

[Shri Shahnawaz Khan]

is the Ministry of Economic and Defence Co-ordination; then there is the Ministry of Transport. We are already in consultation with each other and as soon as the surveys are complete, certain decisions will be taken.

Then, my hon. friend, Shri Muthiah, talked about the Tinnevely-Cape Comorin survey. This is already included in the Budget and the work is already in progress.

My hon. friend, Shri Hazarika, was critical of the fact that the progress on the new broad gauge line which has been decided for extension into Assam is not fast enough. I can assure him that this work is progressing at the top priority; it is progressing as fast as the Railways can cope with.

Shri Basumatari (Goalpara): May I know when work is likely to start?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Work is already in progress.

Shri Hazarika also wanted that both sides of the track should be cleared and people should be settled on that so that it will provide security to the railway line. This matter has already been taken up with the Assam Government.

My hon. friend, Shri Sonavane, felt that it was the habit of the Railways to carry out surveys and then put them in cold storage. Surveys are carried out and where there is justification for constructing new lines, a decision is taken and new lines are constructed; but where there is no justification, that survey has to be put in the cold storage.

Shri Sonavane: What about the line from Latur to Miraj?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: That does not find a place so far; later on, if there is any justification at a later stage we will see. But all round we

are going in for large-scale conversions.

Shri Priya Gupta said or rather warned us not to repeat the follies which had so far been committed on the Assam link. We are always prepared to benefit from his wisdom.

Shri Priya Gupta: You put a check on them; do not take it personally.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Have you finished?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Are the cut motions being pressed?

Shri Prabhat Kar: No, Sir.

The cut motions were, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

“That the respective Supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the order paper be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1964, in respect of the following demands entered in the second column thereof:

Demands Nos. 2 and 15.”

The motion was adopted.

13.36 hrs.

WAREHOUSING CORPORATIONS
(AMENDMENT) BILL

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:

“That the Bill to amend the Warehousing Corporations Act, 1962, be taken into consideration.”

Sir, this is a very simple Bill. According to section 3, sub-section (2) of the Act of 1962 and according to the Act which was replaced by the Act of 1962, the Head Office of the Central Warehousing Corporation is to be situated in Delhi. In fact, this provision is obviously restrictive in character as restricts the Central Government from shifting the Head Office to any other place. This could have been provided in the original Act itself but the lacuna came to our notice when the proposal had been set afoot for the shifting of certain offices from Delhi in the overall scheme of dispersal of offices from Delhi.

When this Bill was introduced, the hon. Member, Shri Banerjee, put a very pertinent question as to whether the Government had taken any decision in the matter of shifting this office and, if so, to which place. As the provision in the Bill stands, it is only an enabling measure. It does not enjoin upon the Central Government to shift the office to any particular place. But if the Government takes a decision the statutory provision should not stand in the way of the Government from implementing their decision. So, what has been provided in the Bill is that the central office of the Warehousing Corporation shall be in New Delhi or at such other place as the Central Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, specify. That is the purport of the amendment. It is a very simple measure and I do not think, there would be any dissentient voice in the matter of passing this Bill.

The office of the headquarters of the Central Warehousing Corporation is one of the offices which the Central Government has in view for shifting from Delhi. Two places have been suggested. One is Faridabad and the other is Agra. The Ministry's own inclination is that it would be better, in case it is to be shifted, that it should be located in Faridabad. It is only about 12 miles from Delhi and the Central Government has got land

of its own on which the office building can be constructed so that the Central Warehousing Corporation can possess a building of its own. The office is now located in a rented building. We have to pay about Rs. 2,600 as rent. Of course, having regard to the prevailing rate of rent, it cannot be said that the rent is high. The floor area now occupied comes to about 5,280 sq. ft. and the number of employees is roundabout 100. In the scheme of things, it cannot be said to be a great thing, that is, it is not a big office and the number of employees is also not very large. But all the same if the Central Government thinks that it would be desirable to shift the office, the statutory provision should not stand in the way and we have introduced this Bill and I hope that it would be passed without any dissenting voice.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to amend the Warehousing Corporations Act, 1962, be taken into consideration."

