

come to us if we function independently without any hindrance from that quarter, i.e. the British. These are matters of importance and matters of policy. Therefore, I think that the hon. Minister would do well to take note of them and see that we get what is due to us by eliminating this monopolistic control and financial hold of the foreign British interests.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Mr. Deputy Chairman, I might just have contented myself by saying that I have noted the points raised by my friend Mr. Gupta but as they were not exactly relevant to the purpose of this Resolution, I might not have referred to them. But, Sir, out of courtesy to the House, I will just touch briefly on both the points. One is about the labour interests. I think my friend might have forgotten it by this time. I think I made it quite clear on an earlier occasion that this export duty goes to the Exchequer straight away and it is not as if part of it is devoted to the labour interests but I might repeat to him and to the House what I said on an earlier occasion, that the labour interest is in the attention of the Government and whether it is the Plantation Labour Act or by way of reliefs to the Tea Board, Government is always very anxious to do the best by the labour.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR (West Bengal): No.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Since my friend Mr. Mazumdar did not give himself the pleasure and luxury of speech, I take it that he is not very serious about raising it except that he was giving the necessary moral support to his friend.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Moral provocation.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Yes, a little of moral—not an immoral provocation to me. My friend again mentioned about the foreign interests whichever they are. On this our policy should have been clear to him by this time but I should say that we have recurrently heard the point he

112 R.S.D.

has been making about foreign participation in this and other sectors. He said about some protest in Ceylon about U.K. exporting something of what they have received from us, to outside. We have no quarrel with what U.K. does with the supplies they take from us. They take it at the current prices and in spite of the fact that tea has risen in prices, U.K. has been a good market to us and we quite appreciate U.K. buying more and more of Indian tea. I am quite sure that my friend will not have quarrel with them on their buying more of our tea year after year nor with the increase in consumption that they are having because that is to our benefit. I am quite sure that he will not quarrel with the Englishmen for drinking more tea as we are interested in exporting and in expansion of the markets. They are doing very well now and are fetching good prices. I am quite sure that my friend will have no quarrel with that. There is no other pertinent point that he has raised. So I will content myself by saying that I commend this Resolution for the acceptance of the House.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is:

“That in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 4A of the Indian Tariff Act, 1934 (XXXII of 1934), the Rajya Sabha hereby approves of the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, S.R.O. No. 112, dated the 8th January 1955, by which the export duty on tea was enhanced from seven annas to ten annas per lb. with effect from the date of the said notification.”

The motion was adopted.

RESOLUTIONS RE ENHANCEMENT OF EXPORT DUTY ON GROUND-NUTS AND LEVY OF SUCH DUTY ON CERTAIN COMMODITIES

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): Sir, I beg to move the following Resolution:—

“That in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 4A of the Indian Tariff

[Shri D. P. Karmarkar.]

Act, 1934 (XXXII of 1934), the Rajya Sabha hereby approves of the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, S.R.O. No. 113, dated the 9th January, 1955, by which the export duty on groundnuts was enhanced from Rs. 150 to Rs. 300 per ton of 2,240 lbs. with effect from the date of the said notification."

I also beg to move the following Resolution:—

"That in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 4A of the Indian Tariff Act, 1934 (XXXII of 1934), the Rajya Sabha hereby approves of the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, S.R.O. No. 332, dated the 5th February, 1955, by which an export duty of Rs. 230 per ton of 2,240 lbs. on groundnut oilcake and an export duty of Rs. 175 per ton of 2,240 lbs. on de-oiled groundnut meal (solvent extracted variety containing less than $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. oil) were levied with effect from the date of the said notification."

I also beg to move the following Resolution:—

"That in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 4A of the Indian Tariff Act, 1934 (XXXII of 1934), the Rajya Sabha hereby approves of the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, S.R.O. No. 386, dated the 15th February, 1955, by which—

(i) an export duty of Rs. 100 per ton of 2,240 lbs. on decorticated cottonseed oilcake and an export duty of Rs. 50 per ton of 2,240 lbs. on all oilcakes, other than the following, namely, groundnut, copra, mowha, tobacco seed, neem seed and decorticated cottonseed oilcakes were levied; and

(ii) the export duty levied on de-oiled groundnut meal (solvent extracted variety containing less than $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. oil) was made applicable to de-oiled groundnut meal (solvent extracted variety containing less than 1 per cent. oil);

with effect from the date of the publication of said notification in the Gazette of India."

