

the pesticide has to be tested etc. and the producers do not have full data with them. They have to procure that data and for these reasons, one year is necessary.

SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: I am not pressing my amendment, I would seek leave of the House to withdraw it.

*Amendment No. 1 was by leave, withdrawn.*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

*"That clause 3 stand part of the Bill".*

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 3 was added to the Bill.*

*Clauses 4 to 9, Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.*

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

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15.35 hrs.

#### PETROLEUM (AMENDMENT) BILL

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY  
(SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES):

I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Petroleum Act, 1934, be taken into consideration."

This is a Bill which seeks to make some formal changes in the Petroleum Act of 1934.

These changes have become necessary because the Act did not contain a provision to have the rules framed thereunder placed before the Lok Sabha. In 1974 the Subordinate Legislation Committee of the Lok Sabha had made a recommendation that any Act which did not have such a provision should be amended as early as possible so that the rules are placed before the House.

We are also taking advantage of this opportunity to make two minor changes in Sections 26, 27 and 28. The Code of Criminal Procedure in the earlier Act was the original Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898. It has since been amended and we are now seeking to make the necessary changes here by substituting the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 by the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973. Then, since the original Act was passed, there is a change in the designation of the Inspector of Explosives. The Chief Inspector of Explosives in India has now come to be known as the Chief Controller of Explosives. In Section 27 we propose to make that necessary change. In Section 28, 'Criminal Procedure Code, 1898' is sought to be substituted by 'Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973' and later, in another subsection of the same section, 'the Chief Inspector of Explosives' is sought to be substituted by 'the Chief Controller of Explosives'.

There are no substantial amendments of the Act as such and there are no issues involved. So, I commend the Bill to the House.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): He is not making a proper prayer.

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO (Bengaluru): Now it is only for consideration. He will make the prayer later on.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Petroleum Act, 1934, be taken into consideration."

श्री विनायक प्रसाद यादव (सहरसा):  
उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूँ कि  
पेट्रोलियम अधिनियम, 1934 का और  
संशोधन करने वाला विधेयक प्रवर समिति  
को सौंपा जाये, जिसमें 7 सदस्य हों, अर्थात् :—

- (1) श्री जार्ज फर्नान्डिस
- (2) श्री राम अवधेश सिंह
- (3) डा० रामजी सिंह
- (4) श्री रामजीवन सिंह
- (5) श्री रमापति सिंह
- (6) श्री हुकम देव नारायण यादव,  
और

[श्री विनायक प्रसाद यादव]

(7) श्री युवराज

और उसे 1 अक्टूबर, 1977 तक प्रतिवेदन देने का अनुरोध दिया जाये।

श्री जार्ज फर्नान्डिस : उपाध्यक्ष जी, इस बिल में पेट्रोलियम एक्ट में किसी प्रकार का संशोधन नहीं है। इस विधेयक में किसी कानून में बुनियादी संशोधन करने वाली कोई बात नहीं है। एक छोटी सी त्रुटि थी जिसको दूर करने के लिए पहली लोकसभा से ही आवाज उठती रही और सबॉर्डिनेट लेजिस्लेशन कमेटी ने भी जिक्र किया कि कानून के अंतर्गत जो भी नियम मंजूर होते हैं, सरकार की तरफ से जो भी नियम पारित किए जाते हैं उनको सदन के सामने रखना चाहिए। इस विधेयक में हम केवल इतना ही करना चाहते हैं कि जो भी नियम इस विधेयक के अंतर्गत मंजूर होंगे—जैसा कि और तमाम कानूनों में इंतजाम है—उनको सदन के सामने रखा जाये। अभी तक इस कानून में इसका इंतजाम नहीं था। आज हम इस विधेयक के द्वारा केवल इतना ही संशोधन कर रहे हैं कि पेट्रोलियम कानून के अंतर्गत जो भी नियम बनेंगे उनको इस सदन के सामने पेश किया जायेगा। इस समय इसमें किसी बुनियादी संशोधन या परिवर्तन करने का सवाल ही नहीं है। अगर सेलेक्ट कमेटी में जाकर इस बात पर चर्चा करनी हो कि इस सदन के सामने नियम रखे जायें या नहीं तो मैं नहीं समझता इस संशोधन का कोई मतलब होगा। ऐसी हालत में इसको सेलेक्ट कमेटी के सामने पेश करने की गुंजाइश ही नहीं है। इसलिए मनीय सभासद से मेरा आग्रह है कि चूंकि इसमें बुनियादी परिवर्तन का कोई सवाल नहीं है, केवल नियमों को इस सदन के सामने रखने की व्यवस्था इस कानून में होनी चाहिए जोकि अभी नहीं है और जिसको अब हम कर रहे हैं, वे अपने संशोधन को वापिस ले लेंगे और इस सदन को इस विधेयक को एक क्षण

