I move:

"That the Bill be passed."

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI CHANDRAVATI LAKHANPAL): Motion moved:

"That the Bill be passed."

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: I have got only two points to make. Firstly, in his closing remarks the hon. Minister said that there was a possibility of using the terms 'naya paisa' and 'naya anna'. I very much want to impress upon him that it is only a distinguishing design that will make things easier for the villagers. The mere insertion of the word 'naya' will not enable him to make a distinction, and therefore I would request the hon. Minister to concentrate his attention on a completely new type of a distinctive design. In that connection I would also like to add that we should have a coin similar to the two anna coin current at present so that it can be used for the telephone slots and other similar contrivances.

Finally, I do hope that the hon. Minister would throw some light on how much it would cost to effect the change-over. He has not referred to it.

AN HON. MEMBER: Rs. 1 crore.

*For text of amendment, *vide col.*
1224 *supra*.

SHRI RAGHUBIR SINH: I have to point out that there are certain problems connected with this far-reaching change. For example, a post card now costs 3 pice, while in the new coinage it will cost four and 11/16 of the new unit. Again, the letter which now costs two annas today will then cost twelve and a half units. In the case of telegraph charges, where we pay one anna per word now, under the new system, it will cost six and a quarter units. All these things will mean a little complication. The rates will have to be either increased or decreased a little to round off the new rates in terms of full units. For instance, the post card can be then made to cost either five pice or four pice. If you reduce it to four pice it would mean a loss to Government of 11/16 of a pice on every card. Similarly there will be difficulty in the charges on telegrams. If the rate is fixed at six units only, it would mean that every additional word would cause a loss to Government of a quarter of a unit. There, there is going to be some financial loss to the Government. Similarly in the case of rates of railway fares as well as freights, especially where the rates are counted in terms of small coins. Therefore these rates will have to be readjusted in such a way that the poor man may not be adversely hit and further burdened.

I have gone through the detailed report submitted to the Planning Commission by Shri Pitambar Pant wherein he has said that in the post offices, if they brought about the necessary change-over, it would cost at least Rs. 1 crore. So also in the Railways. For the Railways it may cost even Rs. 1.5 crores. Therefore, as far as the poor man is concerned, it may mean additional burden. We do hope that when the change-over comes, Government will take into consideration all these things and see that it does not mean added burden to the poor man.

Thank you, Madam.

SHRI A. C. GUHA: I need only say that all these points will be considered in due time. It is not possible for me to go into all these matters, how the post card will be re-valued under the new coinage system, what will be the cost of an ordinary telegram and so on. Of course, it may be that in some cases Government may lose and in some other cases Government may gain; but ultimately Government's budget will be balanced.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI CHANDRAVATI LAKHANPAL): The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI CHANDRAVATI LAKHANPAL): The House now stands adjourned till 11 A.M. on Tuesday, the 30th August 1955.

The House then adjourned at five minutes past five of the clock till eleven of the clock on Tuesday, the 30th August 1955.