Sir, at the outset, I should say that Part (ii) of the third Resolution is only a corollary to the second Resolution. What has been done before with regard to that particular type of groundnut meal—solvent extracted variety containing less than $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. oil—has been also made applicable to solvent extracted variety containing less than 1 per cent. oil. Otherwise the content of that part (ii) of the third Resolution is the same. I shall content myself at this stage with a few brief remarks about the various export duties. The first is about groundnut. Let me make it clear that this groundnut does not refer to the ordinary groundnut. It refers to a variety of groundnut—what we call hand-picked variety, or H.P.S. That has a good dollar market. It has

AN HON. MEMBER: What variety?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Hand-picked variety. It is good to eat and it fetches a good income to the grower and is very nice to eat. In view of the ruling price in oilseeds, we released a quota of 10,000 tons on 28th November 1954 and again a quantity of 10,000 tons on the 18th January 1955. This is as I said, a small specialised trade to meet the requirements of our confectionery markets. In fact this was about 20,000 out of total groundnut of 22 lakh tons which we grow in the country. This is a costly variety of groundnut for which demand comes from the dollar market for table use and for the manufacture of confectionery and it has been our endeavour to keep this demand alive. Before the second release was made, i.e., the release made on the 8th January, it was found that there was.

considerable disparity between the internal and external price and even after the first release the prices were so high that there was scope for mopping up the difference. Export duty was then raised from Rs. 150 per ton to Rs. 300 per ton with effect from the 8th January 1955. So it is the hand-picked variety of ground-nuts whose export we have permitted to the tune of 20,000 tons. Then I shall say something about the groundnut cake. There was an available surplus of about 1·8 lakh tons of the cakes, the total production being 12·8 lakh tons. Approximately the internal requirements were 11 lakh tons and allowing for increased consumption, there was a surplus remaining of 1·8 lakh tons. There were complaints about accumulations in the country partly because of larger production and partly because of lack of credit facilities and it was decided to allow a small quantity for export. The demand for oil-cake normally comes in winter months when cattle, on account of severe weather, are unable to go to the fields and if exports were not allowed at that time, the advantage of best price would be lost as in the later months the demand will be less and the prices will be lower. Groundnut cake is used in the country as cattle feed and manure. The figure that I mentioned *viz.*, 11 lakh tons, takes care of both these things. For this type of organic manure, manure can be obtained in another form. I am informed that nitrogen for nitrogen, one ton of groundnut cake is very much inferior to one ton of ammonium sulphate. So with a view to importing necessary fertilisers at an advantage, we allowed these groundnut cakes to be exported. Now therefore as I said, in the circumstances, as an experimental measure, it was considered prudent to barter a small quantity of groundnut cake in order to obtain a sufficient quantity of ammonium sulphate. But there were complaints about the barter agreement and then we have taken to limited but open licensing. As a matter of information, I might tell the House that as against Rs. 300 spent on one

ton of groundnuts we were getting 1·35 ton of ammonium sulphate, the normal import cost of which would have been Rs. 400 per ton.

When we decided to export this small quantity, at that time, we examined both the internal and the external prices and in order to see that there is no rise in the internal price an export duty of Rs. 230 was fixed on groundnut oilcake and Rs. 175 on groundnut meal. We worked out all these duties on the normal basis of the internal price, plus the cost of export and external prices and then we came to the conclusion that the duty now imposed would be a reasonable one. Sir, regarding the groundnut meal also, I shall not take up much of the time of the House. A small quantity of de-oiled groundnut meal (solvent containing less than $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. oil) extracted variety was also released to be licensed freely on the same basis till the end of March 1955. The definition of groundnut meal was later revised on representations from the industry to enable groundnut meal containing less than 1 per cent. oil to be exported under this category.