में मंजूर करने में कोई हरकत नहीं होनी चाहिए। इसलिये मेरी प्रार्थना है कि माननीय सदस्य अपने संशोधन को वापस ले लें।

श्री विनायक प्रसाद यादव : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी के आग्रह को स्वीकारता हूँ। लेकिन मैं यह समझता था कि पुराने पेट्रोलियम एक्ट में बहुत मेजर संशोधन की जरूरत है, इसीलिये यह संशोधन पेश किया है।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : आप उसके लिये बाद में बतलाइयेगा।

श्री विनायक प्रसाद यादव : मैं चाहता हूँ कि आप हमारी बात को सुन लें। इस विधेयक के प्रवर समिति में जाने के बाद, प्रवर समिति उन सब बातों पर विचार करके सरकार को सलाह देती कि इस संशोधन के अतिरिक्त दूसरे संशोधन भी इस कानून में किये जायें, क्योंकि एक विधेयक में बार-बार संशोधन करना उचित नहीं होगा। चूंकि पेट्रोलियम मिनिस्टर माहब का कहना है कि वे एक बहुत साधारण संशोधन सबॉर्डिनेट लेजिस्लेशन कमेटी की रिकमैण्डेशन को कार्यान्वित करने के लिये लाये हैं, इसलिये मैं उनके आग्रह के मुताबिक अपने संशोधन को वापस लेता हूँ। लेकिन मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ.....

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : वह बाद में कीजियेगा, मैं आपको बाद में बुलाऊंगा।

Therefore he withdraws his amendment. He has a sort of not moved it because it is in the moving stage now.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Chirayinkil): Mr. Deputy Speaker, it is a very small Bill. There is nothing controversial. My only provocation to speak is the mover of the Bill and nothing more.

The hon. Minister said that they can take advantage of the minor changes proposed to be made in sections 26 and 27 of the old Act. Section 27 lays down—

“Whenever there occurs in or about, or in connection with, any place in which petroleum is refined, blended or kept, . . .”

Petroleum refining is also included there. Petroleum product must be there for the implementation of the Bill.

In this connection I may draw the attention of the Minister to the unrest in some of the petroleum refining institutions like Cochin Refinery. I pointed it out to Shri Bahuguna. Shri George Fernandes was a labour leader. He may be surprised to know that during the last 30 months the demands are pending in the Ministry. That is the reason why the employees are on the strike.

It is not only the case of Cochin Refinery. He can see it in H.M.T. Kalamassery & B.H.E.L. Shri George Fernandes must have been in the know of the problems of labour unrest. That is why I am provoked to speak. Shri George Fernandes can do something. That is why I want to bring this to his attention.

Yesterday it has been widely reported ‘4.2 million mandays have been lost’ in the last four months. No member of Parliament would like the mandays to be lost. There should be a national move for production and growth.

I feel worried when I look to this problem. When I hear the speeches of Shri George Fernandes I feel happy of that, even though Shri George Fernandes may be angry with me or my party or abuse us. But self-reliance is the slogan of this country and the country has to go of its own. This country cannot be a beggar for the aid from the major countries. That is why, for the last so many years, we had slogan for self reliance.

On the one side I look to the situation in the country—4.2 million mandays lost. George Fernandes can correct me if I am wrong. On the other side, I look to the speech of Mr. Fernandes which appeared in the Indian newspaper. This is in an address three days ago in Dublin and he pleaded for massive aid for fighting rural poverty in India. I quote him. He said:

‘Referring to the problem of providing drinking water to villages he suggested each trade union could undertake direct responsibility for one village. It would cost less than 3000 dollars (Rs. 27,000). Similarly, trade unions could take responsibility for integrated development plans in districts.’

