

earnest endeavours of the people from all walks of life have been able to fashion the destiny of a modern nation, of which all of us are proud. this passage of time has been an exciting and sometimes tragic experience for this old and ancient land but young nation. the challenges that confronted us on the marrow of our freedom, the manner in which we were able to mobilise and marshall our limited resources to face and overcome these challenges and then, inspite of many failures, were able to march steadfastly to build brick by brick the edifice of a society committed to freedom, democracy, social justice and equality for all its citizens irrespective of caste, creed, religious faith or sex would remain one of the most momentous sages of human history. We of this generation who lived through some of these times have to an extent shared and have been enriched by this experience. The new generation that will come of age at the turn of this century will, however, have no such personal experience.

It is essential, therefore, to prepare an objective and impartial historical narrative and convert it into a syllabus for our curriculum in the school and college level by the end of this century. Being acquainted with the history of the first five decades of our Independence will equip the new generation to carry forward the task of nation building with greater perception and concern.

With this objective in view, we are constituting a National Advisory Committee which will help prepare this contemporary history of post independent India and transform it into an appropriate curriculum. The Committee will consist of-

Dr. S. Gopal	Chairman
Prof.Sabyasachi Bhattacharya	Member
Prof.Ravinder Kumar	Member
Dr. Bipan Chandra	Member
Dr.(Mrs.) Dharma Kumar	Member

Prof.Ram Guha      Member

Prof.Sumit Sarkar      Member

Prof.Neeladri Bhattacharjee      Member

The nominees of UGC, ICHR and NCERT will be permanent invitees to this Committee. The Committee will evolve its own procedures and submit its recommendations to the Government. The Committee will have its term till the 15th August, 1997, the day we complete 50 years of our independence.

**(ii) Verification and Evaluation of Customs Duty to a Multi-national Company By the Government**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): Some Hon'ble Members of the House alleged that there was a move by the Government to hand over the customs appraisal work to a Swiss multi-national Company at the behest of World Bank and IMF. I categorically deny that there is any such move.

As Hon'ble Members are aware, under-invoicing and over-invoicing take place in our imports and exports. This entails loss of revenue and foreign exchange. Invoice manipulations occur in the country of export. It, therefore, often becomes difficult for our Customs authorities sitting in India to detect and establish this.

There are professional services which specialise in detecting these malpractices at the country of export itself. They do so by pre-shipment inspection of goods at the country of export before they are despatched. SGS, Lloyd's Register, etc., provide such specialised services.

SGS offered their services recently. They also held exploratory discussions with the Finance Ministry officials. To study the system in operation on the spot, a team of two

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officials visited Singapore and Indonesia. The port of the delegation is under examination.

Sir, pre-shipment inspection even as this phrase implies, is an inspection to be carried out in foreign ports before goods intended for being imported into India are actually shipped. Such an inspection is not carried out by our customs department or for that matter, by any Indian authority today. It is in this area that SGS has claimed expertise and experience and offered their services. I would also like to point out that what the company has outlined to our customs authorities, is a package of services that they offer. They have not so far even come to the stage of indicating their charges for the services offered. Thus there is no decision or commitment to use their services.

I also wish to categorically state that the World Bank of IMF or any other international Agency have had nothing to do with the proposal of SGS. What SGS stated was that they were promoted by the measures for industrial liberalisation introduced by the Government.

I wish to reassure the august House that the question of any abdication of customs authority does not arise. Pre-shipment, only strengthens the hands of customs authorities in checking under-invoicing and over-invoicing. I further wish to reassure the august House that any decision in the matter will be taken keeping in view the best interests of the country and sentiments expressed by the Hon'ble Members.

12.15 hrs.

**STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE. DISAPPROVAL OF MONOPOLIES AND RESTRICTIVE TRADE PRACTICES (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE AND MONOPOLIES AND RESTRICTIVE TRADE PRACTICES (AMENDMENT) BILL - Contd.**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We may take up Half-

an-hour discussion after completing the Legislative Business.

Now, we take up item nos. 40 and 41 together. For the information of the hon. Members, I would like to point out that the time allotted for this discussion was four hours and the time taken is 2 hours and 39 minutes. The Congress Party has taken one hour and 14 minutes; the BJP has taken 12 minutes; Janata Dal has taken 28 minutes; CPI has taken 14 minutes and other small parties have taken six minutes, five minutes, and things like that.

As there are other Bills to be passed, I request the hon. Members to be brief, not to repeat the points and upto the point.

Shri. R. Ramaswamy.

SHRI RAJAGOPAL NAIDU  
RAMASAMY (Periyakulam): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of AIADMK, I wish to say a few words on the MRTTP Amendment Bill.

While I support the measure, I wish to express my reservations. The Government is right when it says that the Act was not to prevent industrial growth. But they must also appreciate that the Act was enacted to serve the common good in special areas. The Act has served the society well. It was one of the few instruments through which the Government ensured that economic power is not concentrated in few hands to the common detriment. But in spite of the Act being on the statute book for 44 years, we were not able to achieve the objectives of the Act to the desired level.

Accordingly, to argue that the Act has stood in the way of liberalisation efforts when it has not actually worked seems to be farcial. The requirement of prior approval of the Central Government for expansion, establishment of new undertakings, merger, amalgamation, take over and appointment of Directors is sought to be done away with. I do not know how prior approval itself will obstruct industrial growth. It is the delay in