Shri Prabhat Kar (Hooghly): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, section 3(2) of the Warehousing Corporations Act clearly stated that the head-office of the Central Warehousing Corporation shall be situated at New Delhi. Now so far as the amendment is concerned, as just now said by the Deputy Minister, it is being changed: after the words "at New Delhi", the words "or at such other place as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify" are being inserted.

My hon. friend Mr. Banerjee, when this Bill was introduced, wanted to know whether the Government had made up its mind that this office should be shifted. My point is this: is it pure and simple that for want of accommodation or on account of the dearth of the Government buildings here that this office is to be shifted from Delhi to Faridabad or Agra? What is the purpose of this Warehousing Corporation? I feel that so far as the function of the Ware-

[Shri Prabhat Kar]

housing Corporation is concerned, it is very much linked with the Food and Agriculture Ministry and according to my understanding, this Corporation has not played its role properly. If we could build warehouses at places nearest to the place of production of grain or where other cash crops grow, we shall be able to help the peasants who have suffered because of the middle-men so far as the prices are concerned. If more warehouses are built near the villages and if the arrangement is made, as it was suggested in the Rural Credit Survey Enquiry report that the Imperial Bank and the erstwhile princely banks should be transferred to the State Bank which has been done and subsidiaries also have been opened, to open the branches in the rural areas and on the basis of receipts of warehouses the advices are granted by the banks to the peasantry, the conditions of the peasants who are suffering today due to the lack of funds and who are taking loans from *mahajans* at a higher rate could be improved.

Now, to that extent, the Food and Agriculture Ministry, I would say, has not given the proper direction and that is why I say the Corporation has not played its role properly in the case of cash crops like jute or in the case of sugarcane or in the case of even foodgrains where the peasants are forced to sell these articles at a lesser price, while the middleman gets the share of the price and the consumers suffer.

Now, that being the purpose, it is essential that the office of this Warehousing Corporation should be very near the Food and Agriculture Ministry. So far as the enabling clause is concerned, it is innocent and innocuous: the Government may by notification shift the office of the Central Warehousing Corporation. This is the most vital part. So far as the shifting of the office of the Corporation is concerned, may I know how it is

going to have a proper liaison with the Food and Agriculture Ministry. It is the important role that the Corporation has to play in helping the peasantry to deposit their production and on the basis of receipts take advances from the State Bank and its subsidiaries, which is a major point, which will decide exactly where its office should be, at New Delhi or at any other place.

श्री यशपाल सिंह (कैराना) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, जहां तक इस बिल का ताल्लुक है, मैं इस का समर्थन करता हूँ। मैंने पिछले साल भी यह बात कही थी कि जितने आफिसिज और मकानात शहरों में बनाए जायेंगे, देहात उतने ही ज्यादा उजड़ते जायेंगे। दिल्ली आज इतना कान्जोस्टिड हो चुका है कि यहां पर और गुंजायश नहीं है। इस लिये इन आफिसिज को बाहर ले जाना बहुत मुनासिब है, लेकिन, जैसा कि मैंने अपनी एमेंडमेंट में कहा है, इन आफिसिज के स्टाफ को कम से कम छः महीने का नोटिस देना चाहिये, जिस से वे अपने बाल-बच्चों का और यूनिवर्सिटी में पढ़ने वाले बच्चों का उचित इन्तजाम कर सकें।

