

[Shri M. Yunus Saleem]

shall be one-third of the total number of members of the Joint Committee :

that the Committee shall make a report to this House by the last day of the first week of the next session :

that in other respects the Rules of Procedure of this House relating to Parliamentary Committees shall apply with such variations and modifications as the Speaker may make ; and

that this House recommends to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do Join the said Joint Committee and communicate to this House the names of 15 members to be appointed by Rajya Sabha : to the Joint Committee."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill to define and amend the law with respect to the liability of the Government in tort and to provide for certain matters connected therewith, be referred to a Joint Committee of the Houses consisting of 45 members ; 30 from this House, namely :— Shri K. Anirudhan, Shri N. C. Chatterjee, Shri R. R. Singh Deo, Shri Deviader Singh, Shri Anirudha Dipa, Shri Shri Chand Goyal, Shri R. M. Hajarnavis, Shri S. Kandappan, Shri Brij Bhushan Lal, Shri Mali Mariyappa, Shri Srinibas Mishra, Shri H. N. Mukerjee, Shri Amrit Nabata, Shri K. Narayana Rao, Shri M. Narayan Reddy, Shri Mohammad Yunus Saleem, Shri A. T. Sarma, Shrimati Savitri Shyam, Shri A. K. Sen, Shri N. Sethuramane, Shri M. R. Sharma, Shri Narayan Swaroop Sharma, Shri Biswanarayan Shastri, Shri T. M. Sheth, Shri Devindr Vijai Singh, Shri Mudrika Sinha, Shri G. Viswanathan, Shri S. Xavier, Shri Ram Sewak Yadav, Shri P. Govinda Menon, and 15 members from Rajya Sabha ;

that in order to constitute a sitting of the Joint Committee the quorum shall be one-third of the total number of members of the Joint Committee ;

that the Committee shall make a report to this House by the last day of the first week of the next session ;

that in other respects the Rules of Procedure of this House relating to Parliamentary Committee shall apply with such variations and modifications as the Speaker may make ; and

that this House recommends to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do join the said Joint Committee and communicate to this House the names of 15 members to be appointed by Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee."

The motion was adopted

15.35 hrs.

MOTOR VEHICLES (AMENDMENT) BILL

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING (DR. V. K. R. V. RAO):

Sir, I beg to move the motion standing in my name. There are two changes in the names—for No. 7, Shri R. M. Hajarnavis, I want the name of Shri B. D. Deshmukh to be substituted ; for Shri G. Jonardhanam, I want the name of Shri Ishaq Sambhali to be substituted. I beg to move :

"That this House concurs in the recommendation of Rajya Sabha that the House do join in the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Bill further to amend the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939, made in the motion adopted by Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 13th February, 1968, and communicated to this House on the 14th February, 1968, and resolves that the following thirty members of Lok Sabha be nominated to serve on the said Joint Committee, namely :—Shri Sayed Ahmed Aga, Shri Bhakt Darshan, Shri Ram Dhani Das, Shri Tulaidas Dasappa, Shri D. N. Deb, Shri Kanwar Lal Gupta, Shri B. D. Deshmukh, Shri Ishaq Sambhali, Shri Lladhar Kotoki, Shri Vikram Chand Mahajan, Shri Bhoja Nath Master, Shri Mohammad Ismail, Shri Mohan Swarup, Shri Dabhabhai Parmar, Shri Pashabhai Patel, Shri Jatiendra Nath Pramanik, Shri K. Rajaram, Shri Chitta Ranjan Ray, Shrimati Sushila Rohatgi, Shri S. K. Sumbandhan, Shri V. Samvasivan, Shri Beni Shankar Sharma, Shri Diwan,

Chand Sharma, Shri Devindra Vijay Singh, Shri Prakash Vir Shastri, Shri Arangil Sreedharan, Shri S. Supakar. Shri Kommareddi Suryanarayana, Shri Om Prakash Tyagi, DR. V. K. R. V. Rao."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I will not take more than five minutes. The Motor Vehicles Act of 1939 was amended as far back as 1956. After that, the Act has not been amended, from 1956 up to date. And during this period, a number of committees have sat on the subject of road transport, notable amongst them being the committee known as the Masani Committee, and then the Motor Vehicles Insurance Committee; and also a number of recommendations have been received from State Governments on the basis of the experience of the working of the Motor Vehicles Act. Therefore it was considered necessary to bring in comprehensive amendments. I will just list a few of the important features of the amending Bill that has been introduced.

The first thing I would like to refer to is that this Bill proposes the licensing of persons who are in the business either of selling tickets or forwarding of goods and so on. This became necessary because one of the High Courts also has stayed the order giving this licence, saying that it is not valid. It is very important from the point of view of security and proper transaction both of forwarding of packages and goods and of booking for passengers, that there should be a proper licensing and regulations and rules attached.

The amendment also provides for compulsory insurance against damage to third property. At the moment, insurance only covers life or personal injury. It has been found in a number of cases that Property also gets affected and so that has been included.

