

with great sorrow, and may I ask you to stand up for two minutes as a token of our respect.

(Hon. Members then stood up for two minutes.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE.

AMENDMENT TO THE COIR INDUSTRY BILL,
1953

SECRETARY: Sir, I have to report to the Council the following message received from the House of the People, signed by the Secretary to the House:

"In accordance with the provisions of Rule 119 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the House of the People, I am directed to inform you that the following amendment made by the Council of States in the Bill to provide for the control by the Union of the Coir Industry and for that purpose to establish a Coir Board and levy a customs duty on coir fibre, coir yarn and coir products exported from India, at its sitting held on the 2nd December, 1953, was taken into consideration and agreed to by the House of the People at its sitting held on Monday, the 14th December 1953: —

"That in sub-clause (4) of clause 17 of the Bill, for the words "the House of the People", the words "both Houses of Parliament" shall be substituted"

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

SECOND ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE COLOMBO PLAN RESERVE BANK OF INDIA
NOTIFICATION AMENDING THE RESERVE BANK OF INDIA (NOTE REFUND) RULES,
1935

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FINANCE (SHRI A. C. GUHA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Second Annual Report of the Consultative Committee of the Colombo Plan. [*Placed in Library, see No. S-209/53.*]

I also beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Reserve Bank of India Notification No. 22, dated the 29th October 1953, amending the Reserve Bank of India (Note Refund) Rules, 1935, as required under section 28 of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. [*Placed in Library, see No. S-208/53.*]

STATEMENT RE ELECTIONS IN PEPSU AND TRAVANCORE-COCHIN

THE MINISTER FOR LAW AND MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI C. C. BISWAS) : Sir, as hon. Members are aware, a Bill to amend the election law in several important respects was introduced in the House of the People during the last session. The Bill has been considered by a Select Committee and its Report was presented to that House a fortnight ago. Owing to pressure of other urgent business, it has not yet been possible to take up the Bill for consideration and as things stand at present, there seems to be very little chance of the Bill being brought on the agenda within the few remaining days of this session. In any event, there is absolutely no chance of the Bill being passed by both Houses of Parliament during this session.

This House is also aware that the general elections to the Legislative Assemblies of two States are now due. The President's Proclamation in regard to PEPSU will cease to be operative on the 26th March 1954, and it is necessary that the elections should be held and the new Assembly constituted in that State in good time before that date. So also, in Travancore-Cochin, where the Legislative Assembly was dissolved on the 24th September last, it is necessary that the elections should be held and the new Assembly brought into being

within six months from that date, that is, before the 23rd March 1954. In fact, but for the necessity to re-delimit constituencies in that State, the general elections could have taken place much earlier. The Delimitation Commission has finished its work in these two States and it is understood that the electoral rolls for the new constituencies are also printed up and ready.

In these circumstances, Government have decided that the general elections in both these States will have to be conducted on the basis of the existing election law. It was hoped that it would be possible to get the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill passed by both Houses of Parliament in sufficient time to run the general elections on the basis of the amended law; but unfortunately, this hope has not materialised. The elections will accordingly be held on the basis of the existing law and all necessary steps are being taken by the Election Commission and the State authorities, so that the elections in both the States are over by about the first week of March 1954.

SHRI M. MANJURAN (Travancore-Cochin): On a point of information, may I know why the general elections in Travancore-Cochin should be conducted before the 24th March 1954?

SHRI C. C. BISWAS: Under the Constitution there should not be an interval of more than six months between one session and another session of the Assembly.

PROF. G. RANGA (Andhra): In view of the fact that Government has proposed to go ahead with the elections and in view of the information given by my hon. friend that all other things are being kept ready, is it necessary then for the Government to continue their earlier notification to keep their interim administration till March? Can they not possibly have the elections much

earlier and thus put an end to this interim administration?

SHRI C. C. BISWAS: Steps are already being taken in order to start all the preliminary operations. I have given only an estimate that it is expected to finish the elections by the first week of March, but it may be earlier.

PROF. G. RANGA: Can they not do it earlier?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has said that he has given only the latest date.

THE BANKING COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1953— continued

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR (West Bengal): Mr. Chairman, yesterday I was on the point of referring to some apprehensions expressed by my hon. friends, Mr. Parikh, Mr. Hegde and to some extent by Mr. Ghose that honest people would be unwilling to accept directorships after the passing of this measure. I have already said that I do not claim to be an expert in legal or banking affairs, but as a layman it seems to me that these apprehensions are not well-founded, because I do not think any honest director has got anything to be afraid of by the provisions of this Bill for two reasons: First, from experience we have been seeing that on many occasions the industrialists were complaining, for example, that due to the rise in labour costs, it would become impossible to continue in industry. We have seen that they have, not discontinued it but have gone on continuing in industry. Secondly from our experience about how the directors and gentlemen of that class fare under the Congress Government, I can assure them that they need not have any apprehensions on this matter. Thirdly, the High Court which has been empowered in this connection, I do not think, will take any such revolutionary step that the honest directors need fear, as my hon. friends envisage.