सारी दुनिया में यह अकेली सरकार है, जो नौकरी दे देती है, लेकिन मकानात की कोई जिम्मेदारी नहीं लेती है। अभी उस दिन निर्माण, आवास तथा पुनर्वास मंत्री ने कहा था कि दिल्ली में ५४,००० ऐसे गवर्नमेंट सर्वेंट्स हैं, जिन को सरकार मकानात नहीं दे सकी है। उन को बड़ी डिफीकल्टी है। इस लिये जब आफिसिज यहां से उठाए जाते हैं, तो उन में काम करने वाले कर्मचारियों को कम से कम छः मास का नोटिस देना चाहिये। उन कर्मचारियों को एकदम शिफ्ट करना उन के स्वास्थ्य और घर के इन्तजाम के लिये घातक होगा।

इस लिये मेरा निवेदन है कि इस संशोधन को स्वीकार कर के इस बिल को पास किया जाये। मैं इस बिल का स्वागत करता हूँ।

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, at the time of the introduction of this Bill, I wanted to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government had already taken a decision to shift this office from Delhi to some other place. The hon. Minister, while moving this Bill, has confirmed that a decision has been taken to shift this office from Delhi to either Faridabad or Agra. I doubt if there is a condition that the office should be shifted without increasing the income or total emoluments of the employees. In this particular office, let us examine, how many people are working. The total number of employees is 122 out of which 11 are on deputation. I do not know what accommodation Government is going to get by driving out these employees from their homes in Delhi either to Faridabad or Agra. The shifting of office to Faridabad is understandable. It is not 12 miles from Delhi; it is 18 miles from this place and there are regular bus services.

But serious complication will only arise when these employees who are working in Delhi would like to claim that Faridabad should also be included as an A-Class city for the purposes of payment of compensatory allowance. Faridabad cannot be included—by no stretch of imagination, it can be included in Delhi or it can come as a contiguous area of the Delhi Corporation because it is in Punjab. Naturally, the total emoluments will fall. At the time when Delhi was upgraded as A-Class City, for each employee, the minimum gain was to the tune of Rs. 12-22 and for the higher scale, it was much more.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he would like to accept my amendment. My amendment is:

"Provided that whenever the head office....."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We shall come to that later.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Let me finish this. It is a very small amendment.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He has already read it.

Mr. S. M. Banerjee: "Provided that whenever the head office is shifted from one place to another, at least six months' notice shall be given to the employees of the Corporation, that total emoluments shall be protected and they shall be provided with accommodation". My amendment is this and I would like to move this amendment and speak on this because I feel that when once they are transferred from this place, their emoluments will not be protected.

I would refer that on shifting of the Office of the Hindusthan Steel Ltd. to Ranchi, what were the concessions given? The question of Office accommodation as well as the residential accommodation for employees was settled in consultation with the Bihar Government. Then, what were the other concessions given? For one year, the class III and IV employees (clerks) were granted displacement allowance at the rate of 10% of their salaries per month. This amount was not recovered from their salary. Then T.A. along with one month's pay was also given which was to be recovered and which was recovered in twelve monthly instalments. Then the shifting was treated as on transfer. Always there is congestion in Delhi. Regarding shifting of offices from Delhi, this was what the Works and Housing Minister said.

	<i>No. of employees</i>
Warehousing Corporation	120
Director of Tourism	23

The total comes to about 2,000 people. If 2,000 are shifted from Delhi, will Delhi become clean? This is some-

[Shri S. M. Banerjee]

thing which passes my comprehension. I can understand if a big Ministry is shifted from one place to another. There may be dislocation which is understandable. I shall now finish in one minute. The Warehousing Corporation is going to construct another building in Agra or in Faridabad for these 2,000 employees. After all, these offices cannot be accommodated either in Taj Mahal or Red Fort in Delhi or in the fort at Agra. Anyway an office building will have to be constructed in Faridabad. Wherever the office building is to be constructed, it will be air-conditioned because this is a fashion in this country. Then it will have so many rooms. There will be at least Rs. 10 to 15 lakhs spent on that. But, during the emergency, is it proper for us to spend that amount? Is it congested because of these 122 people or might be the total number including their family members and children it will come to 500? Is it necessary for construction of a building because of this shifting? I would request the hon. Minister kindly to consider that if the families are shifted from Delhi to Faridabad or to Agra—I do not think they are provided with accommodation—at least Faridabad be included for the purpose of compensatory allowances like Delhi. Whatever they are getting in Delhi, that should be given there as well. There was a time when certain offices were shifted and reshuffled within 15 miles from Calcutta. A question was raised by the Finance that reshuffling was not within a contiguous area of Calcutta Corporation and hence they should not be given higher allowance. This question was fought with the authorities by certain Members of Parliament and State Assembly. Ultimately that came within the Corporation limit and they were granted the allowance. The second point which I would like to discuss is about certain aspects connected with the employees. I raised certain issues connected with the employees during the course of the discussion of this Bill in 1962. Now, it is surprising that the Pay Commission grades are avail-