This is what he said. He wanted the Trade Unions to press their own respective Governments to give aid to India.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: How does the Petroleum Act come in here?

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: I am provoked because of the Minister himself. If you ask me to sit down, I will sit down, Sir. The Minister is going to reply. He will be happy to hear his speech.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister is provoked to reply.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: I am not at all criticising whether it is drinking water or some other thing. The main question is this. What is the attitude of the Government? It is a respectful begging before the nations. But what happened earlier? Mr. Fernandes was sitting on this side of the House. At that time he was one of the bitterest critics of our going for foreign aid in a big way. I am subject to correction if I am wrong. Recently, two days ago the American Assistant Secretary Mr. Warren Christopher had been here and he met the Finance Minister. Even before the Prime Minister made certain statements on the floor of the House. The Prime Minister said on nuclear policy that we are not going to have nuclear explosion even for peaceful purposes. Sir, the foreign base in the Indian ocean are a real threat to our country. They surround us like a ring or a crescent. But the Prime Minister said that this threat is because of the rivalry between two major super powers. This is one approach. There is a climate created for a massive economic invasion by the United States. I take note of the significant statement made by Mr. George Fernandes when he was abroad. He said categorically in London that there is no de-nationalisation or no nationalisation further. A few days ago in Germany he pleaded for investment in India by foreigners. So, all these things show that we will not nationalise anything, don't be afraid.

So, I want to ask this question. What is the policy of the Government? Are you going to make progress by self reliance. Are you going to merely depend upon foreign aid?

Sir, what happened to countries in Asia—whether it is Pakistan or Thailand or Malaysia? Wherever the USA stepped in, they toppled the Government, and they installed their own puppet governments. This is the history. The major question therefore arises, namely: Are we going to have massive aid, and depend upon this aid of the foreign countries, or, are we going to depend upon our own self-reliance?

[Shri Vayalar Ravi]

I know what he said in the course of his speech on the Demands for Grants relating to the Industry Ministry. I do not want to take much of the time of the House by quoting what he said then. He definitely said that there was no progress made in the country. The fact remains—he should repudiate that if I am not correct—that there is no storage place here because of the abundance of food-grains. We could produce enough food. This was said on the floor of the House. Shri Biju Patnaik says that he has enough of steel and he does not know what to do with that. The basic fact is that there is abundance of production in the country. You should take note of this. I would tell Shri Fernandes that he should not go by what the World Bank Report says because it was they who said that there was justification for imposing emergency in the country about which you and ourselves do not agree.

So please do not go by the World Bank Report if something has gone wrong here. The point I am now raising is this. I do not know whether the Minister is likely to reply to that or not. In this country, one of the major problem, that we all face from the working class is strike or lock-out by the management. In the Cochin Refinery, H.M.T., B.H.E.L. etc. etc. the strike is going on. Look at the four million mandays lost because of the lock-out or strike in the last 4 months. We should not live by the massive American aid or any aid received from other western countries. I have to remind you that the American aid cannot come to this country without the approval of their Congress.

Look at the statement made by the hon. Prime Minister on the floor of the House and the visit made by Mr. Warren Christopher and the country's claim for the massive American aid that is likely to come to our country. You should be very careful about it. They cannot give you massive aid without some purpose behind it. (Interruptions) Sir, I do not want to take much of the time of the House. Because I am provoked by the statements made by the hon. Minister, here, I have to speak. I would like to seek some clarification on the statement which he has made there. He was very critical of the previous Government. I must warn him that you cannot carry on for a long time by what the previous Government did. You have to go on your own policy for taking the country forward thereby making it progressive. You should know that in Bihar wherefrom you got elected the police is posted in the campus of the universities. A situation is developing and I warn you that you cannot live for a long time on the misdeeds of the Congress in the last

nineteen months. I may tell you that your bank balance may not last longer. You have to go by your own policy. I would urge upon him to give up this kind of policy.

With these few words, I conclude.

