

RAJYA SABHA

Tuesday 3rd May 1955

The House met at eleven of the clock,
MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

DISCUSSION ON THE PRESS COMMISSION'S REPORT

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Qengal): Sir, I should like to know what is happening to the discussion that we demanded on the Press Commission Report and what is the position with regard to it. It seems that the Government is determined not to take up discussion in this Session. In that case, we would like to know what they are going to do and we would also like to know when they would take a decision and when the recommendations of the Press Commission will be implemented by way of passing legislation and whether the Government would be willing to discuss it between now and the next session with the Members of the Opposition before coming to a decision so that our views may be informally communicated to them before arriving at a final decision. Since the hon. Minister for Information and Broadcasting is present here, we would be very much benefited if he would be good enough to make a statement and clarify the Government's position.

THE MINISTER FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (DR. B. V. KESKAR) : Sir, I was informed two days back that the Communist Party Leader had made a statement that the Government was trying to avoid a discussion on the Press Commission Report. The facts are quite the contrary. It is the Government which was eager to initiate a discussion in this House and you yourself will bear me out in this matter that I approached yourself and also the Speaker that we would like to have a discussion on the Press Commission's Report in both the Houses. We expected during the course of the month of April to come

to some tentative conclusions regarding the important matters or the important recommendations of the Press Commission. Unfortunately, due to pressure of work of the Government and the Prime Minister's departure for Indonesia, we were not able to come to any tentative conclusions. We therefore felt that a meaningless discussion might take place and even Members of the Opposition might take offence that the Government is just sitting and listening and not expressing any views regarding the Press Commission's Report, and it was therefore that we thought it better not to have the discussion at this stage. I regret very much this delay but it was an inevitable one over which Government have no control. At the same time I might assure the hon. Member that we are eager to have a discussion as quickly as possible. If the Chairman agrees, we can have it during the very first three days of the next session. In the meantime I might assure Mr. Gupta that the recommendations of the Press Commission and their active consideration will not be held up simply for want of discussion. He himself is eager to have the recommendations implemented as quickly as possible. We also want to take a decision regarding them and take an active decision regarding them as quickly as possible. The matter is not being held up. It is being actively pursued.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know in that case, whether a Bill would be brought up early next session embodying the recommendations of the Press Commission?

DR. B. V. KESKAR: I had informed the House some time back that we are not bringing any one omnibus legislation regarding the Press Commission. Matters are being grouped—for example, those concerning working journalists, those concerning

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Guha.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: He has not answered. Will there be a Bill brought up early in the next Session?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Piece-meal, not a comprehensive Bill.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

MINISTRY OF FINANCE NOTIFICATION MAKING CERTAIN REDUCTIONS IN THE IMPORT DUTIES ON COTTON TEXTILES AND STATEMENT THEREON.

THE MINISTER FOR REVENUE AND DEFENCE EXPENDITURE (SHRI A. C. GUHA) : I place on the Table of the House a copy of a notification issued today by the Ministry of Finance under section 23 of the Sea Customs Act making certain reductions in the import duties on cotton textiles.

"GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF FINANCE (REVENUE DIVISION)

New Delhi, the 3rd May 1955

◆NOTIFICATION

CUSTOMS

No. 86.—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 23 of the Sea Customs Act, 1878 (VIII of 1878), as in force in India and as applied to the State of Pondicherry, the Central Government hereby exempts the articles specified in column 2 of the Schedule hereto annexed when imported into India or the State of Pondicherry, from V, much of the duty of customs leviable thereon under the Indian Tariff Act, 1934 (XXXII of 1934), as is in excess of the total amount specified in column 3 against each of the said articles.

SCHEDULE

Tariff item No.	Name of article	Extent of exemption
1	2	3
48 (3)	Cotton fabrics not otherwise specified containing more than 90 per cent. of cotton—	
	(a) Grey piece-goods excluding bordered grey chadars, dhoties,	

*Also placed in the Library, see No. S-164/55

1	2	3
	saries and scarves—	
(i) of British manufacture.	The excise duty leviable for the time being on super-fine cotton fabrics plus the additional duty of excise leviable for the time being under the Khadi and other Handloom Industries Development (Additional Excise Duty on Cloth) Act, 1953 plus 25 per cent. ad valorem.	
(ii) not of British manufacture.	The excise duty leviable for the time being on super-fine cotton fabrics plus the additional duty of excise leviable for the time being under the Khadi and other Handloom Industries Development (Additional Excise Duty on Cloth) Act, 1953 plus 60 per cent. ad valorem.	
(b) Printed piece-goods and printed fabrics—		
(i) of British manufacture.	The excise duty leviable for the time being on super-fine cotton fabrics plus the additional duty of excise leviable for the time being under the Khadi and other Handloom Industries Development (Additional Excise Duty on Cloth) Act, 1953 plus 25 per cent. ad valorem.	
(ii) not of British manufacture.	The excise duty leviable for the time being on super-fine cotton fabrics plus the additional duty of excise leviable for the time being under the Khadi and other Handloom Industries Development (Additional Excise Duty on Cloth) Act, 1953 plus 65 per cent. ad valorem.	
(c) Cotton piece-goods and fabrics not otherwise specified—		
(i) of British manufacture.	The excise duty leviable for the time being on super-fine cotton fabrics plus the additional duty of excise leviable for the time being under the Khadi and other Handloom Industries Development (Additional Excise Duty on Cloth) Act, 1953 plus 25 per cent. ad valorem.	
(ii) not of British manufacture.	The excise duty leviable for the time being on super-fine cotton fabrics plus the additional duty of excise leviable for the time being under the Khadi and other Handloom Industries Development (Additional Excise Duty on Cloth) Act, 1953 plus 65 per cent. ad valorem.	