

provision of the Act particularly in the present situation when we have to check evasion, when we have to find out the undisclosed assets. This particular sub-section (c) refers to undisclosed assets. Unless we have this power, any detection of undisclosed assets which may have been the result of evaded taxes, will be very much difficult. But I can assure the House that the intention is being literally carried out that searches are not made in the briefs of lawyers or doctors. But certainly when a definite information is that they have large and undisclosed assets either in money or in some other form or accounts leading to the detection of those assets, in any profession, whether they are businessmen or lawyers or doctors, then the searches will be made and not otherwise.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I shall now put amendment No. 40 to the vote of the House.

Amendment No. 40 was put and negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 36 stand part of the Bill"

The motion was adopted.

Clause 36 was added to the Bill.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That clauses 37 to 41 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 37 to 41 were added to the Bill.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

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

Shri B. R. Bhagat: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed".

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed"

Shri Narendra Singh Mahida: There is no quorum in the House.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The bell is being run....Now there is quorum. The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed"

The motion was adopted.

The Bill, as amended, was passed.

14.50 hrs.

STANDARDS OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1956, be taken into consideration."

Sir, the Act when it was passed in 1956, defined the various standard units on the basis of the definitions prescribed for international adoption by the General Conferences on Weights and Measures. These general Conferences are held under an international agreement called the 'Metre Convention'. One of its functions is to lay down definitions of the various units of weights and measures for international use in science, technology and meteorology. These definitions are adopted by all signatory countries in their laws relating to weights and measures. India has signed the 'Metric Convention'. We have, therefore,

[Shri S. V. Ramaswamy]

based the Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1956, on the international definitions.

This Act defines the units of length, volume, mass, time, electric current, temperature, etc.

It defines the metre as meaning the distance at zero degree centigrade and under normal atmospheric pressure between the axes of two median lines traced on the platinum-iridium bar deposited at the International Bureau of Weights and Measures and declared international prototype of the metre by the First General Conference of Weights and Measures.

The Eleventh General Conference on Weights and Measures held in October 1960 recommended a radical change in the definition of the metre. The Government of India was represented at the Conference by the late Prof. K. S. Krishnan, Director, National Physical Laboratory. The new definition of the metre accepted by the Eleventh General Conference is based on the wave-length of the radiation of the Krypton isotope. The new definition which is now included in the Bill enables the metre to be defined in terms of a natural physical constant rather than a physical sample as done so far.

The new definition also enables measurements to be made more accurately than could be done under the previous definition. This is in keeping with the new and accurate techniques of measurements that are being evolved in the world for various scientific and technological purposes.

As a result of this new definition the certification of the national prototype in terms of the international prototype also has to be done in a different manner. The change in sub-section (2) of section 3 takes care of this point.

The Eleventh General Conference on Weights and Measures also suggest-

ed a minor change in the definition of the second, which is the unit of time. The present definition as given in sub-section (2) of section 5, is now being defined more accurately by extending its accuracy to one more place of decimal. This higher accuracy is required for scientific purposes. Sub-section (2) of section 5 is, therefore, being amended to give a more accurate definition of the second.

The Ministry of Defence proposed that the 'nautical mile' should be recognised by law as a unit of distance in navigation by air and sea. Even in countries which have adopted the metric system of weights and measures, the nautical mile is used as the unit of distance in navigation. It is, therefore, proposed, as suggested by the Defence Ministry, to provide that the 'nautical mile' which is equal to 1852 metres may be used as a unit of distance for navigation by sea or air.

In view of the requirements of science and the international acceptance of the definitions, it is submitted that this House may consider and pass the Amendment Bill.

"It is a small, non-controversial Bill. Sir, I move.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1956, be taken into consideration."

Shri Narendra Singh Mahida (Anand): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I welcome this measure which is a way towards one world. All international States have agreed to bring about controversial measures like weights and measures, and we certainly welcome the action on the part of our Government towards this move of unifying the world.

But my contention is that sometimes standards of weights and measures introduced are not understood in our villages. We have made changes in our standards in weights which are not much understood in

our rural areas. The same is the case about the metre. I am not sure whether many Members will understand the difference between a yard and a metre.

These are my suggestions to the hon. Minister that our farmers may not lose by way of these changes in sale of their crop or in the purchase of cloth etc. This measure may be popularised—standards of weights etc. which are laid down in the country—by way of education, by way of publications, by way of radio announcements and frequently in newspapers also. My humble suggestion is that our new standards of weights and measures may be made easily available and more easily known to our farmers and labourers.

श्री यु० सि० चौधरी (महेन्द्रगढ़) :
उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, जहां तक इस संशोधन का सम्बन्ध है, उस के बारे में किसी की दो रायें नहीं हैं, लेकिन मूल कानून के बारे में जो शिकायतें हैं, उनका जिक्र करना सामयिक होगा।

उस कानून को पास हुए लगभग छः-सात साल हुए हैं, जिसके द्वारा हजारों साल से चली आ रही माप-तोल की प्रणाली में परिवर्तन करके किलोग्राम, मीटर और क्विंटल आदि को प्रचलित किया गया। किन परिस्थितियों में यह परिवर्तन किया गया, इस समय यह बहुत बहस का विषय नहीं है। न ही वह संशोधन का विषय है, जो कि इस समय सदन के सामने लाया गया है। परन्तु इस सम्बन्ध में एक गम्भीर बात यह है कि देश की बहुसंख्यक जनता को, जो कि देहात में रहती है और जो देश की आबादी का अस्सी प्रतिशत भाग है, इस बात का एक प्रतिशत भी ज्ञान नहीं है कि जो नया परिवर्तन किया गया है, उसका स्वरूप क्या है।

सरकार तो शायद इस सम्बन्ध में अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सम्मेलनों के साथ अपना ताल-मेल करने के लिए सरकारों दफ्तरों में और उस के

बाद इस सदन में बैठ कर कोई निर्णय ले लेती है और फिर उन को कानूनी किताबों में क्रियान्वित करने की कं शिश करती है। लेकिन एक बात सत्य है कि ये सब बातें देहात में किसी रूप में नहीं पहुंची हैं। अभी तक वहां पर लोग मन, मेर, छटाक में काम करते हैं। मंडियों में नये बाटों के कारण लोगों को लूटा जाता है। माननीय सदस्य, श्री बनर्जी ने भी इस का उदाहरण दिया है। हमारे देहात में तो पत्थर के बाट चलते हैं, लेकिन यहां पर अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय बातों का जिक्र किया जाता है।

सरकार अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय प्रणाली को अपनाते के लिए जो काम कर रही है, वह करे। उस का हम स्वागत करते हैं। लेकिन सरकार का कम से कम यह कर्तव्य है कि इस तरह के कानून बनाने से पहले वह ऐसे कदम उठाये, जिस से वे हजारों लोग इस नई प्रणाली से परिचित हों, जिन का सम्बन्ध नित्य-प्रति लेन-देन और व्यापार आदि से है। हम देखते हैं कि इस बारे में पोस्टर अंग्रेजी में छाप कर देहात में भेजे जाते हैं। पिछले दिनों की बात है कि पंजाब में एक पंचायत समिति के दफ्तर में मैं ने देखा कि नये बाटों के बारे में जो पोस्टर लगे हुए हैं, वे सब अंग्रेजी में हैं। सरकार और मंत्री महोदय की ओर से कहा जायेगा कि इस अमेंडमेंट के सम्बन्ध में इन बातों को क्यों लाया जा रहा है। लेकिन मैं निवेदन करता चाहता हूं कि ये मूलभूत बातें हैं। जिन लोगों पर यह कानून और वह परिवर्तन लागू होना है, अगर वे इन को नहीं समझ सकेंगे तो उन को अवश्य ही बहुत परेशानी और नुकसान होगा। किसान जब अनाज की गाड़ी भर कर मंडी में जाता है, तो इस हेर-फेर को न समझ सकने के कारण, इस विषय में अपने अज्ञान के कारण, उस को कितना नुकसान उठाना पड़ता है, उस का कुछ भी अन्दाजा यहां बैठे हुए महापुरुषों, या जरा आगे बैठे हुए उन के नुमायंदों, के दिमाग में नहीं है। सैक्रेटरीएट्स के अन्दर

[श्री यु० सि० चौधरी]

15 hrs.

