

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1952."

The motion was adopted.

Shri Hathi: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

12.48½ hrs.

INDIAN TARIFF (AMENDMENT)
BILL*, 1965

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Manubhai Shah): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Tariff Act, 1934.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Tariff Act, 1934."

The motion was adopted.

Shri Manubhai Shah: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

12.49. hrs.

MOTION RE: DECONTROL OF
CEMENT

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House takes note of the statement of the Minister of Industry on decontrol of cement, laid on the Table of the House on the 18th November, 1965."

Sir, I have read with keen interest the statement the hon. Minister and not only Members of Parliament of either House but no sensible person in the country is convinced that decontrol of cement was necessary at this hour.

As the hon. Minister has stated, this Government is not wedded to control. I equally share his views. Even members of the ruling Party, in their meetings, have expressed the fear that they may hoard the cement and the prices may go up. The fear is genuine in the sense that everything will be left in the hands of the industrialists. What are the reasons for the decontrol and the price increase? I read from the statement of the hon. Minister on 18th November, 1965.

"The cement industry has, of late, been representing about the strict control on cement. It has attributed the present tardy growth of the Industry to the 'lamentable lack of internal financial resources' and the inability to pay their shareholders dividends at rates paid by other industries."

So, one of the reasons for increasing the price and for the decontrol, leaving everything in the hands of the industry, is that the condition of their internal financial resources is lamentable and according to the information of the hon. Minister, they have not been able to pay dividends to their shareholders. I speak from memory, in 1962-63 the percentage of profit earned by the cement industry was 9.5 whereas the maximum which was earned by the other industries was 16 or 18.5.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathar (Jalore): Is it crores or lakhs?

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I have given the percentage. So it is quite clear that the cement industry was earning profits. They did not increase the salaries of their employees by mutual negotiations and I am sure that, even the recommendations of the Wage Board will not be implemented by them; that is their attitude, an arrogant attitude towards their employees. The industry is adamant not to pay dividends or equal

*Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, section 2, dated 3-12-65.

†Introduced with the recommendation of the President.