श्री बिनायक प्रसाद यादव : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, माननीय मंत्री महोदय जो संशोधन विधेयक लाए हैं मैं उसका समर्थन करता हूँ। इसके साथ ही मैं मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान पेट्रोलियम की स्थिति की ओर खींचना चाहता हूँ।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं चाहता था कि आज की पेट्रोलियम की स्थिति को देखते हुए इस संशोधन विधेयक के बजाय एक कांप्रीहेंसिव अमेंडमेंट बिल लाया जाता। उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, आज क्या स्थिति है? अगर थोड़ा सा अनाज का दाम बढ़ जाता है तो सभी लोग चिल्लाने लगते हैं। कर्मचारी वर्ग चिल्लाने लगता है। लेकिन पेट्रोलियम में इतनी मंहगाई बढ़ गई है कि आजकल सिर्फ कुछ बड़े-बड़े नौकरशाह, ठेकेदार और कुछ नेता लोग ही अपनी गाड़ियां चला पाते हैं। बाकि सब को तो अपनी गाड़ियां बेच देनी पड़ी हैं। आज उनमें अपनी गाड़ियां चलाने की हिम्मत ही नहीं है। इतना ही नहीं पेट्रोलियम की मंहगाई बसों और ट्रकों के किराये बढ़ रहे हैं। पेट्रोलियम का दाम भी दिन दुने और रात चौगूने के हिसाब से बढ़ता जा रहा है।

जिस डीजल से किसान अपने खेत की जुताई करने के लिए ट्रैक्टर चलाता है, वह भी इतना मंहगा हो रहा है कि उसमें अपने खेत की जुताई करने की ताकत नहीं रह गई है। इसके साथ ही पेट्रोलियम के बटवारे की व्यवस्था भी ठीक नहीं है। उसमें भी बड़ी दिक्कतें हैं। हमारे गांव में तेल की बढ़ी कठिनाई है। लोग तेल पर निर्भर करते हैं। यह नहीं मिल पाता है। उपरोक्त हालातों को देख कर एक ऐसा संशोधन लाना चाहिये ताकि

पेट्रोलियम प्रोडक्ट्स के दाम भी कम हों और पेट्रोलियम के बटवारे की जो व्यवस्था है उस में भी सुधार हो। एक कम्प्रिहेंसिव एमेंडमेंट ला कर इन चीजों को ठीक किया जाना चाहिये। इसी चीज की ओर मैं अपने संशोधन के द्वारा सरकार का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता था।

28 साल के बाद यह प्रावधान किया जा रहा है कि जो नियम बनेंगे उनको पार्लियामेंट के सामने लाया जाए। 28 साल के बाद मंत्री महोदय का इस ओर ध्यान गया है और उन्होंने इस बिल में कहा है कि किसी एक के जरिये नियम बनाने का जो अधिकार है वे जब बनें उनको भी पार्लियामेंट के सामने लाया जाए और उनको पार्लियामेंट से एप्रूव कराया जाए। यह जो संशोधन इस आशय का किया जा रहा है यह एक अच्छा संशोधन है और इस संशोधन को लाने के लिए मैं मंत्री महोदय को धन्यवाद देता हूं और साथ ही इस संशोधन का समर्थन भी करता हूं।

**SHRI SAUGATA ROY (Barrackpore):** Sir, this small Bill that Mr. George Fernandes has brought forward is an amendment of the Petroleum Act, 1934, that was brought forward in the British days. The Petroleum Act was mainly intended to ensure safety in the storage, distribution and transport of petroleum and this present Bill is a small amendment as follow-up of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation. As such, nobody can be very much against the Bill. The only thing I want to point out is that there have been very few petroleum blazes in India as compared to the advanced countries and, as such, the original Act has served its purpose. But my main point is that the Minister of Industry who has under him Department of Heavy Industry, Department of Small Scale and Cottage Industries and the Directorate General of Technical Development has to come here and sit for full one hour even for this small Bill. It is mainly because the government has not been able to complete its council of ministers. Normally, this Bill could be piloted by a State or a Deputy Minister. Yesterday, Sir, we found the Prime Minister sitting for two hours to get a simple Bill passed.