बैठ कर दुनिया भर के नये नये कानून आप बनाते जाते हैं, उनको बना करके किताबों के अन्दर आप रखते जाते हैं, किताबों की शकल उनको आप देते जाते हैं और उनको लोगों के ऊपर आप थोपते जाते हैं दिना उनको बताये हुए कि लोगों को क्या करना है, बिना लोगों को इन चीजों के बारे में शिक्षित किये हुए। देहातों में ग्रस्ती प्रतिशत लोग देश के रहते हैं। बड़ा दुर्भाग्य हमारा यह है कि सरकार इसके प्रति जो उसकी जिम्मेवारी है, उसको समझती नहीं है। लोगों को इन कानूनों के बारे में एजुकेट करने की सरकार की जिम्मेवारी है, सरकार की जिम्मेवारी है कि वह जिस तरह से भी हो सके, उनको यह बताये कि सैकड़ों बरस से सेर, छटांक, मील वगैरह का जो सिलसिला था उसको समाप्त किया गया है और उसकी जगह हम ने यह चीज चलाई है और यह इस तरह से है और इससे ये-ये लाभ हैं। मंत्री महोदय को खुद का भी तजुर्बा होगा और वह खुद भी गांवों में जा कर लोगों से पूछ सकते हैं कि इस प्रकार के जितने भी परिवर्तन अब तक देश के अन्दर हो चुके हैं उनके बारे में देहातों की 99 प्रतिशत जनता अनभिज्ञ है। उन्होंने भी देखा होगा, देहाती लोग जिस किसी चीज का भी भाव पूछते हैं तो सेरों के भाव पर उन चीजों के भाव बतलाये जाते हैं, क्विटल और किलो की बात कोई नहीं करता है। उन लोगों के दिमागों में यह बात अभी तक बिल्कुल भी नहीं आई है। राम भरोसे, भगवान भरोसे वे लोग चलते जाते हैं। जितना तोल कर उनको दे दिया जाता है या जितना उनको मिल जाता है उसको ले कर वे चुपचाप घर चले जाते हैं। इस हेर फेर में जो बहुत अक्लमन्द आदमी हैं वे तो फायदा उठा सकते हैं परन्तु बाकी जो सीधे-सादे आदमी हैं, जो अशिक्षित आदमी हैं, ग्रस्ती परसेंट, उनके दुखदर्द को सुनने वाला कोई नहीं है।

आप अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय वादों को निवटाने के लिए, उनको पूरा करने के लिए यह संशोधन यहां ला रहे हैं जिसका मैं स्वागत करता हूं। लेकिन साथ साथ कम से कम कोई ऐसा तरीका भी आप अपनायें जिससे लोगों को सारी की सारी बातों का ज्ञान हो सके। खाली अंग्रेजी पोस्टर लगा देने से कोई फायदा नहीं होगा। आज सबेरे भी इस अंग्रेजी वाली बात को ले कर काफी झगड़ा चला था। यह जो सारी की सारी चीज है इसके बारे में प्रान्तीय भाषाओं में पोस्टर आप निकाल सकते हैं, कोई दूसरा तरीका अपना सकते हैं, सस्पेंच के जरिये लोगों को शिक्षित कर सकते हैं, पंचायतों की इस मामले में सहायता ले सकते हैं ग्राम सेवक को आप यह काम सांप सकते हैं, उसके जिम्मे यह काम लगा सकते हैं कि वह या कोई और लोगों को बताये कि सैकड़ों सालों से जो चीज चल रही थी, उस में अब ये-ये परिवर्तन हो चुके हैं और उनको ये-ये चीजें अपनाना हैं और इस तरह से काम करना है।

दूसरा तरीका लोगों को समझाने का डाकु-मैटरी फिल्म के जरिये अपनाया जा सकता है। डाकुमैटरी फिल्म की भाषा उस प्रान्त विशेष की भाषा होनी चाहिये। खाली प्रान्तीय भाषा ही नहीं होनी चाहिये बल्कि एक प्रान्त के अन्दर भी अलग-अलग हिस्सों में अलग-अलग भाषायें हो सकती हैं और उन भाषाओं में इन डाकु-मैटरीज को दिखालाया जा सकता है। आप पंजाब का ही लें। ऊपर के पंजाब में पंजाबी बोली जाती है जबकि हरियाना में हिन्दी बोली जाती है। आप इन भाषाओं के अन्दर बड़ी सरल, सुबोध और सुन्दर ढंग से डाकुमैटरीज फिल्म्स बना कर लोगों को दिखा सकते हैं, शाम के वक्त दिखा सकते हैं। इस फिल्म में कोई आदमी दूकान पर जा रहा दिखाया जा सकता है और वहां पर उसकी तथा दूकानदार की बातचीत या इस तरह की और कोई चीज नाटक के रूप में आप दिखा

सकते हैं। सीधी सड़ी भाषा में आप भोली भाली गांवों की जनता को, गांव के किसान को, सारी चीज समझा सकते हैं। एक बार नहीं दो बार नहीं बीस बीस बार उस डाकु-मैटरी को आप उसे दिखा सकते हैं। इसका कुछ तो अच्छा असर उस पर पड़ेगा। यही पर्याप्त नहीं है। रेडियो से भी इसके बारे में प्रचार कार्य किया जा सकता है। रेडियो पर भी देहाती प्रोग्राम होते हैं और उनके द्वारा भी इन सारे परिवर्तनों का ज्ञान आप गांव वालों को करा सकते हैं। जब आपने ये सब तथा दूसरे काम किये तब कही जा कर देहात का अनपढ़, अशिक्षित आदमी सारे के सारे परिवर्तनों को अगर समझ नहीं पायेगा तो कम से कम उसके दिमाग में सारी बात तो आयेगी और जब वह मंडी में जायेगा या शहर जायेगा तो इतना तो समझ ही गया होगा कि उसको चौकन्ना होना चाहिये इस हिसाब किताब के सिलसिले में। ये जो नए परिवर्तन हैं ये अभी तक पढ़े लिखों की समझ में भी नहीं आये हैं तो उस अनपढ़ की समझ में कैसे आ सकते हैं। लेकिन इस सब प्रचार कार्य का एक लाभ तो होगा कि वह चौकन्ना हो जाएगा और शहर में या मंडी में जो बात उसको एक बार कही जाएगी उस पर एक दम से भरोसा न करके एक दो बार वह उस पर सोचने का प्रयत्न तो करेगा, अपने किसी साथी से उसके बारे में तसल्ली तो कर लेगा, गांव में वापिस आ कर किसी शिक्षित आदमी से पूछ कर अपनी तसल्ली तो कर लेगा और अगर उसको किसी तरह से ठग लिया गया होगा तो अगली बार जब वह शहर में दुबारा जाएगा तब और भी चौकन्ना वह रहेगा। इस प्रकार के प्रचार से कम से कम उसके मन में संशय भी आना तो आयेगी, उसके मन में यह सन्देह तो होने लगेगा कि जो कुछ हो रहा है, उस में गड़बड़ भी हो सकती है। आज तो हालत बिल्कुल विपरीत है। लोग जाते हैं, उनके साथ मनमाने ढंग से ठगी की जाती है, लूटपन की बात चलती रहती है।

