

NOTIFICATIONS

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI: Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of each of the following Notifications :—

1. Ministry of Finance (Revenue Division) Notification No. 12-C. Exc., dated the 19th July 1952.
2. Ministry of Finance (Revenue Division) Notification No. 13-C. Exc., dated the 2nd August 1952.
3. Ministry of Finance (Revenue Division) Notification No. 14-C. Exc., dated the 2nd August 1952.
4. Ministry of Finance (Revenue Division) Notification No. 15-C. Exc., dated the 9th August 1952.
5. Ministry of Finance (Revenue Division) Notification No. 16-C. Exc., dated the 9th August 1952.
6. Ministry of Finance (Revenue Division) Notification No. 17-C. Exc., dated the 9th August 1952.
7. Ministry of Finance (Revenue Division) Notification No. 18-C. Exc., dated the 9th August 1952.
8. Ministry of Finance (Revenue Division) Notification No. 19-C. Exc., dated the 16th August 1952.
9. Ministry of Finance (Revenue Division) Notification No. 21-C. Exc., dated the 27th September 1952. ¶
10. Ministry of Finance Revenue Division) Notification No. 22-C. Exc., dated the 4th October 1952.
11. Ministry of Finance (Revenue Division) Notification No. 23-C. Exc., dated the 6th October 1952.
12. Ministry of Finance (Revenue Division) Notification No. 24-C. Exc., dated the 18th October 1952. [Placed in Library. See No. P-79/52 for 1-12.]

THE INDIAN OILSEEDS COMMITTEE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1952

MR. CHAIRMAN : We will take up Legislative Business. The Bill further to amend the Indian Oilseeds Committee Act, 1946, as passed by the House of the People, be taken into consideration.

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH) : Sir, I beg to move :

That the Bill further to amend the Indian Oilseeds Act, 1946, as passed by the House of the People, be taken into consideration.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA (Uttar Pradesh) : Sir, before we proceed to the regular business of the House, may I, in the absence of the Leader of the House, arrogate to myself the duties of the Deputy Leader and extend to you, Sir, our hearty welcome home after your tour abroad. I hope, Sir, you are now in a position not to part company with us and not to be absent from the House even for a single day, because we found it very irksome to be working under different circumstances and your presence is felt as a source of inspiration by us.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Well, I thank you very much for your sentiments. But I may tell you that the work of this House will be carried on quite as satisfactorily with me or without me.

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : Sir, this is a simple Bill and except the change to be made in the definition of the word 'mill', which forms clause 2 of the Bill, the other amendments are of a purely formal nature.

So far as clause 2 of the Bill is concerned, the reasons for the proposed change have already been stated in paragraph 2 of the Statement of Objects and Reasons. They are, "for the purpose of avoiding any ambiguity in the definition and also for the purpose of bringing within the ambit of this definition all factories in which oilseeds are crushed with the aid of

[Dr P. S. Deshmukh.]
power irrespective of the number of persons employed."

The changes in section 4 are necessitated by changes in the designation of the official members of this Committee and also owing to the reorganisation of certain Ministries of the Central Government. The other clause, namely, 3, places Part B States on a par with Part A States in the matter of representation on the Committee. It is intended to rationalise representation given to growers by basing all such representations on acreage and production statistics as well as the number of mills in the various States. Under the Act there were six persons who were to represent the consumers of oilseed products and they were to be elected by the Members of Parliament. Since the Parliament has been now changed into two Houses, opportunity is taken to divide this representation between the House of the People and the Council of States. Four persons will hereafter represent the consumers of the oilseed products and they will be elected from the House of the People. Two will be elected from among the Members of the Council of States.

Under section 7 (1) of the Act, the Vice President of the Indian Council of Agriculture Research shall be the *ex-officio* President of the Committee. The Government are now being provided with powers to appoint any suitable person to be the President of the Committee and I think it will be agreed by everyone as wholly necessary that if any other person is appointed, he should be deemed to be a member of the Committee.

These are the only provisions which are sought to be made and I therefore submit, Sir, that there is no need to go into further details. I hope, Sir, the motion I have made will be accepted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved :

That the Bill further to amend the Indian Oilseeds Committee Act, 1946, as passed by the House of the People, be taken into consideration.

PROF. G. RANGA (Madras) : Mr. Chairman, I wish to associate myself with my hon. friend Mr. Sharma in this welcome to you.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA : I am not Sharma; I am Saksena.

PROF. G. RANGA : Sir, I wish to associate myself with my hon. friend Mr. Saksena in welcoming you back again to the House especially after your election as the President of the UNESCO. We do appreciate the great distinction that you have brought to our country by assuming this very high and exalted responsibility at the behest of the UNESCO which really is the spearhead of democracies in the political and cultural world.

