

[Mr. Deputy Chairman.] we will have to forego our lunch on Monday and Tuesday, and if necessary also sit extra after six o'clock. So I would request hon. Members to be brief while speaking on amendments. There are 204 amendments. Except three or four clauses all the clauses have got amendments, as many as 30.

The House stands adjourned till 2-30 P.M.

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

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

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

SHRI J. R. KAPOOR (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I beg to present the Report of the Committee on Petitions dated December 10, 1954, in respect of the petitions relating to the Hindu Marriage and Divorce Bill, 1952, presented by Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan to the Rajya Sabha on December 7, 1954.

THE HINDU MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE BILL, 1952—continued

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (Shri D. P. Karmarkar): Mr. Deputy Chairman, I think it is my duty at the outset to say that I have followed the proceedings on this Bill very carefully and where I was not myself able personally to attend the debate, I should also add, I have read the report of the speeches made here with the care and attention that they deserve. I appreciate very much the frank expression of views by various Members who hold those opinions. This is not one of those measures in which opinions are likely to be conventionally for the purpose of what sometimes is known in Parliamentary language as

teasing the debate. This is a subject which has exercised the minds of different sections of the community for many years and it should be no surprise to anyone whatever that different views should be expressed and would continue to be expressed on the floor of this House or on any other forum where this matter might crop up. But I must say, Sir, that I am happy to note that the strength of the opposition to this measure, which we considered to be progressive and as one that is required by the needs of today in the interests of society as a whole, is much diluted. In fact, apart from one or two speeches which went to the fundamental roots of the measure which we propose to get through, I was not able to discover that violent opposition which might have characterised the same speeches some years back. That is surely an indication of the fact that during all these years largely because the measures which we have introduced here are undoubtedly in consonance with the spirit of the Hindu law as it has been understood through the centuries and largely on account of a better understanding of what is proposed to be done. It is for these two reasons that the opposition has met us today in a diluted form. I should say, Sir, that it has been a delight to me to have listened to this debate. It has educated me also.

I should also add here—though it is a, little unconventional—new as I was to this Bill so far as the piloting was concerned, I would not have been able to render my duty in the humble measure which I might hope to, were it not for the full guidance of my esteemed colleague, the Minister for Law, and his officers, particularly the experienced draftsman Mr. Raj Gopal who has been such a precious asset to that Ministry. I am not formal when I say this both in respect of this House and of the Law Ministry because, Sir, when I rise to speak I have to address myself to this subject with a sense of responsibility which, if I might be permitted to say so, is greater in this particular subject than