able only to those who are working in head offices and are not applicable to those who are working in the various States. They are termed as field employees. Field employees who are supposed to work in Moga or other places are not getting the benefit of the Pay Commission recommendations. It is really surprising. And people are not getting increments. The moment they come to the head office they have to start afresh and their total service does not count. This is a clear discrimination between employee and employee, and I request the Corporation and the Government to sit together and decide this. I am sure the Corporation will not be against accepting the Pay Commission's recommendations *in toto*. If they are Corporation employees they are government employees. And when the Pay Commission's recommendations are implemented in the case of other government employees, the same people who are in Delhi or Moga or elsewhere should be given the same benefit.

With these words I again request the hon. Minister to kindly consider whether this harmless amendment of mine should not be accepted. It may not be rejected, because, after all, this is an enabling clause for which Government has brought this forward. And my amendment will enable me to protect the interests of the employees and therefore I submit that both these enabling provisions should be accepted.

Shri Sonavane (Pandharpur): This Warehousing Corporation amending Bill that is before this august House is a very small matter. The matter of great importance is one that concerns the peasants. The whole idea of setting up this Corporation was to facilitate the agriculturists in getting fair prices. I do not know how this amending Bill, just by a sheer shifting of the head office, is going to bring about the desired objective as was expressed by the Food Minister only the other day while in-

tervening in the debate on the no-confidence motion, namely that an agriculturist should get a remunerative or a fair price.

This Corporation, to my mind, has failed in its purpose. The Minister or the Ministry should have come forward to amend the whole Act so as to give the maximum benefits to the agriculturists. I want to know at what places these warehouses are located. Are they located at places where food-grains are grown so that when there is necessity to store the grains it may be done? These warehouses are located in the urban areas, such as the provincial headquarters or district headquarters. I do not know why an amendment in this respect was not brought by the Ministry so as to locate them as near the villages as possible.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: In many places they are.

Shri Sonavane: I am suggesting that, I feel they have failed in giving incentives to the farmer so that he may get a fair price, so that his grains may be stored, and at a reasonable or opportune time he may be able to sell the stored grain, and that he may be able to get advances on his produce also. That type of scheme should have been brought forward in the amendment. This the Ministry has not done so far. The location of the warehouses is not correct and the number of warehouses is highly inadequate, and I feel that the agriculturists are not able to take advantage of these warehouses because of their position, paucity and inadequacy of the facilities provided. And who takes advantage of these warehouses? The people who exploit these agriculturists.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Shinde): The amendment pertains only to the office.

Shri Sonavane: I think the Ministry has miserably failed in not coming forth with an amendment to provide good incentives to the agriculturists, as your Ministry desires, in order to increase food production. That is my submission. And for your omission to 902 (Ai) LSD—6.

do this I am here just to suggest and bring out certain points.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: This is just to change the location of the office of the Warehousing Corporation from Delhi to some other place

14 hrs.

Shri Sonavane: We can draw attention to their acts of omission also while criticising their acts of commission. Therefore I submit it is my legitimate right to criticise the Ministry that this whole amending Bill should have been in that proper shape as I have suggested. With this tiny amendment this Ministry has not served the cause of the agriculturists, and the talk of self-sufficiency in food production will just remain a talk in the air. I would therefore appeal to the Ministry that they should really come forward with a measure that would touch every aspect and that would accelerate and gear up the agriculturist so that he may get a fair price for his produce.