Coming to the Bill, I regret to say that my hon. friend Deshmukh has not thought it fit to give a resume of the work of this Indian Oilseeds Committee to this House. I believe it is so, because he thought that since I happened to be the Vice President of this Committee since its very inception, I could be expected to perform that function to some extent. I wish, therefore, before I venture a few words about the work of the Indian Oilseeds Committee, also to extend my welcome to my hon. friend Dr. Deshmukh in this new responsibility and position as Agriculture Minister. Dr. Deshmukh, Sir, was a Minister for Agriculture in the Madhya Pradesh Government years ago and he earned laurels in his work. I have known him for the last twenty-five years, because once we were both at Oxford. He was also doing research work and he distinguished himself. It is a pity that it has taken so long for this Congress Government to recognise his talent and work and abilities. But, anyhow, I have the consolation that it has come to pitch upon the right man for the right job. And I am specially glad that he has become the Minister for Agriculture, because he is the son of a kisan and he is interested in the kisans. As we know, he has started

the "rural university"—the first of its kind in the country—in his own Province.

Sir, this Committee has come into existence in response to a long felt demand, a demand made by the oilseeds growers, merchants and traders. These people have also agreed to the payment of this levy quite gladly. They have been paying it and more and more money has been collected and we have a collection to the tune of Rs. 30 lakhs today. The Committee will come to have this much money to its credit by the end of this year. But the Committee is not proud of the fact that it has got all this money, because the Committee was not expected to accumulate all this amount but to find ways and means, constructive and progressive ways for the expenditure of the money collected in order that the benefit goes to the oilseeds growers and the oil industry of the country. Unfortunately the Finance Ministry comes in the way and prevents this Committee from going ahead with its constructive schemes. It cannot be said by anybody that this Committee has not been progressive in planning for the development of this industry. Long before the national planning came into existence, Sir, even long before the National Planning Conference was convened here in this House, years before that it stands to the credit of this Committee that it appointed a Village Ghani Development Sub-Committee, an Agricultural Research Investigation Committee, and an investigation for technological research and development, and got their reports and tried to come to decision on their reports. The House is well aware that there is a Bill today in the other House suggesting that there should be a cess levied on mill-made cloth from the proceeds of which the handloom weaving industry can be helped and assisted. The principle underlying that was first of all enunciated by the Oilseeds Committee when it said that there should be a levy, a special levy, specially levied on the oil-extraction industry in order that there might be enough money to subsidise and finance

and strengthen and develop the oil *ghani* industry, that is to say, the village *ghani* industry. The Committee, by an overwhelming majority, accepted this suggestion of the village *ghani* committee and sent up this proposal to the Finance Ministry as well as to the Government in the Agricultural Department. But most unfortunately for us, till now the Finance Ministry has not thought it fit to accept this and allow the Committee to levy the cess that is needed. And that is why, although I expected my hon. friend, Dr. Deshmukh, and the Government to come forward with a suitable amendment to this Bill, suggesting that such additional cess should be levied, they have disappointed us. That is because of the obstruction of the Finance Ministry.

The Committee had also recommended that there should be central agricultural research stations for carrying on research on oilseeds and oils. We were told that the country was facing a financial depression and we agreed to defer that proposal for some years. But last year we came back again with this proposal and passed a Resolution to the effect that at least one central oilseeds agricultural research station should be established. We had enough funds. We got a detailed proposal made, and we sent it up to the Finance Ministry. But the Finance Ministry turned it down, not because we were asking for money, not because we did not have a scheme or plan ready, not because the States were not interested,—in fact they want a research institute or station—but because of some perversity prevailing in the minds of some of the concerned people in the Finance Ministry.

12 NOON.

Sir, the work of this Committee cannot be carried on satisfactorily with its own funds and it cannot be carried on also all by itself. It has to seek the co-operation of the State Governments. In fact, most of these schemes have got to be executed by the State Governments. The State Governments themselves are pleading

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—rightly so—for funds. First of all they have not got sufficient funds at their disposal to be earmarked for research and development of the oilseeds industry. Secondly, the people in their own respective States are making their contributions to this cess. Funds are not coming at all from the Central Government's finances for this Committee. It is only reasonable that the Committee should be expected to bear at least 50 per cent. of the cost of their schemes or 75 per cent. and in certain cases the full 100 per cent. The Oilseeds Committee recognized the rationale—the *raison detre*—of the stand taken by the State Governments, pursued a policy of giving 50% and in some cases 75 per cent. and even 100 per cent.—footing the entire bill—from their own funds. Then what is the difficulty? It is not as if they have not got the funds. It is not that the schemes proposed by the Central Committee and accepted by the State Governments are considered bizarre or unnecessary. But simply Finance comes down with the axe and says, "No, we do not allow so much to the States," as if the State Governments are not our own governments, as if the State Governments are not responsible, as if the State Governments are only anxious to waste the funds of the Committee. If we are to develop this industry—and we have realised that it is necessary to develop it—we must have a plan. The Committee have prepared a Five Year Plan and submitted to the National Planning Commission. The National Planning Commission has only referred to it and said that in view of the fact that this Committee has its own funds, it need not make any special provision out of its own revenues. According to our Five Year Plan we find that the *per capita* consumption of oils of our people is only 7 lbs. per annum and this should be raised up to at least 15 lbs. Therefore, the total quantity produced, the total quantity of oil and oilseeds produced in the country should be more than doubled. How can we do that? This can be done only in one or two ways, or in both ways. One way is

