

[Shri B. N. Datar.]

- (ii) The Patiala and East Punjab States Union Legislative Assembly (Prevention of Disqualification) Amendment Act, 1954. [Placed in Library, see No. S-10/54.]
- (iii) The Patiala and East Punjab States Union Townships Development Board Act, 1954. [Placed in Library, see No. S-11/54.]
- (iv) The Patiala and East Punjab States Union Chaukidara Act, 1954. [Placed in Library, see No. S-12/54.]
- (v) The Patiala and East Punjab States Union Livestock Improvement Act, 1954. [Placed in Library, see No. S-13/54.]

(1) AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE RAJPRA-MUKH OF SAURASHTRA AND THE RE-SERVE BANK OF INDIA

(2) MINISTRY OF FINANCE NOTIFICATIONS UNDER THE SEA CUSTOMS ACT, 1878

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FIN-ANCE (SHRI A. C. GUHA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of each of the Principal and Supplemental Agreements executed under sub-sec-tion (1) of section 21A of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, on the 23rd December 1953, between the Raj-pramukh of Saurashtra on the one hand and the Reserve Bank of India on the other, as required under sub-section (2) of section 21A of the said Act. [Placed in Library, see No. S-19/54.]

Sir, I also lay on the Table a copy of each of the following Notifications under sub-section (4) of section 43B of the Sea Customs Act, 1878:—

- (i) Ministry of Finance (Reve-nue Division) Notification No. 91, dated the 26th November 1953, relating to the allow-ance of drawbacks on certain articles.
- (ii) Ministry of Finance (Reve-nue Division) Notification No. 92, dated the 26th November

1953, publishing the Customs Duties Drawbacks (Cotton Cloth and Yarn) Rules, 1953. [Placed in Library, see No. S-18/54 for both (i) and (ii).]

THE CONTROL OF SHIPPING (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1954

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Control of Shipping Act, 1947.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

“That leave be granted to intro-duce a Bill further to amend the Control of Shipping Act, 1947.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Sir, I in-troduce the Bill.

THE ABDUCTED PERSONS (RE-COVERY AND RESTORATION) AMENDMENT BILL, 1954

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A. K. CHANDA): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Abducted Persons (Recovery and Restoration) Act, 1949.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

“That leave be granted to intro-duce a Bill further to amend the Abducted Persons (Recovery and Restoration) Act, 1949.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI A. K. CHANDA: Sir, I intro-duce the Bill.

EXTENSION OF THE TIME FOR PRESENTATION OF REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE SPECIAL MARRIAGE BILL, 1952.

THE MINISTER FOR LAW AND MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI C. C. BISWAS): Sir, I beg to move that the

time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Bill to provide a special form of marriage in certain cases, and for the registration of such and certain other marriages, be extended up to Thursday, the 18th March 1954.

In this connection, Sir, I may point out that so far we have had six sittings of the Select Committee and we shall require a few more sittings to finalise the whole thing.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

“That the time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Bill to provide a special form of marriage in certain cases, and for the registration of such and certain other marriages, be extended up to Thursday, the 18th March 1954.”

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA (Andhra): I have to make a few remarks, Sir. Before we give the permission for extension of time for the Select Committee Report to be presented, we would like to know whether the Government can give us an assurance that this Bill will be put on the agenda in this session when we meet after recess, so that we can proceed with it without any further delay. We have known the fate of this Bill for the last year and a half.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND (Madhya Pradesh): I would also like to ask the hon. the Law Minister before we give this permission whether the Select Committee on the Hindu Code Bill would be appointed during this part of the session. Otherwise, postponement of this Bill will naturally postpone the other thing.

SHRI B. RATH (Orissa): Sir, I am surprised to see such a motion being moved in spite of the fact that there was a long recess between the last session and this session. The Select Committee could have finished the

work during that recess period. Why have there been only six sittings? I would like to know it from the hon. Minister

3 P.M.

SHRI C. C. BISWAS: The answer to that is that, if we had met during the inter-session period, it would have meant more expenditure. We had to take into consideration the question of finance—what it will cost to the Government to convene this meeting earlier. It is an obvious fact.

PROF. G. RANGA (Andhra): Oh!

SHRI C. C. BISWAS: It is no use keeping that fact from the House. As a matter of fact, this meeting had been convened on the 1st February—two weeks in advance of this session—but unfortunately there were representations made to me by several members of the Select Committee asking for further adjournment. They suggested just two or three days before the commencement of the session. I agreed to postponement by a week only and fixed the dates on and from the 8th February. The 8th was Saraswati Puja Day and normally, being a Bengalee, I would not have liked to sit on that day. Still, in spite of some representations from some Bengalee Members, I adhered to that date. We have been sitting from day to day, twice a day—morning and evening—except on two occasions, but we have not finished. As a matter of fact, it will be necessary for us to redraft several clauses of the Bill. For instance, I might say for the benefit of the House that the Bill provides that the Indian Succession Act and the Indian Divorce Act will apply, but it is our present intention to incorporate in the Bill self-contained provisions in these matters. That means redrafting the relevant clauses. That will require time. When we fixed the date, it was to be two months from the constitution of the Committee. The Select Committee was not constituted till about the last week of

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 the last session when the other House nominated its members, so that we could not have met before that time. We had to begin on the 1st February. We have been going on. And in the meantime, so far as the Law Minister was concerned, he had to be present at the sittings of another Select Committee, and the report in respect of that Select Committee has to be submitted very shortly. In view of this, it will be clear that the Government are not sitting idle over this matter. That is all that I can say.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: I would like to ask one or two questions and to put certain facts before the House before it comes to a decision. The last two sessions were available for the consideration of this Bill and the other Hindu Marriage and Divorce Bill, but nothing has been done so far. This is an important matter.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Have you any objection to the extension of the time till Thursday the 18th March?

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: Yes, Sir. This will postpone the other Select Committee on the other Bill. If the Law Minister is prepared to give an undertaking that the Select Committee on the Hindu Marriage and Divorce Bill will be appointed immediately, next week or so, then I am prepared to agree to the extension, so that the reports of both the Select Committees are ready. Otherwise, that will be postponed too.

SHRI C. C. BISWAS: I refuse to submit to any conditions, so far as this question is concerned. For the information of my hon. friend over there, I may state, I have already given notice for a Select Committee in regard to the other Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Sundarayya's question is whether you intend to ask for further extensions.

SHRI C. C. BISWAS: We ought to be able to present the report by that day.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: Is the Government going to place this Bill as the first item on the agenda when we re-assemble?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He wants to know whether this would be given priority after we re-assemble in April.

SHRI C. C. BISWAS: I am most anxious that it should be so.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: That does not help at all.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: If he is anxious that it should be so, who is going to obstruct him?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Bill to provide a special form of marriage in certain cases, and for the registration of such and certain other marriages, be extended up to Thursday, the 18th March 1954."

Those who are in favour will please say, "Aye".

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Those who are against will please say, "No".

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No.

MR. CHAIRMAN: (*Referring to Dr. Shrimati Seeta Parmanand*) A member of the Select Committee saying "No"!

SHRI C. C. BISWAS: This was done on the authority of the Select Committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The "Ayes" have it.

The motion was adopted.