1928 LS---9.

Sir, BHEL, Bhopal—which is under this Ministry—is having a tools-down strike for the past eleven days. It has already resulted in a loss of Rs. 5 crores to the government. The newspapers carried a news-item about this strike the other day and suggested that Central intervention is required. But we find the Industry Minister does not get time to attend to this problem. On the contrary, we see an unfortunate spectacle of his coming here to get this simple bill passed. We have already assured of our cooperation on these simple Bills, that is, we will give less number of amendments. We want the government to function in a proper way. Somebody should take charge of these small things so that the Industry Minister is able to concentrate on the more important task of solving strikes in big public undertakings.

The Industry Minister has overseas commitments too. Recently, he has been away on a foreign tour. We have no quarrel on that. But, Sir, in London he made a startling statement that there will be no more nationalisation or take-over.

16.00 hrs

Now, tell me, in the present situation of the Indian economy, whether such a statement is called for. I do not know whether such a statement is going to help our economy or our industry. I do not know whether such a statement is expected of a fiery trade union leader like Mr. George Fernandes. He has said that no industry will be taken over and a dialogue will be started with the industrialists. A few days ago, Mr. Fernandes had called them rats. I am not able to understand this whole business of functioning. Last time we were talking on the question of industrial price. The Government is not able to lay down a policy. Small amendments are being brought forward every day, taking the precious time of the House, while important things are being overlooked. So, I take this opportunity while speaking on this Bill which is essentially for ensuring the safety of the people to say: let him ensure the safety of the economy, let him ensure the safety of the public sector, let him ensure the safety of the industry and let him ensure the safety against the loss of mandays due to strikes and lockouts. If this is done I hope that we need not take the time of the House by bringing forward such small Bills.

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour):** Sir, since it is an opportunity to tell things about the Petroleum Ministry, I would request you kindly to see that this House does not

[Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu]

become an inadequate forum for ventilating our grievances. What is happening in the country where we have 60 million people? The time is so limited and opportunities are so few in number, that naturally whenever we find an opportunity we will make use of it.

The first point is about the pipeline laying contract from Bombay High to Uran, Trombay. I want to draw your attention to this fact. When Mr. K.D. Malaviya was the Minister in charge of this subject a contract was given to Demag although their tender rate was higher and the Planning Commission and the Ministry had approved a particular route for laying the pipeline, but the route was changed and the kilometre length of the route was increased by 44 kilometres and the additional cost of that was Rs. 88.00 crores. A big sum was given as a commission. I would like the hon. Minister to enlighten this House as to what had actually happened? What steps are going to be taken in this regard?

Some interested persons hastened the finalisation after the Congress was rejected at the polls. They had given false reasoning and the reasoning was the advent of monsoon which, of course, was not correct because during the monsoon months the work could not be commenced. Certain developments have taken place in spite of that and we should like the hon. Minister to enlighten the House as to what had happened.

The second item is Phillips petroleum in Cochin; that place is stinking; that organisation is stinking. It is collaboration with Duncan Brothers of R.P. Goenka, the notorious black marketeer, the Asian Cable affairs. The American directors of this company were punished for keeping substantial amounts of money in Switzerland and when they were asked by the court they confessed that the money was being kept in Switzerland for pay offs to Indian politicians in power as well as Indian officials who were dealing with that subject at that time. S.P. Goenka of Duncan Brothers, a notorious criminal, is the man who was the pipeline between tax Swiss Bank account and the payments in this country. I should like that also to be brought on the floor of the House with the fullest details. These are two serious allegations and I do hope the Government will take cognisance of them.

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY  
(SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) Mr.  
Deputy-Speaker, the Petroleum Act is

concerned primarily with storage and transport of petroleum from the safety point of view. Since my ministry is concerned, among other things, with explosives, storage and safety of explosives and petroleum being an explosive substance, it comes into the picture in so far as the administration of the Petroleum Act is concerned. Pricing of petroleum, selling and import of petroleum or laying of pipelines or award of contracts—these are all matters which the Petroleum Minister and the Petroleum Ministry deal with.