मैं इस संशोधक विधेयक का स्वागत तो करता हूं और आप इसको बड़े मौक से लायें मेरा कोई विरोध नहीं है। लेकिन विरोध सारा का सारा उस बात के साथ है जो कि इस तरह के विधेयकों को लागू करने के बाद होती है। उसके बाद संशय पैदा होने लगता है, ऊलजलूल की स्थिति पैदा हो जाती है सारी समस्या उसी सूरत में सुलझ सकती है जब सारे मामले के बारे में पूरी तरह से लोगों को शिक्षित किया जाए, लोगों को पूरी तरह से समझाया जाए और इस काम के लिए जो भी तरीके हैं, उनको अपनाया जाए। दो तीन तरीके मैंने बताये जिन को मैं फिर से दोहरा देता हूं। रेडियो के जरिये आप लोगों को समझा सकते हैं, देहाती प्रोग्रामों में गोष्ठियां आदि कर लोगों की भाषा के अन्दर आप उनको जानकारी दे सकते हैं, डाकुमैटरी फिल्में क्षेत्रीय भाषाओं में आप बना सकते हैं और सुन्दर ढंग से उनको आप सारी चीज समझा सकते हैं। जब तक इन तरीकों को नहीं अपनाया जाएगा तब तक सरकार का नाम लेते लेते हम रोते ही रहेंगे और डींग मारने से कोई लाभ नहीं होगा। बिना लोगों को इन परिवर्तनों से परिचित कराये हुए इस तरह के बिलों का क्या आप अचार डालेंगे? देहात के अनपढ़ लोगों को जब वे शहरों में जायें, उनको भी इंसाफ और याय मिलना चाहिये। वह इस तरह से नहीं मिल सकता है। इसके लिए यह जरूरी है कि उनको शिक्षित करने के लिए जितने भी साधन हैं, वे अपनाये जायें।

इन शब्दों के साथ इन संशोधनों का मैं स्वागत करता हूं।

Shri H. N. Mukerjee (Calcutta Central): I have a feeling that my friend the Minister has brought up this measure to give the House some relaxation because I find from the Order Paper that this measure is sandwiched between some rather complicated and contentious financial measures sponsored by my friend Shri T. T. Krishna-

[Shri H. N. Mukerjee]

machari, and possibly to give us some relaxation, we have had the pleasure of this Bill being brought up before us.

I bow to the superior wisdom of my hon. friend the Minister who has on his part imbibed his wisdom from the Eleventh General International Conference of Weights and Measures—it sounds highly respectable—and we have no other go than just to say 'Yes' to what the Minister wants us to do.

It reminds me, however, of how in certain regards, perhaps at the very highest level, science and mythology come very near each other, because we here laymen and knowing nothing at all about the kind of scientific knowledge which is incorporated here are having to say 'Yes' or 'No'; when you, Sir, will call upon us to say 'Aye' or 'No' when this measure is going to be put to vote. I am reminded of what used to happen in the mediaeval period when in Western Christianity some monks would raise some particularly complicated question, and one very favourite problem seemed to have been 'How many angels can dance on the point of a needle?', and if you made a mistake in your answer, you took the risk of being excommunicated or even perhaps burnt at the stake.

In this Bill, we are given very detectable information, for instance that 'a second' means $1/31,556,925.9747$ of the length of the tropical year for 1900 and so on and so forth. We have to say 'Yes' to Shri S. V. Ramaswamy as well as to the International Conference of Weights and Measures, and we do so very willingly. I can assure him that we do so very willingly, but I can assure him also that I do not agree to certain of the things said by my hon. friends who spoke before me, because they took up the argument that since a majority of our people being backward are ignorant of what is going on in the great wide

world outside, since most of our people are not aware of the niceties of the new weights and measures system which we have got, perhaps it is advisable to go back—they did not quite suggest it in so many words—...

Shri Y. S. Chaudhary: No, no. We did not say so.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: I said in fairness that they did not suggest that we should go back, but the first speaker, Shri Narendra Singh Mahida gave me an impression that possibly he would be happy if we reverted to the idea of seers and all the other old measurement units which we had got. I know they have told us how these new standards should be popularised properly so that everybody would know. I support that idea. That is very important because so many poor people are cheated of their rights because I am sure they do not know what these weights and measures are, and the trading community being what they are, generally speaking, apart from exceptions—they have come in for so many things to be said against them in connection with the legislation brought forward by Shri T. T. Krishnamachari—the trading community at different levels being what they are, there is a continuous propensity to cheat our common people who do not know of these peculiar complications. So, I entirely support the idea that the new standard of weights and measures should be popularised properly so that everybody in the country gets to know it and accepts it because it is far and away an improvement on the old situation. It is no good having obscurantist illusions that because we have been used for many hundreds of years to a different kind of standards of measures and weights, we can continue with that process; we cannot; if we have to live in this new changing world, and if we have to carry on in the economic sense then we have to have these new weights and measures.

(Amendment) Bill

But finding this definition of the 'second', about which I hope my esteemed friend, Dr. Aney, would also have something to say, because he has such a wide knowledge of the old Hindu reckoning of *yugas*, *Kritis*, *muhurtas*, *ghatis*, *nadis* and so forth—all that he knows; so I would like to hear a few things from him just for the purpose of some little relaxation between Shri Krishnamachari's contentious measures—I was driven by this definition of the 'second' to a very cursory study, I am afraid, of Mahamahopadhaya P. V. Kane's monumental study of the *Dharmasastra*, and there I found something which impels me to make a suggestion to the hon. Minister so that through our National Physical Laboratory experts and other people as well as the international organisation, India might conceivably take some steps in this regard. The point I am making, for whatever it is worth,—because I am no expert in this matter—is that the seven day week which we have got corresponds to no astronomical or celestial phenomenon, and there have been periods in history and countries in the world where the seven day week has not been the rule. I am quoting from Mahamahopadhaya Kane's book. He writes:

"The Mexicans had a week of five days before the Spanish conquest. The seven days week prevailed among Jews, Babylonians and the Incas of South America. The Romans had a week of eight days in Republican times, while the Egyptians and ancient Athenians had a week of ten days."

If I remember aright, perhaps during a phase of the French Revolution, they had a period of ten days rather than a week of seven days.

"In the Old testament God is said to have gone on with the work of creation for six days, to have rested on the seventh and to have blessed it and sanctified it".

So the seven day week came into the picture and we also for our own reasons, for our own calculations have adopted the seven day week. But I have a feeling that perhaps now that we have got the decimal system in so many departments in regard to measures and all that, it should not militate against what is scientific, objective reality. Perhaps it is not inconceivable that a ten-day period could be looked upon as a more convenient and manageable week so that we could rearrange our months and days. If I may put it in a different way, it would be more scientific and more objective.

We say 'amen' to this Bill, because we cannot say anything else. But I do wish that further thought is given to the recasting of the entire matter. Possibly the naming of the days also could be changed. After all, during the French Revolution, because of the wave of fresh air exhilarating the people at that time, they changed the names of the days and changed the names of the months. November, for example, became Brumaire. That was how they wanted to change the whole order so that the new order would really be stressed by our everyday experiences.

So I do not know if, going the way in which we are doing by way of standardisation of weights and measures in regard to time as well as in regard to everything else, perhaps we cannot find out ways and means of having a better and more reasonable recasting of our measurements, and in that perhaps my suggestion, if it is thought to be scientifically at all tenable by this international body, might merit consideration. In any case, the Bill has my complete support.