I won't tease the attention of the House regarding the working of the export duty, except to say that on the basis of the external and the internal prices, we think that the duties that are imposed meet the requirements of the present circumstances.

An export duty of Rs. 100 per ton was levied on de-corticated cotton seed oilcake and of Rs. 50 per ton on all other cakes.

Sir, I have nothing more to add at this stage and if any pertinent points are raised in the course of the debate, I shall be only too happy to deal with them.

Sir, I move.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Resolutions moved:

"That in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 4A of the Indian Tariff Act, 1934 (XXXII of 1934), the

[Mr. Deputy Chairman.]

Rajya Sabha hereby approves of the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, S.R.O. No. 113, dated the 9th January 1955, by which the export duty on groundnuts was enhanced from Rs. 150 to Rs. 300 per ton of 2,240 lbs with effect from the date of the said notification."

"That in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 4A of the Indian Tariff Act, 1934 (XXXII of 1934), the Rajya Sabha hereby approves of the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, S.R.O. No. 332, dated the 5th February 1955, by which an export duty of Rs. 230 per ton of 2,240 lbs. on groundnut oilcake and an export duty of Rs. 175 per ton of 2,240 lbs. on de-oiled groundnut meal (solvent extracted variety containing less than $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. oil) were levied with effect from the date of the said notification."

"That in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 4A of the Indian Tariff Act, 1934 (XXXII of 1934), the Rajya Sabha hereby approves of the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry S.R.O. No. 386, dated the 15th February 1955, by which—

(i) an export duty of Rs. 100 per ton of 2,240 lbs. on decorticated cotton seed oil cake and an export duty of Rs 50 per ton of 2,240 lbs. on all oil cakes, other than the following, namely, groundnut, copra, mowha, tobacco seed, neem seed and decorticated cotton seed oil cakes were levied; and

(ii) the export duty levied on de-oiled groundnut meal (solvent extracted variety containing less than $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. oil) was made applicable to de-oiled groundnut meal (solvent extracted variety containing less than 1 per cent. oil);

with effect from the date of the publication of said notification in the Gazette of India."

Any hon. Member desiring to speak on these?

SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU (Madras): Sir, I listened very carefully to the reasons given out by the hon. Minister for Commerce and the necessity for the export of groundnut oil cake. Sir, he has given figures and said that 1.8 lakh tons are the available surplus in the country and that we can well afford to export this quantity of 1.8 lakh tons. Sir, I have no belief in statistics and statisticians. I as a practical agriculturist know the difficulties that we have in getting the groundnut cake which we use both as manure and as cattle feed, in time and at reasonable prices. I come from an area which is predominantly a sugarcane growing area and in that part of the land the sugarcane growers mostly use groundnut oil cake and ammonium sulphate at a particular combination. It is better I say very little about the availability of ammonium sulphate, which is so costly and is available to the agriculturist at about Rs 350 per ton. So people try to use more of the groundnut oil cake by way of manure for sugarcane. They use it not only for the sugarcane but also for other crops that are raised in the land. I do not know how when there is such scarcity of this particular commodity, the Government statisticians have shown a surplus of 1.8 lakh tons of this commodity as being available in this country for export, unless it be that they wanted to support the owners of oil-exPELLERS and the owners of the oil extracting industries in the country. It is only in their interest and in order to get the maximum price that they try to make out a case and thus influence the officers and the Government. There is no net available surplus in the country which they can export outside the country. But we actually know there is an enormous scarcity of this particular organic manure in the country, and it was most surprising to me to hear from

the hon. Minister that there is surplus of groundnut oilcake in our country. Let him go to the godowns of the so-called oil-expellers, the owners of the rotaries in our country and let him find out how much surplus there is. I challenge the hon. Minister. Let him have an investigation made in the villages. Let him call some important agriculturists and examine them to find out whether groundnut cake is available for them at all in time and at reasonable prices, to be used by way of manure for their lands. I wish to voice my emphatic protest on this matter and the Government of India should see that this most important organic manure of our country is not at all exported.

