

tiv) Ministry of Finance (Revenue Division) Notification No. 42.C.Exc, dated the 1st November, 1954. [Placed in the Library. See No. S-462/54 for (i) to (iv).j

**MINISTRY OF FINANCE (REVENUE DIVISION)
NOTIFICATION PUBLISHING AMENDMENTS TO
CUSTOMS DUTIES DRAWBACK
(EMBROIDERED GOODS) RULES, 1954.**

SHRI A. C. GUHA: Sir, I also lay on the Table, under sub-section (4) of section 43B of the Sea Customs Act, 1878, a copy of the Ministry of Finance (Revenue Division) Notification No. 118, dated the 9th October 1954, publishing certain amendments to the Customs Duties Drawback (Embroidered Goods) Rules, 1954. [Placed in the Library. See No. S-416/54.]

Sir, if you will kindly permit me, I would like to draw the attention of hon. Members to the fact that item (iv) in the first list of notifications concerns the integration of the former French territories with India. I think that it is the first Government document to be laid on the Table of the Sabha concerning the French territories.

**PETITION REGARDING THE HINDU
MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE BILL,
1952**

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN (Madras): Mr. Chairman, I present a petition signed by 22,260 petitioners regarding the Hindu Marriage and Divorce Bill, 1952.

**THE HINDU MARRIAGE AND
DIVORCE BILL, 1952—continued**

SHRI M. P. N. SINHA (Bihar): Sir, I am resuming my speech. I now refer to clause 5, sub-clause (hi) which relates to the marriageable age of a girl and a boy. It has been proposed that the minimum age limit for a girl should be 16 years and that for a boy

should be 21 years. Some friends have presented their notes of dissent and there is a section of opinion that the age limit should be 15 for girls and 18 for boys, as originally fixed in the Bill. I do not agree with that view and I think that the age of the girl, the minimum age of the girl should remain at 16 and that of the boy at 21 for the simple reason that before that age the girl or boy is not ripe for marriage. Another relevant factor in this regard is education. I mean that education should be completed or it should be well in advance before a marriage is contracted. I do not think that there will be any serious objection from the villagers also, because as my hon. friends know, the villagers are not the same as they were before.

Now, I come to clause 8 which deals with registration of marriages. I know that it will be very difficult for the Government to make a provision for the registration of all marriages. It is; admitted on all hands that it will be desirable to have the marriages registered, because I do know in my State that there have been quite a few cases where the husband had disowned a wife or a wife had disowned a husband. In such cases, if there is some documentary proof, it will not be easy for people to do that, but it is difficult at this stage, I take it, to make an amendment for this. I suggest that some power should be given to the States whereby they can make suitable arrangements for the registration of all the marriages, that is, it should be made obligatory for the marrying party.

[MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.]

Then another thing. There should be a provision made that where the parties or one of the parties, either the man or the woman, who had already been married before the commencement of this Act, want their marriage to be registered, there should be no objection in allowing that. In fact, there should be a provision that such registration could take place.. Then, I will refer to section 9.....