to extend the area under oilseeds. The other is to produce more oilseeds from the same area. The Committee, anyhow, is not in favour of extending the area under oilseeds, because the land in our country—the cultivable land and the land which is under cultivation—is limited and is needed for various other equally important commodities and products. Therefore, we do not want to absorb any more area. At the same time we want more and more of these oilseeds. So we have to raise more oilseeds from the area which is now devoted to oilseeds. This can be done by various ways and the most important of them is by the seed multiplication system. First of all the agricultural research station has to discover or develop, by a process of selection, improved seeds. Then the seeds are spread among the growers or peasants themselves. These people will be encouraged to raise crops with the improved stocks so that they can get more produce and also greater revenue. We have prepared schemes of this seed multiplication system and we have submitted them to the Finance Ministry. But the Finance Ministry has turned them down. Sometime back we sent our Secretary to some of these State Governments to try and persuade these State Governments to develop this seed multiplication system; but they plead want of funds. We have got funds here at the Centre. We are prepared to place these funds at the disposal of the State Governments but the Finance Ministry comes in the way. I can go on narrating the sad story of how the Finance Ministry is standing between the State Governments and the producers at the one end and the Committee at the other. In the meanwhile, our funds are going on accumulating and we do not know what constructive use we can make of these funds. Therefore, I thought it is high time that the Government came forward with suitable amendments to this Act, giving clear and definite powers over the expenditure of its own finances to this Committee so that it might be possible for this Committee, in consultation or in agreement with the Agriculture

Ministry itself, to expend its own funds to the best possible advantage. They have not done it. I dare say, the Minister in charge of this Bill might answer me by saying that there is nothing to prevent the Committee today to go ahead with the expenditure of its own money provided the funds are sanctioned by the concerned sub-committees, the technologists and the Committee as a whole. That is true in one sense ; but, unfortunately, what has happened is this. Till now, the President of this Committee has been a nominated person and happened to be the Vice President of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and, later on, one of their Additional Secretaries with the result that whatever we have passed in our own Committee with himself presiding has got to pass through the Agriculture Ministry again. At the Ministry stage, the President himself in his additional capacity of Additional Secretary, was coming in and, in the light of his discussions with the other Secretaries in this Ministry he delayed to whatever extent he thought fit. That was one difficulty. The next thing was the Agriculture Ministry, which had their own ideas as to what developments should be undertaken in regard to the Oilseeds industry, used to act as a stopper. If they are to have their own idea and if they are to act as stopper to our own ideas, progressive ideas, then what is the object in having a separate Committee ? They can just as well dismiss the Committee, take over the funds for themselves and utilise them as fast as they like.

Thirdly, both our President and the Secretaries of this Ministry are beholden to the Finance Ministry. They know why they should be beholden to the Finance. They have other various schemes and other Committees for which they want the concurrence of the Finance Ministry as, otherwise, they will not be able to get as much funds as they would like to, with the result that they are beholden to the Finance Ministry. So, the Finance Ministry again sits tight over our

schemes. Our schemes, Sir, have got to go through two sieves one in the Agriculture Ministry and the other in the Finance Ministry with the result that we are not able to make as much progress as we want. We have got splendid schemes ; we have got a 5-year plan, all accepted. We have started our work in various directions and I can assure the House that the lines of our work now compare most favourably with the lines of work of any other Committee, not even excepting the Indian Central Coconut Committee which is the oldest in the country. And the National Planning Commission and those who are responsible for them were themselves all praise for the dynamic manner in which this Committee had started its work and proposes to go ahead. These are all splendid schemes just like the other schemes of our Government. Our Government have other schemes too and they are not bad ; they have hopes, they are not bad ; they have plans, they are not reactionary ; but, they do not have money whereas we have money here, and still, we are not allowed to spend. Therefore, there is something wrong in this governmental set up, whether it is cancer or whether it is leprosy, I do not know : whether it is contagious or not, I do not know. But, one thing is clear : it is that there is a Committee, which has been given sources for its income, which has accumulated its own funds, it has been given the powers and given also a personnel who are interested in going ahead and who have prepared everything necessary in order to go ahead and yet this Government stands in the way. I suppose it is not necessary for me to make a distinction between the Finance Ministry and the Agriculture Ministry and I have to deal only with the Agriculture Ministry. Since my hon. friend has come to this Ministry recently, I would take the opportunity of making an exception in his case and, at the same time, I want to exercise my right of castigating this Ministry and this Government as a whole for having held up the progress that we wanted to make, and are capable of

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making, in various directions in this sector of our national economy, that is the development of oilseeds.

Then, a very few nominal suggestions are being made here for amendment. This House is to be given an opportunity of electing one Member.....