The hon. Minister referred to some barter arrangement by which they wanted to get ammonium sulphate in exchange for groundnut oilcake. Sir, ammonium sulphate is a chemical manure and it is deprecated by experts when they say that it should not be extensively used for manuring our lands, and that it should always be used in combination with organic manure, oilcake, certain bone-meal and fish-meal and things like that, if these organic manures are not available, if those are made scarce, then people would try to resort to some other manures like green-leaf manure or some other kind of manure and thus they will be deprived of getting the maximum yield from their lands.

Sir, take then the question of cattle feed. Groundnut oilcake is mostly used as cattle feed also, at any rate the oilcakes produced out of the rotaries if not from the expellers. Our country which has got such an enormous number of cattle will be deprived of even this cheap food. I cannot really understand why we should pursue this policy of exporting this most important commodity which is useful both as manure for our lands and as food for our cattle.

Now I come to the question of the export of groundnuts. I wish the Government of India comes forward with

their export policy even at the beginning of the sowing. At the time of sowing, they should come out clearly with their policy of export for the current year. When the agriculturist sows his groundnut, the market rate would be at a particular level and when he reaps his harvest, it will be nearly 50 per cent. or even 75 per cent. less than at the time he was sowing the groundnut seed. That is because the Government has absolutely no particular policy. I learn the net available surplus in the country, after allowing for everything, is nearly 80 per cent.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Of what?

SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Of groundnut.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: We do not export except these varieties and we do export the oil, keeping more than 80 per cent. for local consumption.

SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: I am coming to that. 80 per cent. is the available surplus with regard to groundnut in the country. If the hon. Minister wants, I shall certainly quote from the report on the Marketing of Groundnuts in India which was published in 1953. It says:

"The quantities of groundnuts available for consumption and crushing in India have more than doubled during the last decade. The retention has increased to a very marked extent during recent years, the percentages of net available supplies to total production being as high as 87 during 1946-47."

I am sure it would have come down only by a very small extent, say from 87 per cent. it might have come down now to 85 or 80 or say 70 per cent.

Now, all these will have to be consumed locally. Groundnuts are consumed by crushing them to be used as edible oil or groundnuts are used for eating purposes. Excepting these two purposes, I do not find that the groundnuts are being used for any

[Shri P. S. Rajagopal Naidu] other purpose in India. India, in the pre-Independence days, had the largest acreage in the whole world in the matter of groundnuts. India had probably about 47 per cent. or 50 per cent. of the total world acreage. India was exporting nearly 50 per cent. to 60 per cent of the world export to the outside world in the pre-Independence days. Now, both exports as well as the acreage have come down considerably because of the vacillating policies of the Government in the matter of exports. They have absolutely no definite policy; they simply go on changing their policies from time to time; the interests of the agriculturists are not uppermost in the minds of the Government and Government are purely selfish in this matter.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Selfish?

SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Absolutely selfish. They have absolutely no sympathy for the agriculturists. More than 50 per cent. of the groundnuts grown in India are grown in Madras State and I, who hails from Madras, know the difficulties of the growers of groundnuts.

Once again, Sir, I can say that the Government of India has absolutely no sympathy with the groundnut growers. Compare the price of groundnuts two years ago and the prices now. This is the only important commercial crop that is raised by the agriculturists in the South just like the rabi wheat crop of Northern India. This grows for one or two showers and so also the groundnut that is grown in the South. This is the only dry crop that the agriculturists grow just to get some money to meet the expenses. Government is not taking any interest in the growers of groundnut in the country.

I have nothing more to say on the subject excepting once again to invite the attention of the Government to the fact that they should be uniform in their export policy; let them announce

sufficiently in advance, even at the time of sowing, the export policy for the year so far as groundnuts are concerned so that the agriculturists may know beforehand whether they can raise groundnuts or not. I do not want the Government to be playing with the growers of groundnuts in the country like this. If at all they have got any interest for the growers of groundnut they should see that the growers get a fair price, a better price, that they get the groundnut oil cake at a reasonable price and at all times. Government should also see that, under no circumstances, groundnut oil cake is exported outside the country.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Mr. Deputy Chairman, I was rather surprised to listen to the points raised by my otherwise normally well-informed friend who spoke just now. He spoke about groundnut cake and he appeared to me to be raising a complaint that what is necessary inside the country is being sent out. As I said, Sir, in this particular matter naturally one has to take great care and in any case, as in the case of oil or groundnut cake or any material which is useful to the country, it would be wrong of us if we did not take the internal requirements of the country into consideration. Our information is, and the Food Ministry has carefully thought about this matter, that whereas we would need

SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: That is why I said you believe your statistics and statisticians generally.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: We cannot go one step forward if we did not believe in ourselves. If we believe in what my hon. friend says and act then probably we will be nowhere.

SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Never, never, in the case of agriculture.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Sometimes we also make mistakes but we take all the needs of the country into

consideration very very carefully and we do export a little less than what we would be justified in exporting. In this particular matter, the Food Ministry have carefully considered and Government have carefully considered the matter and come to the conclusion that while there is absolutely no harm in exporting it would, at the same time, serve a purpose because the prices which our groundnuts fetched in the open market were more than last year's and it was essentially to our advantage to export this quantity. It may be better if my hon. friend studies the question a little further; I will also think about it and then we can discuss it later on.

SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Mine is only practical study, Sir.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Yes, Sir, but at times it turns out to be otherwise.

About the export policy, my hon. friend Mr Naidu ran into a wrong proposition. In an essential commodity like groundnut if we announce the quota at the commencement of the sowing season that we are going to export so much we might be in trouble later on if the crop does not come up to expectations. Crops are not controlled by our statements or resolutions or export policies. Whereas we shall be committed to make this export, the country's needs may not be met and they will not justify the amount of export. We keep a very very close watch at the time when crop estimates are made. We watch the crop availability, allow a little less than the availability justifies, so far as exports are concerned. We think it better to err on the safe side. We have had an estimate, roughly speaking, because one cannot and does not go on counting the groundnut kernels available in the country but we do estimate roughly, subject to a small margin of error. In the year 1952-53, the groundnut kernels were estimated at 20 lakh tons; in 1953-54 it was 22 lakh tons and in 1954-55—that is, this year—it is 22 lakh tons only. There is

a difference about this figure; certain estimates put the figure at as much as 22.75 lakh tons and others at as low as 20.75 lakh tons. Our exportable surplus, after taking into consideration the carry-over of the last two years and the total supplies available during the current year as well as the internal consumption—the last item being round about 20 lakh tons—was, subject to a small margin of error, put at 3.75 lakh tons out of a total of 22 lakh tons. Let us have a 10 per cent margin for error, even so, my hon. friend will see that this is almost diametrically opposite of what he said. If he has the impression that the available surplus for export is 80 per cent of our total production, with very great respect to him, I am bound to say that he is entirely in the wrong. Our available surplus for export is very little, compared to our consumption.

Then he was on the other point in the case of which I think he urged only the cause of the agriculturists. I am quite sure that my hon. friend would also look to the interests of the consumers because fat requirements of our country are not fully met. We have to take great care about this and we have to strike a balance between what is due to the grower and what is due to the consumer by way of reasonable price and I am quite sure my hon. friend will agree with that. Considering the existing prices and considering the reasonable interests of the consumer we came to the conclusion that round about Rs. 1,100 was reasonable return.

SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Groundnut or groundnut oil?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Groundnut oil. We thought that groundnuts changed into oil becomes groundnut oil.

Coming back to the point, Sir, we have to take the interests of the consumers as well into account when we judge for ourselves what the proper internal price should be. No doubt agriculturists and traders would be

[Shri D. P. Karmarkar.]

very happy if prices are three times as what they are but there is also the consumer to be looked after. Especially in this commodity we have received very strong protests; there was no need for any protests. We know that to the extent to which we make essential things dearer to that extent the consumer stints himself. Again, the prices depend upon a lot of other considerations but it is always our policy—as my hon. friend doubtless knows—to see to it that we do not