Then the Bill provides for the appointment of appellate tribunals with persons having judicial experience, of the rank of district judges to hear appeals against the orders of State or regional transport authorities. Then, for minimising accidents, the Bill provides certain very comprehensive tests both for periodic certification of the fitness of the vehicle and stricter tests for certifying to the continued competence of the driver. Then, at the same time, the procedure for the claiming of compensation

for accidents has been liberalised. The period within which the claims should be asked for has been extended and the amount of the compensation has also been increased.

Then, we are giving power to the Central Government to have the same kind of authority to make rules and regulations regarding the corporations directly run by them or corporations run on more than one inter-State route as the State Governments enjoy in regard to their States.

I would like to add that since the introduction of this amending Bill, several other reports have been completed and have become available to Government, and the report on road transport taxation in particular. The report of the Road Transport Taxation Enquiry committee is going to be discussed in this House, and the idea of the Joint Committee is that the recommendations made by the Road Transport Taxation Enquiry Committee headed by Dr. Keskar will also be taken into account, and at the Joint Committee stage, the Government would like to bring in some further amendments which take into account the latest thinking on the subject of motor vehicles taxation.

With these remarks, I move that this Bill, with the list of Members as amended, be taken into consideration.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : First, we decided not to have discussion, because only one hour is allotted. I will take the sense of the House. If some Members want to speak, they can speak for five minutes each. I can accommodate them. What is the sense of the House? The Bill is going to be amended further in the light of the recommendations of the Keskar Committee. We are also discussing the Keskar Committee report.

SHRI TULSHIDAS JADHAV (Bar-mati) : When will it be discussed?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It will be discussed here. I will proceed with the concurrence of the House. It is agreed?

SHRI SEZHIAN (Kumbakonam) : We will get one extra hour then.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You can press all that before the Business Advisory Committee.

SHRI DINKER DESAI (Kanara) : When will the Keskar Committee report come up ?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It is in the Order Paper. It will come in a day or two. It is put down on the agenda for this week. I will now put the motion, with the names as changed by the Minister.

The question is :

"That this House concurs in the recommendation of Rajya Sabha that the House do join in the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Bill further to amend the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939 made in the motion adopted by Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 13th February, 1968, and communicated to this House on the 14th February, 1968, and resolves that the following thirty members of Lok Sabha be nominated to serve on the said Joint Committee, namely : Shri Sayed Ahmed Aga, Shri Bhakt Darshan, Shri Ram Dhani Das, Shri Tulsidas Dasappa, Shri D. N. Deb, Shri Kanwar Lal Gupta, Shri B. D. Deshmukh, Shri Ishaq Sambhali, Shri Liladhar Kotoki, Shri Vikram Chand Mohajan, Shri Bhola Nath Master, Shri Mohammad Ismail, Shri Mohan Swarup Shri Danyabhai Parmar, Shri Pashabhai Patel, Shri Jatindra Nath Pramanik, Shri K. Rajaram, Shri Chitta Ranjan Ray, Shrimati Sushila Rohatga, Shri S. K. Sambandhan, Shri V. Sambasivam Shri Beni Shanker Snarma, Shri Diwan Chand Sharma, Shri Devendra Vijay Singh, Shri Prakash Vir Shastri, Shri Arangil Sreedharan, Shri S. Supakar, Shri Kommareddi Suryanarayana, Shri Om Prakash Tyagi, Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao."

The motion was adopted.

15.42 hrs.

INSECTICIDES BILL—Contd.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House will take up further consideration of the Insecticides Bill. 1 hour and 5 minutes have already been taken up. Now, Mr. Desai.

SHRI DINKAR DESAI (Kanara) : Sir, I am not at all satisfied with this Bill, as it does not really go into all the aspects of the problem. We are only touching the fringe of the problem. I have carefully gone through the evidence given before the Joint Committee of the Parliament. One Dr. Pradhan, an expert from the Indian Agricultural Research Institute has said that this Bill not only does not go far enough, but does not touch the fringe of the problem. He has strongly recommended that we must have a comprehensive Bill on the lines of the Miller's Bill of USA. Many progressive countries in the west have enacted legislation on the lines of the Miller's Bill. I would like to read some portions of Dr. Pradhan's evidence. He says that all the risks are not covered :

"What has been done is that practically the whole Bill deals with measures for checking mainly the misbranding of pesticide and the problems of hazards have been practically left out. No effort has been made to provide and spell out measures for checking hazards of various types and at various stages." Then he says :

"The agricultural view-points have been completely omitted and there is no evidence that the framers of the Bill even intend to make any specific provision for safeguarding the health of the consumers of the nation as a whole."

He has also made certain specific suggestions, namely, there should be provision for :

- (i) Detection of contamination in food and fodder.
- (ii) Prevention of sale/distribution of contaminated food and fodder.
- (iii) Detection of contamination in other articles of use like blanket etc.
- (iv) Regulation of use of pesticides in field and godowns and by ordinary merchants who find it tempting to mix insecticides with cereals, etc."

15.45 hrs.

[Shri Thirumala Rao in the Chair]

I would like to know why the expert opinion of the Agricultural Research Insti-