HON. MEMBERS : Two.

PROF. G. RANGA : I do not know whether the whole of this House can possibly be satisfied with only two Members on this Committee. But, since my hon. friend did not wish to make much of a departure from the original Act in which the total quantum of representation for Parliament was fixed, he has suggested that we should have only two whereas the other house is to have.....how many, Sir ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : Four.

PROF. G. RANGA : Why ? I would like to know. Why do they want to make this distinction. We do not wish to appear to be peevish by simply making a suggestion, by the process of an amendment that this House should have three and not two.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY (Mysore): He is very oily in accommodating us.

PROF. G. RANGA : It is the duty of the Government to look into this matter in a more careful manner and suggest a way by which both the Houses are treated in the same way and in the same respectful and friendly manner. I hope, Sir, that at an early date this omission would be made good.

Secondly, Sir, I am not satisfied with the allocation of the representation to be given to some of the States, especially the principal States. But, more important than that is, Sir, the failure of the State Governments to help our producers to organise themselves. It has been recognised, Sir, as one of the functions of civilised Governments that they should try and help those people who are generally un-organisable and who, at the same time are badly in need of organisation. They have

tried to perform that function more or less satisfactorily in the case of the industrial proletariat. They have put on the Statute Book also their legislation for trade unions. Till now, they have not taken any such steps so far as the kisan organisations are concerned.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE (West Bengal) : What is the definition of kisan ? Agricultural labourers or peasant proprietors ?

PROF. G. RANGA : A kisan is one who cultivates his own land or land belonging to somebody else but taken by him on tenure with or without hired labour.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA : With bullocks or tractors ?

PROF. G. RANGA : With both Bullocks and, if possible with tractors if he can get that.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY : These days, elephants too.

PROF. G. RANGA : That is how we have defined a kisan in the Kisan Sammelan of which I happen to be the President. That is the definition that we have had for a number of years even—in those days when the political parties to which my hon. friends belong were associated with the Kisan Sammelan. It was then called the Kisan Congress.

Well, Sir, it is time that the Government took steps to bring forward a Bill for the organisation and proper management of kisan organisations in this country just as they have had their own trade union Act. It is true that there is no precedent so far as the Western Countries are concerned, because in the Western Countries this question does not possess the same importance. In our country where we have more than 50 per cent. of our total population as kisans, who come within the definition that I have given, it is only right that Government should take steps in this direction. It is true

numerally they are a big section but they are not in a position to organise themselves and, therefore, the Government should take steps in this direction. Keeping this objective in mind, the framers of this Bill at one time suggested to the State Governments that they should try and give representation to the peasants, through their own organisations, where they existed. It was intended thereby that the State Governments should take the initiative in bringing these organisations into existence or help people who are interested in them to bring these organisations into existence. So far, I am sorry to have to say, none of the State Governments have taken any steps at all.

On the other hand, take, for instance, the oil merchants or what is called the oil trade. The Committee itself has taken the initiative and has brought into existence two Chambers, one in Calcutta and one in Bombay, by calling preliminary conferences of these oil merchants and expellers and all the others who are interested in the oil trade and helping them to organise themselves. These two organisations have done very good work. This Committee with its resources will not be able to go ahead in the direction that I have shown so far as kisan organisation is concerned. But, on the other hand, the Committee has made some progress in the development of the organisation of the *telis*. There are no fewer than two million *telis* in this country, and they are also not organised. Therefore, we have set apart funds to enable the State Governments to organise co-operatives of *telis*, and in that way provide them with the minimum of organisational strength. Some of the States have gone ahead; they have taken advantage of the grants that we were making, and the *telis* are being organised.

Now, how do these State Governments utilise this power given to them to nominate representatives of the growers? I have known cases where

merchants—prominent members of the Oilseeds Merchants' Association—have been nominated as representatives of the growers. Can there be a greater injustice than this? And yet the Agriculture Ministry has not thought it fit to draw the attention of the State Governments to this kind of malpractice and warn them that they should not do it, but that, on the other hand, they should send proper growers' representatives. I would like my hon. friend the Minister to take note of it and see to it that the State Governments are exhorted to nominate only genuine oilseed growers and their representatives and their leaders, and not merchants and others who are not interested in them.

So far as the representation of the consumers goes, I have no complaint to make, because both the expellers and the millowners are genuine consumers, and all of them come as consumers, and as between them there is not much appreciable difference of opinion on problems affecting the whole of this trade and industry.