श्री श्रीकार लाल बेरवा (कोटा) :
उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मुझे इस बिल के सम्बन्ध में थोड़े से सुझाव देने हैं। वैसे ठीक है, सरकार जैसे भी नाप तोल चलायेगी, वह प्रजा को मानना ही पड़ेगा। लेकिन अफसोस इस बात

[श्री श्रींकार लाल बैरवा]

का है कि अंग्रेजों ने इतने साल यहां पर शासन किया, अगर इन में कोई सुविधा होती तो अंग्रेज ही इस को यहां क्यों न लाते। उन के लिये इस को करने में कोई अड़चन नहीं थी। यह कौन सी आजादी है कि खाना भी विदेशों का, बोली भी विदेशों की, कानून भी विदेशों का, दूध भी विदेशों का और नाप तोल भी विदेशों की। हमारे देश की क्या कोई भी चीज अच्छी नहीं है।

अभी हमारे श्री मुकर्जी ने कहा कि दस दिन का सप्ताह होना चाहिये। उन्होंने न जाने कहाँ कहाँ के, रोम के विलायत के और इंग्लैंड के उदाहरण दे दिये। अच्छा तो यह होता कि हिन्दुस्तान का कोई उदाहरण दे कर समझाया जाता कि हिन्दुस्तान में पहले यह उदाहरण था और इस तरह से सप्ताह माना जाता था और इस तरह से नाप तोल होती थी। लेकिन जिस तरह से इन्सान के अन्दर विदेशी भाषा का मोह आता चला गया, विदेशी अनाज आता चला गया, बाहर से सारा सामान आता चला गया, पहनावा आता चला गया, वैसे वैसे हमारे दिलों के अन्दर बेई-मानी और भ्रष्टाचार सब कुछ आता चला गया। उसी तरह से हम अपने यहां सारी नाप तोल वगैरह विदेशी लाते चले जा रहे हैं। जैसा अभी कहा गया गांवों के अन्दर कुछ दिन पहले पीतल की पाई होती थी, उस से भर कर दे देते थे, पाव, सवा पाव जो देना होता था। वह भी जमाना हम ने देखा है। अब हम ने यह नये सिद्धान्त अपना लिये हैं जो कि हमारे सिस्टम में फिट नहीं होते और साथ ही अपने सिस्टम में भी फिट नहीं होते। आप देखिये कि एक रुपये में सौ नए पैसे होते हैं और एक आने में 6 और दो आने में बारह पैसे होते हैं। अब अगर सोलह आने अलग अलग जगह से लिये जायें तो कुल 96 पैसे मिलेंगे। मोटरवाले को अगर पैसे दो तो वह कहता है कि रुपया दे दो। दो आने की चीज कोई कहीं बारह पैसे में

देता है कोई तेरह पैसे में देता है। मेरी समझ में नहीं आता कि आखिर यह कौन सी प्रणाली है जिस का कोई हिसाब ही ठीक नहीं बैठता। जिस तरह से हिन्दुस्तानियों पर अंग्रेजी थोपी जा रही है उसी तरह से यह नाप तोल की प्रणाली भी थोपी जा रही है।

इसलिए मेरा निवेदन है कि अगर इन्सान के दिल में कुछ सत्यता लानी है तो पहले सरकार को अपने अन्दर सत्यता लानी चाहिये। सरकार कोई विधेयक इस के बारे में पास करे और वह इन विधेयकों से अलाहदा चले। यह सारा शासन हिन्दुस्तानियों का है। और हिन्दुस्तानियों का ही रहेगा। इस लिये जो हमारी पुरानी प्रणाली है उसी को क्यों नहीं लागू किया जाता। जो बीस मील होता है वह कभी वाइस और कभी चौबीस मील बन जाता है, कोई 33 किलो मीटर बन जाता है। इस तरह से गांव वाले परेशान हो जाते हैं। कोई अफसर देहातों में आता है और पूछता है कि कौन से बांट तुम इस्तेमाल कर रहे हो और इस बहाने से किसानों के बांट उठा कर ले जाता है। वह कहता है कि तुम बेईमानी कर रहे हो, तुम पर 30 रु० जुर्माना। वहां पर कोई भी सरकारी आदमी चला जाये, किसी को कुछ नहीं मिलता तो यही लूटने का साधन मिल जाता है। दूकानदार लोग रोज परेशान हुआ करते हैं। गांव वाले भी इतने परेशान हैं जिस का ठिकाना नहीं है। मैंने कोटे स्टेशन का हथवाड़ा जा कर देखा वहां पर लोगों को कितनी परेशानी होती है। वह बेचारे कभी पुराने बांट ले कर आते हैं, और कभी कोई पत्थर के बांट रख लेते हैं। उन को सरकारी आदमी उठा लेते हैं और कहते हैं कि मीट्रिक प्रणाली के बांट लाओ। वह बेचारे कहाँ से मीट्रिक प्रणाली के बांट लायें। आप को चाहिये कि गांव-गांव के अन्दर पहले नई प्रणाली में लोगों को ट्रेन किया जाये ऐसा प्रबन्ध

(Amendment) Bill

करें उस के बाद इस प्रणाली को लाइये । लेकिन आप एक वम से इस को बदलते जा रहें हैं । आज गांवों के लोगों को समझ में नहीं आता कि सरकार का दिमाग फेल हो गया है या क्या हुआ है । वे सोचते हैं कि यह कैसी भ्रोजादी आई है कि सरकार सारी की सारी विदेशी चीजें हमारे ऊपर थोप रही है । मैं सरकार से कहना चाहता हूँ कि अगर उस को विदेशी चीजें ही लानी हैं तो फिर से विदेशी शासन लाइये और सारा साज सामान बाहर से लाइये और उस के बाद विदेशी परम्परा चलाइये । इससे तो अंग्रेज अच्छे थे जो कभी अंग्रेजी का नाम नहीं लेते थे । अंग्रेज कभी इन बातों का नाम नहीं लेते थे । उन्होंने कभी नहीं कहा कि किलोमीटर इस्तेमाल करो । उन्होंने कभी अमरीकी अनाज का नाम नहीं लिया, कभी डब्ले के दूध का नाम नहीं लिया । आज सारी चीजें विदेशों से आ रही हैं, यह देश का दुर्भाग्य है । सरकार देशी बाट चलाये तो बेहतर होगा । वह अंग्रेजी चीजों के चक्कर में हिन्दुस्तान को फंसा कर गांव वालों को बरबाद न करे ।

Shri D. C. Sharma (Gurdaspur): It was said by one hon. Member that this Bill has been sandwiched between two Bills of Shri Krishnamachari to give us some relaxation. I do not think it is like that. Whatever the merits of Mr. Krishnamachari's Bills may be, they are clear and intelligible and can be understood by him and also by the members of this House. But I think this Bill mystifies us. I do not think the hon. Minister who moved for its consideration understands every word of it. I do not think any Member of this House will understand anything of this Bill, and I do not think anybody in the Secretariat will be the wiser for the passing of this Bill. I think some sort of specialist will have to be called in in order to interpret this Bill and in order to give due consideration to this Bill.

So this Bill is there to show to us the extent of our ignorance, to

show to us the dimensions of our abysmal illiteracy. I hope that, while I confess to that kind of thing, the hon. Minister also will have the honesty to do so, today at least if not always.

It has been said that we should have everything swadeshi, everything Indian, the names of the months and everything should be Indian. I agree with that, but I want to ask one question: how many of those persons who want the names of the months to be Indian, know what Indian month is just now going on? We are in December, but very few of us know what the month is in terms of the Vikrami era. We know that we are living in 1964, but I do not know if many of our friends know what year of the Vikrami era we are passing through? Our Government introduced the Saka era, but I think that is to be seen only on the letterheads of the Government of India Secretariat and nowhere else. The Saka era no doubt is a step in the right direction, but the people have not taken to it fortunately or unfortunately.

I submit very respectfully that while we want these things to be Indian, while we love our country to the last drop of our blood, we also cannot say that India should remain isolated from the international currents and standards of life. The late Prime Minister projected us into the new age of science and technology, and I think that is one of his greatest services to our country, and this Bill also brings us in tune with the new age of science and technology.

Dr. H. N. Mukerjee, after having gone through the gruelling debate of the Wealth Tax Bill,.....

Shri Shashi Ranjan (Pupri): He is a professor like you, not Dr.

An Hon. Member: He is conferring a doctorate.

Shri D. C. Sharma: Every professor is a doctor, and every hon. Member is a doctor.

