

introduce a Bill further to amend the Central Sales Tax Act, 1956.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Central Sales Tax Act, 1956."

The motion was adopted.

†Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: I introduce the Bill.

*INDIAN STAMP (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Deputy Minister of Economic Affairs (Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Stamp Act, 1899.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Stamp Act, 1899."

The motion was adopted.

†Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: I introduce the Bill.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Twenty-fourth Report

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): I beg to move:

"That this House agrees with the Twenty-fourth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 25th April, 1958."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That this House agrees with the Twenty-fourth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 25th April, 1958."

The motion was adopted.

INDIAN OATHS (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Deputy Minister of Law (Shri Hajarnavis): I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Oaths Act, 1873, be taken into consideration."

This Bill is a single-line measure beyond any controversy and seeks to repeal section 16 of the Indian Oaths Act which has become archaic and somewhat out of joint in the present context. Section 16 of the Indian Oaths Act is as follows:

"Subject to the provisions of sections 3 and 5, no person appointed to any office shall, before entering on the execution of the duties of his office, be required to take any oath or to make or subscribe to any affirmation or declaration whatsoever."

Now the need for repealing this particular provision arose this way. On the eve of the Independence of India, on the initiative of the then Home Minister, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, a very commendable step was taken, namely, that all full time Government servants were required to take an oath of allegiance in the prescribed form. That oath was taken on the first working day after the 14th or August, 1947. The form of oath then prescribed was as follows:

"I.....do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to India and to the Constitution of India as by law established and that I will loyally carry out the duties. So help me God."

Previous to this, the oath of allegiance was administered only to a few officials, possibly only those officials whose appointments were directly made by either the King Emperor or on behalf of the King Emperor and the form of oath was as follows:

"I would be faithful and would bear true allegiance to His Majesty, King George VI, Emperor of India and his successors accord-

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†Introduced with the recommendation of the President.