I hope that the Agriculture Ministry will go into this matter of the relations that subsist between this Committee and itself and also the Finance Ministry and try and see that the Finance Ministry is not allowed to act as a stopper upon all our progressive schemes but on the other hand we are given a free hand. Again and again it is said that there are no funds for these progressive schemes and the Finance Ministry is allowed to come in the way of these schemes. Secondly, the National Planning Commission was complaining that it would not be able to go ahead with our Five Year Plan. Why so? Is it because we do not have funds? Is it because we have not suggested, the trade as a whole has not suggested, that they are prepared to tax themselves by a special cess and raise adequate funds in order to finance their progressive schemes? Therefore, if the Committees are to function at all—and they should, according to me, continue to function, and that is

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the only way in which governmental authority can be properly devolutionized without Government in any way losing their own control over the finances of the nation—then the Government should take the earliest possible steps, legislative as well as administrative, to endow this Committee and similar committees with adequate powers to utilise their funds in the best possible manner according to their own decisions—decisions which may be referred back again to the Committee if necessary, but only once by the Government, and thereafter, if the Committee were to reiterate them, they should be allowed to enforce them and achieve results. And if at any time the results are not good, or the Committee is found to be utilising the funds wrongly or to be wasting them, it would be open to the Government to come to this House with a Bill for the repeal of this Act, and therefore for the abolition of the Committee, or for the removal or reduction of its powers.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY : Mr. Chairman, before I proceed to support this Bill, I seek your permission to divert to a very pleasant topic. I join with Prof. Ranga in the happy sentiment which he has expressed in welcoming you back from your tour. We have followed your tour.....

MR. CHAIRMAN : All that is irrelevant. It has been done.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY : Yes, it has been done, and it is a matter of great pride and pleasure for us that you undertook the tour and especially made contacts with heads of foreign States and thereby took the stature of India to heights at which the whole world admires. We are grateful, Sir, that this happy result has been achieved, and I extend happy welcome to you.

Sir, Prof. Ranga has referred to the great importance of the commodity of oil for the country. The recent survey which the ECAFE of the United Nations made has brought one

revealing fact to light, namely, that all the Asian nations are suffering from malnutrition. Another nutrition research survey has also been made, and they also have come to the same conclusion. One prominent factor that has been brought to light in these two surveys is that India is consuming a very low quantity of oil. Prof. Ranga put it at 7 lbs. If I remember correctly, our National Planning Commission also has come to the same conclusion. If sufficient oil is to be made available for the average Indian in order to keep up his normal health, the production of oilseeds should be almost doubled. Well, Sir, oil, as we all know, is a very important item of our daily food. In this country where milk and honey were once overflowing, we do not have even milk : we have, not milk mixed with water, but water mixed with milk. And *ghee*, of course, is fast disappearing ; *vanaspati* is taking the place of *ghee*. Representations have been made from time to time to the Government that pure oil is not being supplied in the market, and that oils adulterated with all sorts of dangerous liquids such as white-oil have been issued both for consumption purposes as well for other purposes. In this regard, I appreciate the great work that the Central Oilseeds Committee has done. I must here pay a tribute to Prof. Ranga, who is the Vice Chairman of the Committee. Although I am not a member of the Committee, I have closely observed the progress that the Committee has made and the recommendations which it has made. If India is to be supplied with the requisite quantity of pure oil, which is very necessary—and I put it as the first vital need of the country today for food purposes—then the recommendations of the Committee must receive at the hands of the Government more weight than they are receiving.

One direction in which a very great contribution has been made by the Oilseeds Committee is the improvement of the *ghani* oil system of the country. When oil that has gone through the machines, particularly

vegetable oil, is not proved to be without any injurious effects on the health of the community, the only salvation for the country and the only source for the country through which to get good oil which is fit for consumption is the *ghani*. Apart from this fact, since oil pressing does not need any complicated or costly machinery, and does not need to work on the factory system, and since it is within the means of every peasant to press oil for himself, it is very necessary that the Government should give the greatest attention to the development of this industry, and that they should give top priority for making due provision to subsidise this village industry. As we all know, *ghani* oil, although it is quite pure, is costlier than the oil that is supplied through oil mills. And if the ryot or the *ghani* worker is to subsist, then necessarily he will not be able to make both ends meet by selling his oil in the market. It will have to be subsidised by the Government if he is to face the mill competition. This is an aspect, Sir, the importance of which can never be over-emphasised. In fact the whole oil needs of the country could be met by a planned system of a net work of oil *ghanis*. All that is needed, Sir, for the Government today is to subsidise a pair of bullocks and an oil *ghani* for each unit.

The Village Industries Association of Wardha has rendered a service—has done great research in this direction and they would have been able to supply oil *ghanis*, if the Government only could go to their help and subsidise them. They have also been able to give effective scientific advice and also their trained workers to provide for teaching oil pressing to villagers. They have made laudable service in this direction. But as far as I know, they have not received any substantial support from the Government apart from expressing sympathy and appreciation of the Village Industries Association. Shri J. C. Kumarappa has been shouting not only from Wardha

but even from all the capitals of this great country that this essential industry—it is essential because it is the first vital need of the community—must receive at the hands of the Government greater attention. I wish, Sir, to point out that the Government—it is not too late even now—should come to the aid of this Association and make some provision for these things for distribution to the *ghani* workers.