With these words I request the Ministry that they may think again about this matter and when they come forward with any amending legislation pertaining to this Ministry this idea may be uppermost in their mind.

श्री क० ना० तिवारी (बगहा) :
उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, जो अर्मेंडिंग बिल आया है मैं उस का समर्थन करने के लिये खड़ा हुआ हूँ। गवर्नमेंट को सारे आफिसेज को दिल्ली या कलकत्ता में या और जगहों में ला कर इकट्ठा कर देने की नीति है व अच्छी नहीं है। मेरा ख्याल है कि सिन्धुओरिटी के ख्याल से भी और दूसरे ख्यालों से भी किसी शहर को बहुत ज्यादा बढ़ाना नहीं चाहिये। आफिसेजों को चारों तरफ अलग अलग कर के रखना ज्यादा अच्छा है। इसलिये वेअरहाऊसिंग के ही नहीं बल्कि और भी जितने आफिसेज हैं उन को जितना ज्यादा एक दूसरे से हटा सकें उतना हटा देना चाहिये। सारे आफिसेज को एक साथ रखने से अपोजीशन जो किसानों के सवाल को ले कर बराबर इस हाउस में उठाया करता है वह भी नहीं उठेगा और छोटे

[श्री क० ना० तिवारी]

छोटे जो शहर हैं, जो कि उजड़ रहे हैं वे उजड़ेंगे नहीं बल्कि उन की जो इम्पार्टेन्स है वह और भी बढ़ जायेगी और वहाँ का व्यापार भी बढ़ जायेगा, उस की अहमियत बढ़ जायेगी। इसलिये मेरा ख्याल है कि अगर गवर्नमेंट की पालिसी वेन्नरहाउसिंग को दिल्ली से हटा कर आगरा, नागपुर या दूसरी जगह में रखने की हो तो ब. ज्यादा अच्छी हो। इसी तरह से और भी आफिसेज हटा दिये जाने चाहियें।

दूसरी बात यह है कि खर्च का जो मवाल उठता है, यानी दिल्ली में आफिसेज को रखने में जो एडीशनल पे उन को देनी पड़ेगी, इस तरह से एकोमोडेशन का मवाल है, पानी का मवाल है, इतने सारे मवाल उठ खड़े होते हैं। आगरा, कानपुर, बीकानेर, नागपुर या पटना या जैसे जितने शहर हैं उन में एकोमोडेशन ज्यादा है। मैं ने बीकानेर में देखा कि ऐसी बहुत सी बिल्डिंग्स पड़ी हुई हैं जिन में रहने वाला कोई नहीं है। वे गवर्नमेंट को भी कम किराये पर मिल सकती हैं। उन को बिल्डिंग बनाने के लिये एडीशनल खर्च भी नहीं करना पड़ेगा, जो यहाँ पर एडीशनल पे दी जाती है एक्सचेंजर से, वह भी बचेगी। प्रोविसेज में जो कम पे मिलती है वह उन को दी जायेगी तो उस से काफी बचत रेवेन्यू में हो जायेगी।

इसलिये मेरा ख्याल है कि यह पालिसी जो है व ज्यादा अच्छी है और सरकार को और भी जो आफिसेज हैं उन को टाना चाहियें। वेन्नरहाउसेज को हटाने की जो बात है मैं उस को सपोर्ट करता हूँ।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Shri Priya Gupta.