1 P.M. hurt the agriculturists because if we do not look after the interests of the agriculturists as such to a reasonable extent we shall be killing the goose that lays the golden eggs. But it is not very good to export all the golden eggs at the cost of the whole country suffering thereby, at the cost of the common people who are the consumers. So I say firstly with regard to the announcement of the policy, it might suit the traders very much if you announce your policy much in advance; it may not help some agriculturists to the same extent and above all to do so won't help the national interests as a whole unless he is advocating the agriculturist's interests which sometimes are dubious as their production may not come up to expectation. I am quite sure that he does not make this proposition seriously. I wish my hon. friend had warned me and warned me very strictly to say "Don't announce your policy much earlier. Take care of the crops, take into consideration the estimate of crops and then only come with a policy." Instead of that I am disappointed at having received an advice which is the opposite of what I thought he would give me. But he has cautioned me into taking a risk which no Government would be prepared to take. That is perhaps the result of his looking into some report and reading it out. I cannot make any such assertions at all.

SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU:
This is by the Government.

SHRI D. P. KARMAKAR: This is all that I have to submit, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I put the Resolutions separately.

The question is:

"That in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 4A of the Indian Tariff Act, 1934 (XXXII of 1934), the Rajya Sabha hereby approves of the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, S.R.O. No. 113, dated the 9th January 1955, by which the export duty on groundnuts was enhanced from Rs. 150 to Rs. 300 per ton of 2,240 lbs. with effect from the date of the said notification."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 4A of the Indian Tariff Act, 1934 (XXXII of 1934), the Rajya Sabha hereby approves of the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, S.R.O. No. 332, dated the 5th February 1955, by which an export duty of Rs. 230 per ton of 2,240 lbs. on groundnut oilcake and an export duty of Rs. 175 per ton of 2,240 lbs. on de-oiled groundnut meal (solvent extracted variety containing less than $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. oil) were levied with effect from the date of the said notification."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 4A of the Indian Tariff Act, 1934 (XXXII of 1934), the Rajya Sabha hereby approves of the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, S.R.O. No. 386, dated the 15th February 1955, by which—

(i) an export duty of Rs. 100 per ton of 2,240 lbs. on decorticated cotton seed oil cake and an

export duty of Rs. 50 per ton of 2,240 lbs. on all oil cakes, other than the following, namely, groundnut, copra, mowha, tobacco seed, neem seed and decorticated cotton seed oil cakes were levied; and

(ii) the export duty levied on de-oiled groundnut meal (solvent extracted variety containing less than $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent oil) was made applicable to de-oiled groundnut meal (solvent extracted variety containing less than 1 per cent. oil);

with effect from the date of the publication of said notification in the Gazette of India "

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is a message. The Secretary will read.

MESSAGE FROM THE LOK SABHA

THE APPROPRIATION BILL, 1955

SECRETARY: Sir, I have to report to the House the following message received from the Lok Sabha, signed by the Secretary of the Lok Sabha:—

"In accordance with the provisions of Rule 133 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to enclose herewith a copy of the Appropriation Bill, 1955, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 1st March 1955.

2 The Speaker has certified that this Bill is a Money Bill within the meaning of Article 110 of the Constitution of India."

I lay the Bill on the Table.

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

The House adjourned for lunch at six minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at half past two of the clock, MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

THE WORKING JOURNALISTS (INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES) BILL, 1955

THE MINISTER FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (DR B. V. KESKAR): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill to apply the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, to working journalists be taken into consideration."

Mr. Deputy Chairman, in presenting this Bill for the consideration of the House, I would not like to make too long an introduction. The subject-matter has been under discussion in the journalistic circles for a long time. Most of its aspects were discussed in detail by the various bodies concerned before the Press Commission and the Commission made certain recommendations regarding this matter. The main point is that at present there is no legal machinery available for the settling of disputes between working journalists and the proprietors and managers. This has put the journalists under a great handicap and this has been one of the main difficulties in the way of their coming to any settlement regarding the facilities that they will require, regarding their pay scales and many other things. One of the basic things that will be necessary for any economic structure to be prepared for the working journalists is to make available to them some machinery by which they can settle their disputes with the management. As things stand today, if there is any journalist who has a grievance against the management, he can go nowhere. This Bill, Sir,—I would like to make it very clear—is purely an enabling measure permitting a working journalist to take a dispute for settlement before an industrial court. It has not got anything else; it is purely an enabling Bill.