The other factor which I wanted to refer to in supporting this Bill is the welcome provisions that have been made for representation on the Oilseeds Committee. One particular fact to which I would like to invite the attention of this House is the provision that they have made for State Governments to consult oil producers. It is a very important point, Sir. Hitherto, as Prof. Ranga was referring to, only those people who were interested in exporting oil, those who were interested in buying up oil from the market to enable them to export found a place on the Oilseeds Committee on behalf of the State. Well, although this class is necessary, the Government, I would like to submit, should place proper emphasis upon this particular governing clause and insist upon the State Governments to submit to them returns of the oil producers who are organised in their own respective States and the way in which consultations have to be made. With these few words I lend my support to the Bill.

SHRI B. GUPTA (West Bengal) :
Mr. Chairman, I am very glad to hear Prof. Ranga who spoke on this subject and he has given us some insight of the functioning of this Committee. It appears from the Bill that this Committee was appointed in 1946 and since then it has been functioning under different Governments and evidently Prof. Ranga who has been holding an important position in that Committee does not seem to be satisfied with the manner in which he has been treated by the Finance Ministry and I do not know how in future the two Oxford pals will get on together.

[Shri B. Gupta.]

Well, Sir, these Committees have been generally understood by the Government as a sort of committees which are some kind of *pocket* committees. They are formed without consulting the people, without consulting the genuine representatives of the growers, workers and others who might be very intensely interested in developing this particular aspect of our agriculture and our industry. Now, Sir, I would like to submit that these committees, when they are formed, should be really popular committees comprised of the State representatives, of all those who might be concerned with them either as a producer or as a consumer. It seems that the Committee remains more or less the same as it used to be in the past. Only certain representatives of Parliament will be taken. By the mere presence of Parliamentary representatives the character and the functioning of a committee would not be altered. Had it been so, an hon. Member like Prof. Ranga might have certainly been able to bring some change in that Committee. But it is not so. Therefore, Sir, what is necessary today is to form committees in which the consumers' representatives should be given a place, the workers who work in these industries should be given a place and the genuine representatives of the agriculturists, the growers of oilseeds should be given a place. These three categories of representatives are very very important. If we do this, we shall be having a Committee functioning which would really command the confidence of the people. In that case the Committee will have the support of the people and of the oil growers and producers and people like Prof. Ranga would not have any cause for unnecessary lamentations. Although I do not know exactly what the picture was—I do not know anything about it—but it appears that he has a very serious ground for complaint against the Finance Ministry which came down upon the scheme and set it at naught. We are not however concerned with the mutual quarrels between the two Departments just as we are not con-

cerned in the business of mutual admiration. What we desire is this that if the Committee finds any difficulty in implementing its plan—provided the plan is just—it could come out and tell the people and it should have the sanction of the people and the matter should be fully discussed in public. That is very important. I do not remember of having read any statement by Prof. Ranga.

PROF. G. RANGA : It is available, Sir, in the published records of the Committee which can be had.

SHRI B. GUPTA : I will look at it. Any way he should be a little more forceful. He seizes every occasion to speak against Communists and he is very profuse there. And I hope he will be equally so when he launches his campaign against Government interference with what he considers to be a legitimate plan.

Now, Sir, the Committee should also be established in the States because if you have a Central Committee here, it is not very effective. Therefore what we feel is that these committees should be appointed at various layers in the States composed of popular representatives, so that the scheme is evolved through proper discussions in which the actual growers, the workers and the consumers have a real part to play in formulating the scheme. That will make the scheme really acceptable to the people. That is something which should be looked into. Unfortunately the Bill is of a technical nature and makes only certain minor alterations and the scheme, as I say, Sir, should not be evolved merely at a high level in this manner. The whole thing should be evolved in consultation with all those who might be concerned with these matters and in a manner which is democratic and in which the people who are producers and oilseed growers have a fair chance to ventilate their point of view. I hope if that sort of approach is made, this Committee will have the moral right and will have powers to get things done by Government. Other-

wise we shall come here only to express our lamentations as Prof. Ranga has done. That is not the real way.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA: Sir, it would be preposterous on my part to speak anything on this amending Bill after the very expert Oxonian *Kisan's* speech in the person of my hon. friend Mr. Ranga. I hope he is still practising his plough and raising his own corn for his daily food. Now, all the same, the entire speech of Prof. Ranga appeared to me like the bewailing of a wife to a neglectful and negligent husband who had not provided her with this, that and the other thing.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: She has divorced the husband.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA: I have been trained in a very different school of thought. I would never beg even the Government—and my own Government—for the things that I myself am in a position to accomplish. Prof. Ranga, of all men, was requesting the Government to organize this Committee. This is very very strange for a man like him. Is he so weak? Has he lost all his vigour and energy to organise a small committee like the Oilseeds Committee? Anyway, it is his business but then I would simply advise walk in a different way and I would, if possible, try to deviate him from that path. After the very frequent expressions of the Prime Minister that we should not ask from the Government for this thing and that thing, and we should try to exert ourselves in order to achieve progress, it would not be a very good thing for us—the Members of this House—to get up and ask Government to do this or that for us.