Shri Priya Gupta (Katihar): Sir, while making my observations on the Warehousing Corporations (Amendment) Bill, 1963, I beg to submit that the warehouses were proposed for storing grains. In most of the parts of which I have personal knowledge,

that is, in Assam, Bihar, West Bengal and Orissa, I know what is happening. I can say that in Assam some lakhs of rupees are being paid every month as rent for hiring leaky ex-jute mill godowns. If this money which was spent during the past many years had been spent in a proper way, the Corporation could have made their own well-designed warehouses, and the public exchequer would not have been drained to that extent. Similar is the condition in Bihar, Orissa and Calcutta. In Bhubaneshwar and Kalyani areas few warehouses were constructed and in Assam also here and there some few warehouses have been built. I submit that the Government of India should go on building its own warehouses because as the honourable Minister of Food said the other day while participating in the debate on the no-confidence motion, self-sufficiency in food in this country cannot be achieved in the very recent future. Therefore, the buffer-stock and stocking the same in the warehouses will be a necessity for another 10 to 12 years. Therefore, the Government of India, instead of wasting money by hiring the otherwise useless godowns of the jute mills of the 'punjipathis' and 'karorpathis', just to give them a premium, should divert their attention to the proper utilisation of their funds by way of construction of their own warehouses.

Secondly, as regards the decentralisation of this scheme, I suggest that the suggestion made by the trade unions of the food staff of the eastern directorate for zonalisation, should be implemented, having zonal offices in Orissa, Bihar, Assam and West Bengal.

Shri A. M. Thomas: That is Food Department—altogether different.

Shri Priya Gupta: The speaker just before me suggested that warehouses should be attached to the villages where food is produced. That is well and good. But the question of giving directives as to what other facilities should be given and where and how food stuff has to be distributed should

also be kept in view. While transferring the headquarters of the Corporation, the question of giving proper protection to the workers and the suggestions of workers' organisations should be kept in view.

Shri Sonavane: There are not many workers.

Shri Priya Gupta: That is all my submission.

Shri K. L. More (Hatakanangle): This is a very simple measure, where-in Government are seeking to amend section 3 of the original Act. As has been made out in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, Government are seeking to make an amendment in the Act in order to enable them to locate the head office of the Central Warehousing Corporation at some place other than New Delhi. Under the present provision, the headquarters is at New Delhi, but now Government intend to shift it, and the object of Government is just to carry out the scheme of dispersal of offices from Delhi. So, this is a very welcome thing.

I support this Bill.

Shri A. M. Thomas: Some points which are relevant and some which are not relevant to the amending Bill have been raised in the course of the debate. Last year, a comprehensive Bill was introduced, and the Act of 1962 has been the result of that comprehensive legislation. I do not know whether my hon. friend Shri Sonavane took any interest in the discussion on that Bill at that time or has gone through this Bill, in which case perhaps he would not have raised the points that he has raised today.

The main object of the Central Warehousing Corporation is to establish warehouses in areas of all-India importance or in centres of all-India importance, whereas the State Warehousing Corporations are to locate warehouses in urban areas as well as in mofussil areas which are important from the point of view of the parti-

cular State. So, we have to take both the Central Warehousing Corporation and the State Warehousing Corporations together. It is not correct that the urban areas are alone intended to be covered. In fact, perhaps, some of the centres might be located in urban areas or in trade centres, because in order to attract business as well as for the disposal of the stocks from the point of view of the agriculturist, it may be better to have these centres in urban areas.

Shri Sonavane: That is the prime need.

Shri A. M. Thomas: So, it is not correct that we are not having in mind the benefit of the agriculturist or the peasant or the producer but only the benefit of the trader, and to say so would be a thorough misreading of the entire object of this legislation.

Shri Prabhat Kar raised a very relevant point in that, he has asked whether it would be at all advisable to shift this office of the Central Warehousing Corporation, since it has to function as part and parcel of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, and he said that proper directions would have to be given to this corporation by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture in regard to its functioning, and, therefore, it would be better to have the head office of the Central Warehousing Corporation also in a place where the Ministry is itself situated. In that regard, one thing has to be understood, namely that this is an autonomous corporation. Of course, the corporation would be functioning within the framework of the general policy of the Government of India. But that does not mean that it has to function as part and parcel of the Ministry. It is not intended also that it should function as part and parcel of the Ministry, if at all it can only be said that it is a subordinate office which functions under the auspices of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, but actually it is an autonomous corporation. So, I do not think that there is

[Shri A. M. Thomas]

much weight in the argument of my hon. friend that the headquarters of this corporation should also be situated in New Delhi.