Hon. Members raised some points. Shri Vinayak Prasad Yadav referred to the pricing and distribution problems; Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu referred to pipeline contracts and collaborations. I can assure them both that I will pass on the points made by them to my cabinet colleague who handles those relevant questions.

Two hon. Members from the Congress Benches have spoken. I can only say that there are certain people who invariably have a tendency to say right things at the wrong time; others say the wrong thing at the right time. Congressmen always say wrong things every time. Obviously industrial policy is being debated in the country. Wherever I go, I remain the Minister of Industry and if I am asked a question on any aspect of my ministry's functioning I am bound to answer that question. I have said in the House and I have said outside that is so far as the industrial policy of the country is concerned, a certain amount of re-thinking is going on. I am sure nobody is going to tell me that industrial policy is a dogma. It is not a dogma; nor is the 1956 resolution a dogma and an article of faith; nor can anything done before or after that date be deemed an article of faith. Any fundamental change in policy will have to be with the approval of the House, if it is going to be a change, that is a departure from the 1956 resolution, because that resolution was a resolution of this House. I repeatedly said that there is no change contemplated which is of a fundamental nature. I was asked a question whether there was a move to denationalise industries because there are a large number of people in this country who have been saying ever since the Janata government came to power that we meant to denationalise industries. I said that there was no move to denationalise industries. I was asked a question whether there was any proposal to immediately nationalise certain industries. There is no proposal immediately before us to nationalise any industry. These are statements of facts and no departure from policy is there; it is nothing that should worry any friends or critics.

A lot of other points were made in the course of debate by hon. members from the other side. I am sure there will be a proper time for me to deal with those points; this certainly is not the occasion. Even though my presence provoked them, I would not be provoked on the various points that have been made with the intention of provoking me. There was a reference to BHEL strike in Bhopal. I should like to discuss that strike in detail because a lot of things, the manner in which the issues were raised, the manner in which the whole dispute was escalated, etc. These are matters which I will not mind discussing at the appropriate time in an appropriate forum, not on this occasion. I should like to tell the House that according to the information that I have received this morning, the dispute had been settled and work was to start at 2.30 p.m. today in Bhopal. Kalamasery is another problem. I have tomorrow called a meeting of Members of Parliament from Kerala, members who had been concerned with that issue in order to discuss certain proposals with them and I hope with their cooperation it would be possible to settle that dispute.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN (Idukki) : You are arranging a discussion ?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Notes must have gone to those who are involved in it.

Sir, there are no other points to be raised in connection with this Bill. as one of the hon. Members has said, it is a Bill which should have been passed in a minute's time. I hope, Sir, the House will adopt it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill further to amend the Petroleum Act, 1934, be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now we will take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is :

"That Clauses 2 to 5 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clauses 2 to 5 were added to the Bill.*

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

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

16.12 hrs.

[SHRI DHIRENDRANATH BASU IN THE CHAIR]

TEA (AMENDMENT) BILL

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA) : Sir I beg to move :

"That the Bill further to amend the Tea Act, 1953, be taken into consideration."

The Tea Act, 1953 (29 of 1953) which came into force on the 1st of April 1954, created a Tea Board which supervises the development of the tea industry in this country. The Tea Board has had a post of Deputy Chairman for several years but so far the Deputy Chairman has not been named as an authority under the Tea Act, though he is referred to in the Tea Bye-laws, 1955. As a matter of fact, when the Chairman is out on tour or out of the headquarters or otherwise incapacitated, it is the Deputy Chairman who exercises the powers of the Chairman. In the absence of inclusion of this post in the Tea Act, this post does not carry with it the specific statutory powers and duties. It is proposed to remove this lacuna by including this post in the Tea Act, 1953. It is also proposed to specify the powers and duties of this post clearly.

At present, the Central Government is empowered to make appointments to posts carrying a salary of Rs. 1000 or more per month. As a result of the recommendations of the Second and Third Pay Commissions there had been upward revision of scales of pay and the Tea Board's power to make appointments to the posts in the Tea Board has been reduced considerably. A task force was appointed in 1973 to study the various aspects of the Tea industry and the administration and the functioning of the Tea Board. It recommended among other things an increase in the powers of the Tea Board to appoint Officers upto a limit of Rs. 1800. As there is no scale