

that the House will sit till the 4th but is now likely to exceed that date also. Since there is no fixed programme, we want to know how many days the session will last so that our questions may not meet with the same fate as happened before.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We have provisionally fixed till the 4th. But, I am afraid that it will have to be extended and if we go on at the present rate, I have also a fear that we may have to ask for evening sessions. If the Members cooperate with the other Members, with the Leader and with everybody, we may avoid those evening sessions ; if they do not, then I am afraid we may have to ask for evening sessions also.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE (West Bengal) : We have always cooperated with the Government but we were never informed that we were ever non-cooperating.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You were never non-cooperating, I have no doubt about it, but all that I say is, as far as possible, if we can limit our speeches, after the first half a dozen, to about ten minutes or so, we may be able to get through about 10 or 12 Bills which are yet pending before us. That is all that I say.

SHRI P. V. NARAYANA (Madras) : Apart from the pending Bills, there are some other important measures which will be disposed of by the House of the People after the 4th and will be sent to us about the 8th. Even in spite of the cooperation from the Members it is likely that this session will continue still further, say, upto the 15th of August, or some such date. May I suggest, as we did on the 31st May, that we disperse and then meet again on the 20th so that those measures will be ready for us ?

SHRI B. C. GHOSE : May I point out one or two points in regard to the matter of cooperation ? I think the Bills which are brought forward by Government should be very strictly examined because of one reason. We find that many amending Bills come

forward. If the Government were themselves to scrutinise the original Bills carefully, there would, probably, be no necessity for bringing forward so many amending Bills. If the session extends like this, it is not we who are responsible.

SHRI H. N. KUNZRU (Uttar Pradesh): How long is the session expected to last?

MR. CHAIRMAN : As I said, the present session is up till the 4th, but it is likely to extend much further. I cannot tell you the precise date.

SHRI H. N. KUNZRU : May we be allowed to ask questions ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : We decided not to ask any questions hereafter, till the rest of the session.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY (Mysore) : Up till the 4th, but I think it would be as well.....

MR. CHAIRMAN : We will consider that.

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

THE MINISTER FOR LAW AND MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI C. C. BISWAS): Sir, on behalf of Shri Kailas Nath Katju, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the period ending 31st December 1951. [Placed in Library. See Index No. IV. A. 4 (i).]

THE CANTONMENTS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1952

SHRI C. C. BISWAS : Sir, on behalf of Shri N. Gopalaswami I beg leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Cantonments Act, 1924.

MR. CHAIRMAN ? The question

That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Cantonments Act, 1924.

The motion was adopted.

SHRI C. C. BISWAS : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES (TEMPORARY POWERS) AMENDMENT BILL—continued

MR. CHAIRMAN : Further discussion on the following motion moved by Shri Karmarkar

That the Bill further to amend the Essential Supplies (Temporary Powers) Act, 1946, be taken into consideration.

MR. CHANDULAL PARIKH will continue the speech.

SHRI C. P. PARIKH (Bombay) : Mr. Chairman, yesterday, I was talking about raw cotton production in the country. Production has gone up from 25 lakh bales to 37 lakh bales which will supply adequately the requirements of our country and obviate the necessity of having to import large quantities of foreign cotton on which we are losing foreign exchange. Now, Sir, production of raw cotton has been accentuated in India by the fact that the prices offered have been reasonable and the maximum and the minimum prices have been revised. I think it is a wise decision because if we get adequate cotton in the country, huge imports will not be necessary. One hon. Member said that we should not import expensive cotton from abroad. I am in entire agreement with that, Sir, but since there is not adequate cotton available in the country, cotton has to be imported. I have to request the hon. Minister for Commerce and Industry to see that while granting import permits we import as much of cheap varieties of cotton as possible and not expensive ones. I agree with the hon. Member that counts over 36 should not be allowed to be produced in the country, but that will happen only, Sir, when we produce sufficient good variety cotton in this country. Over and above that, Sir, he knows very well that there are excise duties on cloth

made from cotton imported from foreign countries from 5 per cent on fine to 20 per cent, on superfine and when adequate supplies of Indian cotton are available in the country, Government can well revise these Excise Duties on a higher or lower level according to the "demands of the country and according to the savings of foreign cotton that are expected and that will be a governing factor. I quite agree that India wants cheap commodities and cheap varieties of cotton and therefore we should supply them adequately.

I have to request the hon. Minister for Commerce and Industry to enquire into the effects of consumption of short-staple cotton. Sufficient incentive and inducement should be given to such manufacturers in India and to see that this kind of short-staple of cotton is consumed in the country. We are importing foreign cotton which is expensive and we have to pay through the nose for it. That policy has to be examined and it can only be encouraged by a price adjustment. We have to encourage manufacturers to manufacture more coarse varieties of cloth.

With regard to the manufacture of cloth out of cotton, I have to say this. During the last 3 years, owing to scarcity of Indian cotton we produced large quantities of fine and superfine varieties and the ratio went up to 50: 50. At one time medium and coarse cloth were produced to the extent of 55 % and superfine and fine to the extent of 45 %. Government also did not follow a wise policy of export. They allowed export of coarse and medium varieties which created scarcity in the country. Government is blaming the industrialists for the high price, whereas it was the export policy of Government which is really responsible. Manufacturers are getting prices according to the Tariff Board schedule. They are acting as middlemen getting Rs. 1/8/- per loom as profit. If the consumers do not get cloth, it is not the manufacturers who are responsible, but the Government which allows such export. The requirement of coarse and medium cloth is to the extent of 2,500 million yards and supply was to the ex-