Shri S. M. Banerjee said that after all, this was a small office and the number of persons who would have to be shifted would not be very great. The same can be said of every office. We cannot shift the office of the Ministry concerned but only of some subordinate offices. Time and again, the Works, Housing and Supply Ministry had been taken to task in the form of questions and other suggestions on the floor of this House that in spite of the proclaimed objective of dispersal of some of the offices from Delhi, nothing was being done. That is the charge which has been made. So, it is advisable that some offices should go from Delhi. I think my hon. friend Shri K. N. Tiwary has taken the very correct stand that it is not advisable that all offices which can perhaps with advantage be situated in other areas should be located in Delhi. Moreover, the complaint is that Delhi is becoming more and more crowded every day. So, I do not think that there is much in the argument of my hon. friend.

Of course, some arguments have been advanced from the point of view of the employees. It has been stated that it would be necessary to give, according to my hon. friend Shri Yashpal Singh, six months' notice to the employees, before an office is intended to be shifted to any other place or before it is actually shifted to any other place. To that, my answer is that, in the first place, an office is not going to be shifted every now and then. Of course, if an emergency happens, and the office has to be shifted, then there is no question of any notice. Otherwise, if an office is going to be shifted, the employees will certainly have sufficient notice of the shifting of it. In fact, take, for example, the proposed shifting of this office to Faridabad or Agra. If it is going to Faridabad, then, of course, a building has to be

constructed there, and other facilities also will have to be provided. That will have to be provided. That will naturally take much longer than the time proposed by my hon. friend Shri Yashpal Singh.

By way of addition to the amendment of Shri Yashpal Singh, Shri S. M. Banerjee has suggested that the salaries and allowances of the employees will have to be safeguarded even after they are shifted from Delhi. I would submit that at present the Central Warehousing Corporation pays its staff at headquarters pay in accordance with the scales as fixed by the Central Warehousing Corporation plus corresponding allowances at the same rate at which the Government pay to their employees. These emoluments include both pay and allowances. It would not be in accordance with rules to pay the same emoluments at different stations, because the rate of allowances varies from station to station. As regards the provision of accommodation, the Central Warehousing Corporation does not provide any accommodation to its employees at present.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: My point is only this. When I say that they should be paid the same allowances, what I mean is this. After all, they are Government servants, and the Centray Pay Commission has said.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. The Deputy Minister is not yielding. So, the hon. Member may resume his seat.

Shri A. M. Thomas: The other point raised by Shri S. M. Banerjee was raised also in the course of the debate on the 1962 Bill. Then, I gave the answer that the pay scales of the employees of the head office of the Corporation were revised during the year 1962, and retrospective effect to the new pay scales was given from 1st July, 1959, in accordance with the Central Civil Services (Revised Pay) Rules, 1960. The pay scales of the centrally recruited staff at the warehouses were also revised on the same basis, and

they were given the benefit of dear-ness allowance and other allowances at the Central rates from 1st July, 1959. Of course, the question of revising the pay scales of other field staff, following the revision of the pay scales by the various State Governments is still under examination, and whatever possible would certainly be done.