[Shri D. C. Sharma]

I was submitting that he made much of these figures 1|31,556,925,975 and 1|31,556,925.9747. I think they are like. "काला अक्षर भेस बराबर"

They are to us undecipherable mysteries, but they have some meaning somewhere, some meaning for scientists. The nautical mile may not mean anything to me, but it does to the person who does navigation on the seas and plies aeroplanes in the air. These things happen. I think if there is one country which does not conform to these international standards of weights and measures and volumes and lengths and all that kind of thing, it is China. I wish China remains as isolated politically as it is in these matters. But so far as my country is concerned, I want that it should be in harmony with international ways and means. I think this Bill brings us nearer to the goal of one world, and a day might come when these little things might add up to so much that one world may become a possibility, and that which is enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations may become possible.

Another point I want to make is this. Much has been said about the ignorance of the workers and farmers about these weights and measures. I do not want to join issue with my hon. friends. It is dangerous to do so. I think that they are by far and large right, but I want to put one question to you, and through you to the House. Of course, I know there are some documentaries, they are publishing journals in English and Hindi and all that kind of thing, and I know there are film songs also, which my hon. friend Shri Yashpal Singh may be knowing, which give us the decimal currencies in a very interesting way. So, all these things are being done, but I would ask the hon. Minister to do one thing for the good of all of us, and it is this. In certain universities of this country, in many schools of this country, in several educational

institutions of this country, text books have not been produced which give us the decimal coinage, which give us the new weights and measures. He will say that it is a problem for the Education Ministry. True, it may be a problem for any Ministry, I do not care for that, but I would say that in order that this thing may become accessible to all of us, available to all of us, in order that this thing may become common knowledge, in order that my friend Shri Berwa and Shri Yudhvir Singh Choudhury may not have to say that the farmers and the workers are being cheated by the traders—I think even if the farmers know these weights and measures, they will still be cheated, but I dare say . . .

Shri Y. S. Chaudhary: Because you are ruling the country.

Shri D. C. Sharma: They are being cheated more now than they would be cheated if they know these things. I would say that this new thing should be made available in the text books on arithmetic, on geography etc., which are being used in this country, in the text books on science and other subjects. I would say that in this matter, the Education Ministry and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry should work hand in hand.

Unfortunately, what happens is this, that our Ministries work in watertight compartments. This is what our Prime Minister also said. I do not want that these Ministries should remain isolated from each other. They should become co-partners in the same thing. Of course, they are co-partners in the same thing, I do not deny it, but somehow it so happens that what one Ministry does is not known to the other Ministry. Therefore, I would ask my hon. friend Shri Ramaswamy that he should be good enough to bring this point to the notice of the Education Ministry, that they should try to bring it home to the minds of the Directors of Education in this country, that the text books

should be so revised that they give us an idea of the new thing that we are doing.

With these words, I welcome this Bill, and I hope the Minister will be able to get hold of somebody in the Ministry who would understand all 'सुविधा-पद-संज्ञा' [all these fractions of time and all this kind of thing].

Dr. M. S. Aney (Nagpur): I have the same complaint to make as so many hon. friends who have supported the Bill, notwithstanding the fact that none of them has been able to understand it.

The greatest advantage of democracy and representative institutions is said to be that nothing is done in the name of the Government, without the knowledge of the people for whose benefit the government is run. Yet, that same Government has to do certain things which they themselves do not understand before they ask the people's representatives for their consent, and they come before them to have their consent.

I do not want to say anything more about that. Shri Ramaswamy is a very senior and genuine public worker. I am quite sure that I am in no way detracting from his merit when I say that he does not understand this definition of metre given in the new section (d), namely:

"metre" means the length equal to 1,650,763.73 wavelengths, in vacuum, of the radiation corresponding to the transition between the 2p and 5d5 levels of the krypton atom of mass 86;

I am sure to understand this, he must be a very great mathematician. When the House consists of lay men who are not experts, in such cases, before a measure of this kind is brought, there should be an attempt to get some expert to give us some idea, some conception of the thing which we are called upon to pass.

Some experts could have been brought to enlighten us as to what these technical terms mean. Two or three lectures could have been delivered, so that at least the representatives of the people could have some faint idea as to what it means. Otherwise, it is like God, which can neither be defined nor measured nor seen. It is some such thing that we are passing here.

There is a saying in Sanskrit:

अन्धेनैव नीयमानाः यथान्धाः

(One blind man leading other blind men.)

Neither the person who moves the Bill understands it nor the persons who are called upon to pass it understand it. It is true that we have to accept the international standard, but that international standard is as mysterious to us today as the idea of God as defined in Vedant is mysterious to the religious persons. It is an unknown, abstract idea. As Prof. Sharma has told us, we are living in this world and the idea of progress means being in line with the enlightened world and the civilised world. In order to be there, we have to take up their ideas. We cannot live isolated from them.

We accepted the decimal standards and we made some changes in our Acts. I want to tell my friends:

“पुराणम् इति एव न साधु सर्वम् न चापि
काव्यम् नवम् इति अवज्ञम्”

All that is old is not necessarily good and all that is new is not necessarily bad.

“संतः परीक्षय अन्यतरत् भजन्ते
मूढः परप्रत्येय नेयबुद्धिः”

Wise men examine the two things carefully and find out what is really advantageous for the present time. It is only a fool who is led by the opinion of others. So, we have to do some such intellectual exercise and find out what is advantageous to us.

When the currency question was under discussion, we accepted the

[Dr. M. S. Aney]

decimal system. The old system was rupees, annas and pice. 4 pice made an anna and 16 annas made a rupee. Under the decimal scheme, 5 nP. could make 1 anna and 20 annas could make 1 rupee. We could keep the old terminology and also have the advantage of the decimal system. But somehow or other, they do not want the anna anywhere. There should be an attempt to retain the old things if possible.

My idea is that there is need for the Government to carry on propaganda to have a clear understanding of all these new things which they are introducing in the legislation in order that people might understand it properly. Radio, television and all these new things have to be made use for this purpose to enlighten the people on these points, instead of telling some stories and some foreign tunes to which our ears are not attuned.

I support the Bill with the suggestion that simultaneously with getting the consent of the House, an attempt should be made by the Government to enlighten the people exactly as to what is the meaning of these things objectively. We are passing it subjectively here. But objectively what is the meaning of these terms? The people should be made to understand them with the help of experts who are at the disposal of Government. With these words, I support the Bill.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshangabad): Sir, the Bill before the House provides a fascinating exercise in the romantic world of figures and numbers—astronomical numbers—where one can give free rein to fancy and indulge the imagination. It is world of mysticism where physics and metaphysics merge, philosophy and science combine, to give a colourful new world to which only a few can have access. I wonder whether the Minister-in-charge, Mr. Ramaswamy, who has been a competent lawyer for many years, has cared to prepare for

the House an explanatory memorandum at least, even if he could not bring an expert here, as Dr. Aney wanted him to, explaining the various words incorporated in the Bill.

As it is, there is nothing in the Bill at all excepting the Statement of Objects and Reasons. There also, I find there has been an attempt to define the length by sea or by air. I do not know how this scientific slip has occurred and the Government or the Minister has tripped. I believe it is international tripping perhaps or slipping and so, we have to conform to international standards there also. It is said here:

"It is also proposed to recognise 'nautical mile' as a unit of length in navigation by sea or air on the basis of international practice."

I thought in the modern air age—we have progressed even further to the atomic age—air mile is known as aeronautical mile and not simply nautical mile. Nautical mile is for the sea, for water. For the air, it should be called aeronautical mile. I do not know what the international world has got to say about it. If the international world says it must be nautical mile, we have to conform to it willy-nilly. I suppose our Government also cannot depart, cannot be a deviationist; they have to be conformist in this regard.

In the earlier Bill which was passed in 1956, Government assumed power to prepare, for the purpose of defining the value of the metre, a national prototype of the metre and cause the same to be certified in terms of the international prototype of the metre. Now they have sought to delete that and substitute that by the International Bureau of Weights and Measures. Be that as it may, as the previous speakers, like Prof. Mukerjee, Dr. Aney and Prof. Sharma have already said, I think Government owe it to the House that some sort of explanation or description or clarifica-

cation of these various terms must be given to the House when Members ask for it.

