

16.00 Hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

TWENTY-SECOND REPORT

SHRI K. M. KOUSHIK (Chanda) : I beg to move :

"That this House agrees with the Twenty-second Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 6th March, 1968."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House agrees with the Twenty-second Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and the Resolutions presented to the House on the 6th March, 1968."

The motion was adopted.

16.01 Hrs.

**RESOLUTION RE : GOLD CONTROL—
contd.**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : There are 1 hour and 29 minutes left for this resolution.

SHRI S. KANDAPPAN (Mettur) : Time should be extended.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : But the mover of the second resolution also must get some time at least to introduce it. We shall see how the debate proceeds. The Minister also must be given 10 to 15 minutes to reply.

SHRI SEZHIYAN (Kumbakonam) : If it is a favourable reply, then there need not be any discussion. Let him say there will be no control.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, Mr. Xavier.

SHRI S. XAVIER (Tirunelveli) : Sir, the text of my resolution is :

"This House is of opinion that Government should withdraw Gold Control in view of the country-wide agitation and hardship being encountered by goldsmiths, etc."

The Gold Control Order was promulgated on 10-1-63 as part of the Defence of India Rules for the control of transactions in gold and articles made of gold. The objects of this measure were three-fold : 1. To reduce the demand for gold; 2. To bring about a reduction in gold prices.

3. To prevent the smuggling of gold into the country. Now we have to see whether these objectives have been achieved, what are the beneficial results flowing out of this measure and what are the evil effects it has produced. After weighing the pros and cons of this measure, I would like the House to consider whether the scheme should be continued or dropped once and for all.

I will narrate whether each of these objects has been fulfilled or not. Straight-away I can say the objects have been completely defeated and not fulfilled in the least. The proof of the pudding is in the eating, says the proverb.

16.04 HRS.

[SHRI G. S. DHILLON *in the Chair*].

Has this measure prevented smuggling of gold? Not at all. In fact, it has increased. There are daring and lawless spirits everywhere in the world. It has resulted in more underground dealings and secret and blackmarket sales are much greater than ever before. The prices of gold have gone much higher.

Secondly, the demand for gold has not decreased at all. The desire for gold is innate in women. No law or ordinance can curb the desire for gold which is inherent in womenfolk. Any law seeking to do this will be futile.

The Gold Control Order has not established Indian economy or reduced the prices of other commodities. The price of gold has gone higher. It has not, as desired or thought by the Government, reduced the price of gold. On the contrary, it has increased the prices of other commodities as well. So it has an adverse effect instead of having any sanguine effect, and the measure in this respect also is an utter dismal failure. Thirdly, there are the evil effects. These are the three things for which Government proposed this measure. In achieving these three objects the measure has been a failure.

What are the evil effects, the adverse results, flowing out of this measure? Gold is an ornament not only for women, it is also the credit of the country, an ornament to the country. The Gold Control Bill has been condemned in all quarters. It has become a political, social and eco-