

[Secretary.]
of the Telegraph Wires (Unlawful Possession) Amendment Bill, 1952, which has been passed as amended by the House at its sitting held on the 4th December 1953." J5ir, I lay the Bill on the Table.

THE ABSORBED AREAS (LAWS) BILL, 1953

THE MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS AND STATES (DR. K. N. KATJU) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to extend certain laws to the areas which, prior to the commencement of the Constitution, were administered as excluded or partially excluded areas and which, on such commencement, were absorbed in certain States.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to extend certain laws to the areas which, prior to the commencement of the Constitution, were administered as excluded or partially excluded areas and which, on such commencement, were absorbed in certain States."

SHRI M. S. RANAWAT (Rajasthan): Has the Bill been circulated?

(No reply.)

The motion was adopted.

DR. K. N. KATJU: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE DHOTIES (ADDITIONAL EXCISE DUTY) BILL, 1953—continued.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We now pass on to the consideration of the Dhoties (Additional Excise Duty) Bill, 1953. Mr. Krishnamachari.

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI T. T. KRISHNA-

MACHARI) : Mr. Chairman, the other day when I was replying to the debate on this motion, I dealt with the points raised by Dr. Kunzru in regard to the schemes sanctioned in respect of subsidy and other assistance to the handloom industry in various States. Dr. Kunzru raised various points, some of a technical nature. He had certain doubts in regard to what will happen to these control measures when the Essential Supplies Temporary Powers Act lapses after five years after the promulgation of the Constitution. I will not say much at the moment, and I need not go into all that except to state that so far as the industries which come within the scope of the control of the Government of India are concerned, we have powers under which we could, with the permission of Parliament, enact law analogous to the present Essential Supplies Temporary Powers Act. The difficulty will be with regard to those commodities in respect of which the Government of India could not legislate. There is no use meeting trouble half-way and Government will consider these problems as and when they arise.

In regard to the other points mentioned by hon. Members as I said already, 25 Members have spoken and even if I had to point out the different opinions expressed, it might be that one set of opinions cancels the other. Some hon. Members said that this Bill was not good or not good enough; some hon. Members felt that this Bill was too restrictive; so that, it would mean that Government are taking a line in between the two extremes—one extreme set of people wanting more and more of restriction, the other extreme set wanting complete reservation of dhoties for the handloom, or a larger area of reservation, in which case prices will again go up. Some suggestion was made by an hon. Member that we could re-introduce control. It was said that the removal of control tended to bring down prices by as much as 20 to 30 per cent., if not more, in certain parts.