Shri Nambiar (Tiruchirapalli): Why?

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: I have got the figures which I will explain outside the House. I cannot do it here. It is all metaphysics.

Then, there is another little thing here which baffles me. Sometimes questions of time are raised here in the House as to how much time a Member has taken and all that. And, you, Sir, allot the time for every Member as ten minutes, five minutes, three minutes or even two minutes. I think, in accordance with the Bill that is now before the House it should be regulated further and it should be fixed as so many minutes and so many seconds. The second should also be defined so that a Member may be able to point out to the Chair, if the need arises, that one— . . . th of a second still remains. And something like a micro-chronometer should be installed in the House so that we will also know whether we have exceeded our time limit by a second or less, which is now defined in this manner as part of the tropical year.

As I said earlier, metre, litre, second, etc., are all familiar terms. Now, by this Bill, I am afraid, there will be confusion worse compounded—not confounded. I am reminded of a story—not quite a story, but I think it was partly true—about a professor of chemistry—I was myself a student of chemistry and I had then heard it in the Presidency College, Madras—a true story from a reliable source—who was very devoted to his subject very much dedicated to his subject. He used to spend days and even nights in his laboratory trying to solve some problem or the other. He used to go home very very late sometimes at midnight, or after midnight and even early in the morning. He never bothered about his domestic affairs, his loving wife waiting for him all the time. One day it appears—that is how the story goes—he arrived

Take, for instance, "vacuum". I believe, Sir, you have been a student of science, though I am not sure of that. In clause 2, there is reference to wave-lengths in vacuum. When I was at college, I learnt that nature abhors vacuum. We too abhor a vacuum. We cannot function in vacuum. Nature too abhors vacuum. God has peopled vacuum with various things. Probably before God, there was vacuum. I do not know when there was vacuum at all. So, I do not know how wave-lengths or anything can be measured in vacuum. The Minister ought to explain how this vacuous provision has found a place in this Bill.

Then, Sir, I go on to clause 4. "Second", "metre" and all these things are very lovable. We knew them very affectionately and very intimately. Now they are sought to be defined in various ways. I do not know why this year, the year 1900, the tropical year, is so sacrosanct and how it differs from any other year. We have known a second as one-sixtieth of a minute or $1/3600$ of an hour. Here the definition given in relation to a year goes just to swell or inflate the figures. I think it comes to astronomical figures. The amendment sought to be made is that after the decimal point, instead of 975 which was there earlier—I do not know whether we are quite happy with that "second" or whether anybody has complained about it. If any complaint has been made to the International Bureau or the President or the Minister or to some other authority, I would be happy to learn more about it from the Minister—it should be altered to decimal point 9747. I would suggest a further amendment, that it should be decimal point 974652. That is my amendment. Of course, I have not given formal notice of this amendment but if the Chair is agreeable to waive that rule, I would like to move it now.

[Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath]

home very very late, just when the sun was about to rise, when the day was about to dawn. His wife was all in tears. The professor of chemistry just looked at her very casually and said: "What is it you are doing? What is it that is coming down from your eyes? People call it tears, but to me it is only 99 per cent water, about 0.8 per cent of sodium chloride and 0.2 per cent of some other salts. To me it makes no difference." I do not think we should indulge in this crime here. That is how the professor of chemistry tried to debunk the tears of his wife. This Bill reminds me of that episode. The Minister while bringing forward this Bill has sought to rob the intimate familiarity with which we regard litre, metre and second. Now we do not know where we stand. Now when we go to a shop, when we go shopping nowadays they do not deal yards or feet and therefore we ask for so many metres of cloth—we will have to arm ourselves with this Bill and ask the shopkeeper to see whether his metre conforms to this length. I suppose after passing this Bill, every shopkeeper would be obliged to see that the metre that he has got conforms to this, and we, particularly, Members of Parliament who are also charged with the responsibility of seeing that it is faithfully implemented by Government will also have the right, nay the duty, of checking in shops whether the metre used in the shops conforms to the standards laid down here. If it is not so, I would like to know what exactly the Minister has in mind and whether he can explain this kryptonomaton and such other things.

After this Bill was introduced there has been a corrigendum by the Minister—not by any of us Members here but by the Minister himself—saying that in line 10 of clause 2 of the Bill "2p" should be read as "2p10." God only knows what "2p10" means. This totally baffles human understanding. We will have to try and get some

divine understanding or *divyadrishti*. You know, Sir, in Kurukshetra, Dridharashtra could not see, he was blind and he wanted to see the war. Then Sanjaya was given *divyadrishti*. He could then see every thing from a distance and report. Nowadays we call it television. I do not know who in this Parliament of ours, in this capital city of ours, this India of ours, can confer on us this divine understanding to comprehend these mysteries of romantic numbers and figures which are in profuse abundance in this Bill. Unless the Minister can throw some light and make these mysteries, which are more baffling than the old kabala mysteries, or the pre-Upanishad mysteries of our own philosophy, unless he can make them more intelligible, we should not be called upon to vote on this Bill. This Bill should not be voted at all unless these are made intelligible. Therefore, I give partial support to this Bill—I cannot wholeheartedly support this Bill—and unless the Minister clarifies this further, I am afraid I will have to withdraw even that partial support later on.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): I think all the arguments of the lay people have been covered, especially after the weighty arguments of my hon. friend, Shri Kamath. This Bill is being brought forward because some decisions have been taken at the Eleventh General International Conference of Weights and Measures held at Paris in October 1960. Right from 1960 to 1964, even this year is practically over. I want to know what steps have been taken by Government to popularise this among the rural masses of our country, who form 75 per cent of the population of this country, before this legislation is implemented. I belong to a city; yet I do not understand this metre-litre business. In the olden days, when I was going to a tailor for making a pant or trouser I knew that I have to buy $1\frac{1}{2}$ yards of cloth. Now when I go to a tailor or a shop, he says so

(Amendment) Bill

kilogram and so on. That is the tragedy of this country.

much metre which is equivalent to so much yards and I do not know how much I am robbed, either by the shopkeeper or by the tailor in the case of metre. I am yet to understand them. In my opinion they are as difficult as the fourth dimension or the theory of relativity. It is awful. As Shri Choudhari has very correctly put it, what is the weight used in the villages? It is not the seer or a kilo. It is a stone of one seer and a few pebbles for chatangs. Just to convince the inspector or those people who go to arrest them, they buy certain measures for kilograms etc. But they always use the old stones. When we go to the vegetable market, what do we see? If we ask them to give us one kilogram they give us exactly one seer and a little more. It is the same whatever we purchase. So, we are in a difficult position.

I do not understand this policy of Government, what I call ignorant internationalism; without educating the masses they bring legislation after legislation. I am told that this Government has passed more legislation in ten years than what has been passed during the last hundred years put together.

15.52 hrs

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

Are we to be guided by the legislation alone or by the spirit behind the legislation?

An hon. Member: We cannot have planning without legislation.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: We can have planning, but people must understand them. Planning is good, but should people not understand them? Our people are immersed in ignorance, which is a sad commentary on our education policy and the implementation of our Plans. They do not understand any of our legislation. We are implementing various international decisions in the matter of metre, litre,

I would request the hon. Minister to kindly throw some light on what concrete steps have been taken by governmental machinery to popularise this thing before it is implemented. It may be passed today by this House, tomorrow by the other House and the next day it may be assented to by the President, when it becomes an Act. As Shri Kamath has very correctly put it, the Minister who pilots the Bill does not understand this, nor those people who speak in support of it. I do not know, Sir, whether you understand it. I am sure you understand it better.

Mr. Speaker: I must confess I do not.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Then it is confusion worst confound; that is all what I can say. The hon. Minister should throw some light on this law. This House should definitely know what steps are being taken to popularise this measure.