Now, I would say a word about the progress of the Central Warehousing Corporation. Although it is not quite pertinent to the present Bill, since that point has been raised, I may say that in recent times, the Central Warehousing Corporation has made considerable progress. The accounts for 1962-63 are being finalised, and the estimated gross income is expected to be about Rs. 20 lakhs; the storage charge itself would come to about Rs. 18 or 19 lakhs. In the previous year, it was only Rs. 16 lakhs. The loss also is progressively diminishing. It is expected that the corporation will be self-supporting by the end of the Third Five Year Plan. In fact, we are proceeding in that direction. The total number of warehouses now comes to 78, out of which 11 warehouses have been constructed by the Central Warehousing Corporation, and 67 are in hired godowns. The total storage capacity now is 1,84,726 tons. I understand that the advances on these warehouse receipts, both Centre and State, have gone even upto Rs. 12 crores. We are not yet satisfied with the progress, but the progress achieved in recent years has been considerable, and I am sure in course of time the losses would be wiped off and we would be in a position to make some profit also.

Shri Sonavane was asking why we should not construct warehouses instead of hiring them. Of course, in our scheme of things, there is a construction programme. But in certain centres we have to test whether it would be desirable to have them, and so it is better to start by hiring a godown there. If found profitable and desirable, we would think of constructing godowns in that particular centre.

These are some of the points raised. Some of the points were not quite relevant. But during the discussion of The 1962 Bill there was a full-dress debate, a very useful debate, taking a whole day. I think Government and the Central Warehousing Corporation have benefited by that discussion. We are ourselves taking steps to see that the Corporation is made as useful a body as possible.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill to amend the Warehousing Corporations Act, 1962, be taken into consideration".

The motion was adopted

Clause 2 (Amendment of section 3)

Shri Yashpal Singh: I beg to move:

Page 1, —after line 8, add—

'(ii) To sub-section (2) of section 3, the following proviso shall be added, namely:—

"Provided that whenever the head-office is shifted from one place to another, at least six months' notice shall be given to the employees of the Corporation." (1).

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I beg to move:

Page 1, —after line 8, add—

'(ii) To sub-section (2) of section 3, the following proviso shall be added, namely:—

"Provided that whenever the head-office is shifted from one place to another, at least six months' notice shall be given to the employees of the Corporation, their total emoluments protected and they shall be provided accommodation." (2).

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: These amendments are before the House. Is the Minister accepting them?

Shri A. M. Thomas: No, I have already said it is not possible to accept them.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I shall now put amendment No. 1 to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I shall now put amendment No. 2 to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

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

Shri A. M. Thomas: I move:

"That the Bill be passed".

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill be passed".

Dr. M. S. Aney (Nagpur): What is the approximate cost that may be incurred initially in building warehouses?

Shri A. M. Thomas: The total construction, as I have said, is only 46,600 ton capacity out of the 184,726 tons capacity that we have got.

Shri Priya Gupta: What is the total rent paid up-to-date for hiding warehouses *vis-a-vis* the floor space and volume?

Shri A. M. Thomas: I am not in a position to give the information now.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed".

The motion was adopted.

14.24 hrs.

CUSTOMS AND CENTRAL EXCISES (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): I beg to move:

"That the Bill to amend the Customs Act, 1962 and further to amend the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944, be taken into consideration."

The purpose of this Bill is simple. At present, Customs duty is leviable on goods imported or exported by the Central Government. Similarly, Central Excise duty is also leviable on goods produced or manufactured by the Central Government. However, goods which are imported or exported, or produced or manufactured, by a State Government, are exempt from Customs or Central Excise duties, as the case may be, unless they are used for the purposes of a trade or business. This Bill proposes to provide for the levy of Customs and Central Excise duties on goods on a uniform basis irrespective of whether they belong to the Central Government or a State Government.

The exemption in favour of State Government is of quite recent origin. Prior to 1951, goods imported or exported, or produced or manufactured, by a State Government were liable to duty. However, in 1951 a provision was made for charging to duty only goods used for the purposes of a trade or business. This was done on a limited interpretation of Article 289 of the Constitution, which provides that the property of a State (except such goods as are used for purposes of a trade or business) shall be exempt from Union taxation. This was done in order to remain outside the scope of any possible controversy.

Our experience during the last few years has been that apart from loss of revenue these exemptions in favour

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.