

श्री भोगेन्द्र झा : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि ड्यूटी कम करने से धोती सस्ता होगा या नहीं ? मिल-प्रोवर्स तो इसमें गेन करेंगे लेकिन कंज्यूमर्स को भी कुछ लाभ होगा या नहीं ?

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: The excise duty we are formally abolishing today was actually abolished long before. The price at which it is now available is reflective of the abolition of excise duty. But the price of cloth does not depend only on excise duty. It depends upon price of cotton, conversion costs, fuel costs, marketing costs, distribution costs, etc.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill to repeal the Dhoties (Additional Excise Duty) Act, 1953, be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: We take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill. There are no amendments. The question is:

"That Clause 2, Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 2, Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.*

PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

17.49 hrs.

## RE. BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH: Sir, I want to make a submission. The Essential Commodities Bill may be taken up now, but it will not be put down as the first item tomorrow. There is a Bill-Labour Provident Fund Laws (Amendment) Bill—which has to be passed by this House and then it has to go to Rajya Sabha. We want to give priority to the Bills which have to go to Rajya Sabha. Therefore, tomorrow the Labour Provident Fund Laws (Amendment) Bill will be put down first and after it is passed, we will resume discussion on the Essential Commodities Bill. This is the slight re-adjustment which I am requesting the House to make.

MR CHAIRMAN: He is praying for the leave of the House to give priority to the Labour Provident Fund Laws (Amendment) Bill. It will be done.

17.50 hrs.

## ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL—Contd.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we take up further consideration of the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Jainagar): Sir, we were expecting that this Bill which is before us and which has been passed by Rajya Sabha, would deal with some of the vital issues that are agitating the minds of the people and their living conditions also. But, unfortunately, it does not do so. The reality is that in the original Act of 1955, we have about 13 categories of essential commodities including cattle fodder, coal, automobile parts, cotton, wool, textiles, raw cotton, raw jute, drugs,