Now, Sir, it was a very interesting reading for me to go through the Statement of Objects and Reasons of the amendment that has been presented by my hon. friend, the Minister for Agriculture. To me it appeared that the amendment has been presented just for two things. In the one case the word 'mill' has been defined,

defined in the manner in which it was not defined previously, and the other thing for which this amendment has been presented is this that the spelling of the word 'Cawnpore' has been changed. That is all. These are the two things for which this amendment has been brought. I simply weep at this inexcusable and unpardonable waste of public money. I wish our Law Ministry were engaged better and in a more profitable business. This 'mill' could have been defined by a Government order in a couple of minutes' time and the word 'Cawnpore' has been spelt like that for so many hundreds of years and it may take some time for people to learn to spell it with 'K' and not with 'C'. After all it is not very material whether it is spelt this way or that.

Now, Sir, oil is a commodity which, though it does not suit me because of my being asthmatic, still it is needed by everyone else in this country and the greatest credit for us of the Congress brand is this that instead of oil being sold at four seers a rupee, it is now being sold at Rs. 3 per seer. It has now become a commodity of luxury for even the poorest of the poor. I don't know when the whole thing will change. My hon. friend the Minister for Agriculture or the Minister for Food may take it in any manner they like but the common man can never be satisfied unless the prices come down. I am here just to plead the cause of the poorest of the poor and if in that I don't succeed, if my endeavour does not bear fruit, it will be sheer waste of public money for me to be here. I don't know what happens to our Government. Somehow or other all their schemes misfire. There was a trumpeting, a very very loud trumpeting that the new Minister for Food who happens to be a very very close friend of mine and a very estimable friend would work wonders and that everything would be set right. He started with Madras and he finished with raising the prices of wheat in my province of Uttar Pradesh from Rs. 16 a maund to about Rs. 19 or Rs. 20. This is what we got as a fruit of the new Food Minister. Now this

[Shri H. P. Saksena.]
is the crux of the matter. This is the whole thing whether it be of coconut, oilseeds or any other thing. I believe I am getting irrelevant. The crux of the matter is that the price of food should come down.

With these words, if this amending Bill is to be supported, I support it.

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: He should thank his own Government or his Food Minister of the State for the rise in prices. I have nothing to do with it.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA: If the Centre is so weak that it cannot control its own States. I am sorry I shall never have this decentralisation.

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Mr. Chairman, I very much appreciate the comments that have been made by my friends on the floor of this House. They were all actuated with the desire to improve the functioning of the Committee and I have taken a very careful note of all that they have said. I did not think any resume or any outline was necessary either in my speech or by way of circulation of a paper or a note because this Committee which was established in 1946 publishes every year an annual report and the proceedings of the Committee also appear in the press. But even if this is considered as a deficiency on my part I am very happy that my friend Prof. Ranga has given a few facts about the working of the Committee as well as mentioned the difficulties from which it suffers. The first difficulty that he mentioned was about the attitude of the Ministry of Finance towards the suggestions made by the Committee. Well, the Ministry of Finance has its own point of view and the matter is also considered by the Ministry of Agriculture. There have been certain difficulties which have been brought forward by various Committees so far as sanctions by the Ministry of Finance are concerned. I don't know which particular item he (Prof. Ranga) referred to but his emphasis seemed to be on the establishment of the Central Oilseeds Research Institute. So far as that suggestion is concerned, I am afraid there is

another body also which shares the blame or the credit and that is the Planning Commission which has ruled that so far as these research stations are concerned, there is no need of having separate research stations for any commodity. However my Ministry will certainly consider the desirability of freshly approaching the Planning Commission if I am convinced and if everybody is convinced that there is a need for a separate institution of this nature. Otherwise I think the House will probably agree that it is no use duplicating research institutions and everything should be done wherever any economy of funds is possible. However, if there is anything to be said in favour of establishing an independent research institutions, the Ministry of Agriculture will be prepared to reconsider the matter.

I quite agree with Professor Ranga that oil production in the country is not sufficient and everything should be done to double it, but we should not indulge in extension of area because we are short of other commodities, and if we give more acreage to oilseeds growing, then we will suffer in our Grow More Food Campaign and elsewhere. The task of growing more oilseeds in the area that has now been allotted to it, is assigned to the Oilseeds Committee. It is one of their functions to see how within the same area, it will be possible to grow more quantity. I am glad Professor Ranga has praised the working of the Committee and there has not been any adverse comments from any other Members of the House. I think the Committee is progressing fairly satisfactorily excepting that some of its plans have not been approved by the Finance Ministry. If that is so, Sir, I hope the Committee will continue to assist the growers for better production, and the aim that has been propounded here by Professor Ranga, viz. doubling of the production of oilseeds, would probably be achieved within a course of years.

The questions about more seed, better seed and better distribution

are also analogous questions, which I intend to make it a point to study, and see if I can in any way help in the achievement of these objectives.

