

agreeable because I do not find that any hon. Member has so far tabled an amendment over it, Mr. Guha agrees and wants to make it six months—I do not know in what position people like me should stand. I would rather insist, if the House is not sitting and this power is taken, that within 15 days of the re-assembly a Bill must be introduced. Because what is the difficulty? Six months, I should say, is an unconscionably long time.

Shri A. C. Guha: Not for introducing, but.....

Pandit Thakurdas Bhargava: I know that. Previously the rule was that it should be passed within two months. Why it is so? Unless the hon. Minister justifies this extension of time, I am loath to give this power to the executive and to see that within two months the law is not passed.

It may be that if this power is once given—I am not speaking of this Ministry or that Minister—it will be very difficult to take it back. If this power is given and the hon. Minister chooses to bring in a Bill and give protection for several months, he can do so, and then withdraw the Bill and just cheat the House of its own powers. This can happen. I can visualise such a situation in which the House will be helpless. If we pass this Bill, my humble submission is that we should insist—and we should not go further than the powers which we gave in the previous Bill—on all those safeguards which we want.

In this matter so far as the personality of the hon. Minister is concerned, as I submitted, I have no doubt he does not want to usurp powers. He himself made a very fighting speech on the last occasion and we all cheered him. I have absolutely no doubt that he has got the best of motives. He was then also actuated by the best of motives and we followed him. We are bound to follow him and we are not going to abjure those lessons or principles which he propounded then. I would respectfully ask him, as he said in his own inimitable way that he does not want to usurp powers, for the safeguards which we have already got. He has made no case before us for changing the principles which we had accepted in the previous Bill. Had he come with some figures and justified that in certain cases the country did lose as we had not given such protection as he wanted, I could have understood it, and then there would have been some case for us to consider a change of law.

Even supposing four Bills were introduced, what would have been lost? Even supposing they were introduced

after 15 days, what would have been lost? Now the duties are changed only from revenue to protective. My humble submission is that we should consider twice before we agree even to the amendment of Mr. Guha and we should see that the law, as it stands, remains there. It was made as a compromise and with the willing consent of all the Members of that House then and I should be very loath to see it changed.

EVICITION OF SOME M.Ps. FROM WINDSOR PLACE

Shri H. N. Mukerjee (Calcutta North-East): I would beg of you, Sir, to give me some time to refer to a matter which is agitating us very much, that is, the raids on the houses of some Members here which are used for purposes of storing books, documents and all sorts of other things. These have been taken possession of by the police at a time when the matter in dispute was still not settled. Yesterday, Sir, I had a talk with the Speaker over the telephone and there was.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member refers to some quarters. The matter came up before me and before the Speaker. If any representation has to be made, there is a Committee of the House appointed. If I can be of help, I shall do so. But this is not the forum to discuss this matter. (Interruptions). Whatever it may be, all I would say is that this is not a matter for Parliament to take notice of. There is a Housing Committee with full powers, a Committee of Parliament, not a Committee of Government. Under these circumstances, I will have no objection to talk to the hon. Member inside the Chamber and if I can be of help, I shall do so.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: We cannot have any access to our places and we cannot function as Members of Parliament—those who live there and those who depend on documents which are stored there. We cannot function as Members of Parliament unless access is allowed to those places.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: So far as Parliament is concerned, it is guided by certain rules and regulations. This cannot be a subject matter which can be taken up by Parliament here. All that I can say is that there is a Committee of the House composed of Members of Parliament. If houses are allotted or not allotted etc., that is not a matter which Parliament here can decide.

Shri Funnoose (Alleppey): In the ordinary course it is a question of the Committee functioning. But here is a situation in which the residences of

[Shri Punnoose]

some of our comrades are raided by the police and this is something which we have to bring to your notice.

Shri K. K. Basu (Diamond Harbour): The Housing Committee is subordinate to Parliament.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Hon. Members ought to know that such a motion cannot be raised immediately. There must be an intimation to me at least in the Chamber. So far as this matter is concerned, I would have to find out whether this motion can be allowed or not.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: I might tell you, Sir, that I have had a talk with the Speaker on the telephone and he said that the hon. Minister of Works, Housing and Supply could easily settle the matter, because the Speaker hoped that the matter would be settled by mutual arrangement between ourselves. That is why, Sir, the only recourse we had was to come to you here. We had no opportunity of seeing you elsewhere.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I was there inside the Chamber for nearly two hours. If this matter had come to my notice, I would have looked up whether it was possible to allow such a motion, what were the rules and regulations, and what was the scope of it. I would have certainly considered that matter. But offhand, I am really sorry I cannot consider this matter here and interrupt the proceedings of the House.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty (Basirhat): Would you look into it, Sir, immediately after this, because we cannot go home, the place is locked and the police are there.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have no objection.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: May we request you to issue a stay order?

Shri Nanadas (Ongole—Reserved—Sch. Castes): It is a question of the belongings of Members of Parliament thrown out by the police. It cannot be tolerated.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am prepared to meet the hon. Members.

INDIAN TARIFF (AMENDMENT) BILL—contd.

7 P.M.

Shri Basappa (Tumkur): It is a very important subject that we are discussing in this Bill. The three important subjects with which we are interested in this Bill, are, the tariff policy that is being pursued by the Government; also something about the Imperial preference because of the

British goods that are to be seen in the Schedule and also the question, the more important question, of delegated legislation with which we are concerned here.

I was a little horror-struck when I saw that the Government wanted this kind of delegated legislation for all time to come, because, I see in clause 2, the last paragraph, which says:

“(c) sub-section (4) shall be omitted.”

First of all they wanted it for three years, then they wanted it for two more years, then for a further two years and now they are not satisfied with all that and they are now coming forward with a Bill not for two years but for all time to come. Personally I am a little unwilling to grant such requests on the part of the Government. I have seen the speech of the hon. Minister himself in 1951 and I was surprised that our hon. Minister who spoke in that strain that day should come forward with a Bill of this sort today. On that occasion he said—towards the end of his speech he said:

“Therefore, I plead, as this is also a matter of educating our people to discharge their responsibilities adequately, do not fetter the freedom that Parliament will have—leave it to Parliament, when it meets, to impose or not the duty by a Bill. The moment a Bill is introduced and Parliament gives its approval to such introduction and then protection can come into operation to be rescinded or amended as Parliament chooses when it passes the Bill.”

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There is no hurry. The hon. Member can read it a little slowly and distinctly.

Shri Basappa: I read it a little rapidly. I will read it a little slowly if the House wants.

Shri S. S. More (Sholapur): We want to know what the hon. Minister said when he was not a Member of the Treasury Benches.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He need not read *in extenso*.

Shri Basappa: I will say what the hon. Minister said first of all when he was a Member of this House and not a Member of the Treasury Benches. He must not forget that he is a Member of this House first and then a Minister. Therefore, the position as a Member should be safeguarded first