Mr. Speaker: Why should we go from this happy company? The hon. Member says that nobody understands it.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: That is my feeling. But I am told that when a Member becomes a Minister he becomes a versatile genius. So, I expect the Minister to know everything.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad (Bhagalpur): The note is prepared. He will read it out just now.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: We expect him to be a walking encyclopaedia. Therefore, let him explain the implications of this measure.

Shri Gauri Shankar Kakkar (Fatehpur): It has been really very interesting to hear the speeches for the last one hour. Hon. Members who have taken part in the debate have confessed that it is very difficult to follow the Bill and now I find the hon. Speaker is

[Shri Gauri Shanker Kakkar]

also in the same boat. I will only say one thing, that sometimes even without following the meaning we have to pay a tribute.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members should not carry it too far, because though we may say something here in a lighter mood, it might be quoted outside that the Members made these confessions. So, we ought to be careful.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: What is wrong in that confession? We do not understand.

Mr. Speaker: It will be said that we are passing a legislation without understanding it.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: But we should be honest.

तमसो भ्राज्योतिर्गमय : ।

Mr. Speaker: No, I did not mean that.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: Members are expecting that the Minister will make a speech which will enlighten all of them. That is why they are expressing their ignorance.

Shri Gauri Shankar Kakkar: After hearing this discussion I am reminded of a story. A father was preaching in a church and the comment was that the speech was moving, soothing and satisfying. What a tribute to that speech! The speech was moving in the sense that as soon as the father started preaching the sermon the members of the audience started moving. Then, it was soothing in the sense that those who were there to hear the sermon dozed off in their seats and, to that extent, it was soothing. Then, it was satisfying because even though people were fast-asleep the sermon went on.

In the same way, we have to accept this particular Bill which has come and pay a tribute to the Minister who has expounded it. But I have to say

one thing. All these changes in weight and decimal point are made without actually educating the masses with the result that these changes are leading to great exploitation of the masses at the hands of clever traders. Although seven years have passed since we changed over to the new weights and measures, I plead guilty to the charge that I am still ignorant of them—I do not know the difference between yard and metre and kilogram and set. When I go to a shop, I do not know whether they actually give it in metre and kilogram or they are actually cheating me. I am not mentioning this to show the ignorance on the part of a member of this House. I only want to point out that our Government are not making enough efforts to popularise the measures which they are undertaking. I fail to understand why you are making such fast changes. Even though seven years have passed since you have introduced some changes, even now the judicial records show only furlongs and miles. It is only seers and chattaks which actually are going in judicial records. Is it not a pity that having enacted a piece of legislation and put it on the statute book for 7, 8 or 10 years, the same old thing is still going on?

16 hrs.

In the end, for God's sake, if you come for legislating any measure, please do not be insulated from the world. I join hands with you. Try to promulgate and publicise the measure so that even the common citizen may learn what these changes are that you are actually resorting to. So far it has not even been changed into the text books. The primary school students are still having the old measures, chattaks, seers, maunds, furlongs and miles in their textbooks. There is lack of co-ordination between the various ministries and it is on account of that that ignorance is there and it leads to exploitation. That is why we are ourselves making

a sort of confession that these are things which we do not follow. It is only on account of measures which Government should adopt or resort to and which they are not doing that.

With these words, I also say that I support this amending Bill.

श्री यशपाल सिंह (कैराना): अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं बहुत देर से बहस को सुन रहा हूँ लेकिन मेरी समझ में नहीं आता कि सरकार ने क्यों ऐसा ठेका ले लिया कि जिस चीज को 44 करोड़ इन्सान समझ नहीं सकते, उसे क्यों यहाँ रायज किया जाये। माननीय डा० अण्णे, माननीय श्री कामत जैसे लोग कोई मामूली आदमी नहीं हैं, वे मुल्क के सेलेक्टेड ब्रेन्स हैं। जब उन की समझ में एक चीज नहीं आती तो वह मेरे जैसे मामूली आदमी की समझ में कैसे आ सकती है। सरकार को कौन सा वैधानिक अधिकार है कि जिस चीज को इतने ऊँचे लोग नहीं समझ सकते उसे अन्धे हो कर वह पास कर दे। आज इस सरकार ने यह ठेका ले रक्खा है कि जो कुछ हमारे देश के कल्चर में अच्छा है, उस को खत्म कर दिया जाये। इसी लिए उस की कोई प्लैनिंग कामयाब नहीं होती। योजनायें इस तरह की बनी हुई हैं, और उन को उस जबान में लिखा गया है जिस को हिन्दुस्तान की 1 फी सदी जनता, 1 फी सदी किसान और मजदूर भी समझते नहीं हैं। जब 1 फी सदी लोग भी नहीं समझते हैं तो तरक्की कैसे होगी, डबेलपमेंट कैसे होगा, डिफेंस कैसे होगा, देश कैसे आगे बढ़ेगा मैं समझता हूँ कि सरकार जो काम कर रही है उस से जनता का कोई फायदा नहीं है। मैं सरकार की या जनता की बात नहीं कहता आई० सी० एस० अफसरों की बात कहता हूँ जो कि कामर्स मिनिस्ट्री में बड़ी बड़ी काबिलियत के मालिक हैं, उच की बात कहता हूँ। मेरे पास 29 नवम्बर का अखबार है, टाइम्स आफ इंडिया न्यूज सर्विस की खबर है कि जिसको मैं कोट कर रहा हूँ :—

"New Delhi, November 29: The

Ministry of Commerce, which urges the trade and the public to switch over to the use of metric weights and measures, is itself still adhering to the old system.

In a release today on the increase in the production of cotton cloth and yarn, the Ministry has given the relevant figures in yards and pounds instead of metres and kilograms.

The Commerce Ministry is in sole charge of ensuring the change over from the old system to the metric system of weights and measures but strangely its own data continue to be supplied on the basis of the old system."

जिस चीज को आई० सी० एस० लोग नहीं समझते, जिस चीज को महान् विद्वान डा० अण्णे नहीं समझ सकते, जिस को श्री हरि विष्णु कामत जैसे मस्तिष्क वाले आदमी नहीं समझ सकते, उस को समझने का मेरे जैसा विद्यार्थी क्या दावा कर सकता है। यह तो ऐसी ही बात हो गई है जैसे कि एक गांव में एक मुंशी जी थे। वह खत लिखा करते थे। मेरे जैसा एक विद्यार्थी उन के पास चला गया और कहा कि यह खत लिख दो। मुंशी जी ने कहा कि मेरे पैर में दर्द है। उस विद्यार्थी ने कहा कि चिट्ठी लिखने का पैर से क्या ताल्लुक है। मुंशी जी ने कहा कि बात यह है कि मैं इतना पढ़ा लिखा हूँ कि अपना लिखा हुआ मैं ही पढ़ सकता हूँ और कोई नहीं पढ़ सकता है। जहाँ मेरा खत जाता है, वहाँ मुझे बुलाया जाता है। इसलिये मेरे पैर में दर्द हो रहा है।

मैं नहीं समझ पाता कि क्यों इस चीज को 44 करोड़ लोगों पर थोपा जा रहा है जिस चीज को बड़े बड़े मस्तिष्क नहीं समझ पाते। क्या आप ने ठेका ले रखा है कि सैकड़ों थोब से जो बांट गांवों में और शहरों में चल रहे हैं उन को खत्म कर के इन बाटों

[श्री यशपाल सिंह]