My friend also referred to the organisations of the Kisans. He was asked by somebody to define Kisans. I myself had, like Professor Ranga, started my political career with the organisations of the Kisans, and we had decided that any person who lives on land, whether his own land or whether by working on others land is a Kisan. The term was to include not only the land owner but also the agricultural labourer.

AN HON. MEMBER : That would include the zamindar also ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : The organisation of the kisans has of course very little to do with it. Incidentally, it has been referred to.

Some point was made by Shri Gupta that these committees should be more popular; they should be representative of popular interest; and we should also organise State Committees in the various States. I think there is some substance in what he said. I quite agree that these committees should have been constituted in a form that they have popular backing, which it would be worthwhile giving them. I am therefore, I might frankly say, considering whether it will be possible to associate the membership of these committees with some element of election, at least so far as the growers are concerned. I may tell the House that the representation of the growers on these committees is being examined from the point of view, whether it will be possible to bring into existence an organisation of growers, so that these committees will have direct elected representatives and not merely nominated persons. That will probably take some time.

I do not think there are any very important points besides these that remain to be dealt with. My friend,

Mr. Saksena—I am glad he made a very fine speech and claimed that since he is an asthmatic person he cannot indulge in oil eating, but fortunately, God has given—eating is not the only purpose, for which oil can be used. It can be used for the manufacture of soaps and other things. In any case he has exhibited a lot of interest in oilseeds, and I agree with him that since it is the poor man's food everything should be done to cheapen it. The best method we propose to follow is to produce more oil. That is the best way of cheapening the article. My hope is that we will succeed as a result of the efforts of the Oilseeds Committee as well as the various institutions that we have in the Ministry of Agriculture; to grow more oilseeds in the areas.

He suggested, in fact he asked why the Bill should have been referred for the change in spelling of "Cawnpore". He was relevant so far as the Coconut Committee is concerned but not this Committee. But, in any case, so far as the definition of 'mill' is concerned, that could not be done by a Government order. The definition has found a place in the Act which governs the constitution of this Committee, and therefore it is very necessary that there should be amendment. It could not be just done by a Government order.

Mr. Reddy has referred to the condition of the village *ghani* and he complains that sufficient attention has not been paid to them. As he himself mentioned, I have no doubt Prof. Ranga will take up this matter, and I am sure, any reasonable recommendation that the Committee may like to make in respect of this, will have very sympathetic consideration. Of course there are different views so far as *ghanis* are concerned. My friend has suggested that it should be subsidised. I do not know what subsidy would be necessary and whether it will be worthwhile giving this subsidy, but I am in favour of village industries generally and unless it means a disproportionate sacrifice of funds, I would certainly

[Dr. P. S. Deshmukh.]
consider the matter with the utmost sympathy.

So far as the main amendments are concerned, Sir, no opposition of any sort has been exhibited in any section of the House and I therefore hope, Sir, that the Bill would be taken into consideration.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

That the Bill further to amend the Indian Oilseeds Act, 1946, as passed by the House of the People, be taken into consideration.

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 4 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Title and the Enacting Formula were added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may move that the Bill be passed.

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : Sir, I move:

That the Bill be passed.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

That the Bill be passed.

The motion was adopted.

The Council then adjourned for lunch till halfpast two of the clock.

The Council re-assembled after lunch at half past two of the clock, MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

THE INDIAN COCONUT COMMITTEE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1952

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : Sir, I beg to move :

That the Bill further to amend the Indian Coconut Committee Act, 1944, as passed by the House of the People, be taken into consideration.

In moving this Bill I need make only a few observations, for we have in this morning passed another Bill and the provisions of this present Bill are very similar to those which the House has already accepted. For instance, the definition of the

word "mill" is proposed to be changed in the same way as it was changed in the Oilseeds Committee (Amendment) Bill.

Then in clause 3, there is only a verbal change so far as the name of the Vice President of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research is concerned. He used to be called the Vice Chairman and this designation is now changed into Vice President, and this has necessitated this change. Then we propose to add only two members to the present strength of this Committee. One is the Agricultural Marketing Adviser with the Government of India and the other a representative of the State of Assam. The State of Assam is fairly important from the point of view of the cultivation of coconuts. There has also been a demand from that State Government and therefore we have given one representative to that State.

The next amendment is about section 4 (g) and it is consequential due to the changes that have occurred since 1944 when the Act was passed as well as to the formation of the United State of Travancore-Cochin. Formerly there used to be a separate representative for each of them but since they have been combined, the necessary change is sought to be incorporated by means of this amendment.

Coming next to section 7 (1) the provision in the 1944 Act confined the presidentship of the Committee to the Vice Chairman of the I.C.A.R. This amendment is intended to empower the Central Government to nominate any person as President of the Committee, either the Vice President of the I.C.A.R. or others. Suggestions have been made that the ex-officio chairmanship is not desirable and if there is amongst the members of the Committee or outside any capable person who is likely to do the duties better, the Government should be free to appoint him as President of the Committee.