को लादा जाये। इससे कोई फायदा नहीं है। गीता में यह लिखा हुआ है।

“स्वधर्मो निधनम् श्रेयः परधर्मो भयावह” जो दूसरे के धर्म को ग्रहण करता है वह कभी जिन्दा नहीं रहता है। चीन ने आज इस लिये तरक्की की है कि उस के पास उसकी अपनी जबान है। उस के पास आज 47 लाख स्टील उस की जरूरियात से फालतू इसलिये पड़ा हुआ है कि उस ने 24 साल में यह कानून अपने यहां रायज किया कि अगर कोई दूसरे शब्द की जबान इस्तेमाल करेगा तो उसको जेल में डाला जायेगा उस देश का बच्चा बच्चा उस जबान को समझा न कि परदेशियों की जबान को। हमारी सरकार ने हमारे यहां पांच हजार मील दूर बनी हुई जबान को चलाने का ठेका ले रक्खा है। मैं मिनिस्टर साहब से अर्ज करूंगा कि इस में कोई प्रतिष्ठा की बात नहीं है। अगर अंग्रेजी बोलना ही काबिलियत है तो मैं मद्रास से 85 रु० माहवार पर ऐसा आदमी लादूंगा जो अंग्रेजी का माहिर होगा। लेकिन यह हमारे देश के लिये बड़े कलंक की बात है कि यहां वह चीज लाई जा रही है जिस को देश का ऊंचे से ऊंचा मस्तिष्क नहीं समझ सकता। आप यहां पर जिस तरह चाहें बहस कर लें लेकिन आप को कोई संवैधानिक अधिकार नहीं है कि आप एक ऐसी चीज यहां पर लाद दें जिसको को हम में से एक फी सदी एम० पी० भी नहीं समझते।

श्रीमती सहोदराबाई राय (दमोह): अध्यक्ष महोदय, जो विधेयक यहां पर आया है उसके बारे में मैं सिर्फ एक बात कहना चाहती हूं कि शहरों में तो यह बांट कुछ समझ में आने भी लगे हैं लेकिन देहात की जनता जो है उस को बड़ी परेशानी होती है। नाप भी जो चली है उस का उपयोग भी

शहरों में तो हो जाता है लेकिन गांवों में लोग उस को समझ नहीं पाते हैं। गांवों में पहले पीतल की कोरैया और चौथिया बांटों की जगह पर चलती थीं जिन से महिलायें अपना काम चला लिया करती थीं। वे बाजार जाती थीं और उन से ही सामान खरीद लिया करती थीं लेकिन अब उनको बड़ी दिक्कत होती है।

इस लिये मैं प्रार्थना करती हूं कि आप इस विधेयक में ऐसे संशोधन लायें और बांटों को इस्तेमाल करने के नियमों में ऐसे परिवर्तन लायें जिस से देहात की जनता को सुविधा हो जाये। इस में जो थोड़ी बहुत दिक्कतें हैं उन से जनता बहुत परेशान है इसलिये अगर इस में थोड़ी बहुत अदल बदल कर दी जाये तो बड़ा अच्छा हो।

Shri Subbaraman (Madurai): Mr. Speaker, Sir, many hon. Members have expressed the view that the amendments are not intelligible or understandable. I need not repeat that. But I would like to request the hon. Minister to make it clear why the metre should relate to a certain geographical place and second to a certain year only.

The Government brought in metric system of weights and measures some years back. It is good and in course of time the public will understand the usefulness and the benefit of this system. But in the transition stage a lot of difficulties are experienced by poor people, specially consumers and purchasers of things. Steps should be taken to see that the poor consumers are not deceived.

In the course of discussion one hon. Member attacked the Government by saying that we are adopting all foreign systems. I would like to point out that the decimal system was first introduced by India. Besides, there is no harm in adopting whatever is

good in other countries. When efforts are made to bring all countries closer, it is good that we adopt all international terms and units wherever possible.

In the sale of foodstuffs the Government have introduced the provision that grains should be sold in kilos, whereas actually we see merchants and traders giving them in litres. If grain is wet and swollen, a litre weighs less in quantity than a kilo. I would like that Government should prevent such sale of foodgrains in terms of litres when they are allowing it only by kilos.

With these few words, I support the Bill.

Shri N. Dandekar (Gonda): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I venture to participate in this debate because a little while ago, while I was in the Central Hall, I received information that this *Weights and Measures (Amendment) Bill* was encountering difficult opposition. I for one, as representing a free enterprise competitive economy, as most anxious that we must have standardised weights and measures; so, I thought, I would rush in here to the rescue of Government in the matter of this amending Bill.

Now, having come here, I took the trouble of reading this Bill and frankly speaking I was a little shaken. We have made here metaphysical expressions there is, in fact, admittedly something called krypton which is more cryptic than the metaphysical expressions to which we are accustomed to in *vedanta* literature. On seeing these definitions on metres and of second and so on, I am reminded of an story about how three experts, one American, one Frenchman and an Indian, were asked to define an elephant. The American, of course, obsessed with questions of strength and weight, described it as a large body self-propelling and having a weight, on an average, of so many tons and moving at such and such a speed. The French expert was rather more in-

terested in romantic affairs about the elephant and he described its love-line. But the Indian is the one who has apparently drafted this Bill and he said: What it is an elephant? Does it really exist? What does exist and further more what is non-existent? Now, that seems to be the kind of theories and definitions that are put down here.

I am also reminded of a definition of experts—obviously this is an effort of experts—an expert being defined as one who knows more and more about less and less until he knows nothing about anything. Having said all this, I am delighted to find that even this second is a subject-matter of definition which apparently requires a little more exactitude than 1/31,556,925·975 of the length of the tropical year for 1900·0, the year commencing at 12·00 hours universal time on the 1st day of January, 1900 to 1/31,556,925·9747. I am particularly delighted to find that we have a particular year 1900 as a measurement year and in particular a part of that year is defined as a second.

Sir, it did occur to me that when we are going all international, when we are all going decimal in the matter of coinage, lengths, measures, weights and even in the case of time, I wonder why in all the letters that I keep receiving from Government including the Lok Sabha Secretariat, I am given two dates on the top, one an international date expressed in terms of the calendar year and the date and another an ancient one—I am not quite clear how many hundred years old? If we really wish to go international, I would suggest that that particular measure of time and year and date, namely the Saka period, might as well by a suitable amendment of the Act be deleted.

With these words, I support the measure which I do not understand.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister.

Shri Nambiar: We cannot be all international. Our national heritage is to be put in print at the top.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Mr. Speaker, Sir, 13 hon. Members have spoken on this small Bill....

Mr. Speaker: Not a good number.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: We shall make it good and lucky number.

Shri Nambiar: He is the 14th man.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: So, that unlucky number is got over.

Sir, some hon. Members welcomed it fully because they understood the international significance of it.

Shri Nath Pai (Rajapur): Mr. Dandekar supported it because he did not understand anything of it.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Thank you even for that.

Some other hon. Members read the decimal figures and there was merriment and laughter in the House. Some hon. Members took this opportunity of saying that we are introducing foreign things and that we must have everything Indian. Now, by and large, the spirit of this Bill has been well-understood by the House, namely, in the light of the fact that this world is becoming much smaller day by day than what it was before. Thanks to the advancement of science and technology. All these things bring the nations of the world closer together towards an international understanding.

Now, this metric system is a thing which is gaining ground in the world and as the House is aware, the metric system is not an English concept as some hon. Members seem to have thought. It is a French system and the Britishers, when they were ruling here, opposed the introduction of it because it was a French system. My hon. friends say that this is foreign but I might submit that there is a proposal even in England to give up this ft.-pound system because the rest of the world is moving towards the metric system, towards one uni-

versal system of weights and measures. They are hesitating to introduce it because they think that it will involve a colossal amount of nearly 100 million pounds to have this change-over to metric system. They are thinking of changing over from the ft.-pound system to metric system over a period of 20 years. That is the period of transition they are thinking of and the amount involved is certainly a colossal amount. But yet even in England, the people who are so conservative about their own system, the ft.-pound system....

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: May I submit in all humility, in all respect to the hon. Minister, that the issue he is raising is not relevant to the Bill at all. This issue was raised and discussed thread-bare in 1955-56 when you, Sir, were also in the House and—I do not know whether he was here in this House—that was decided finally. The Prime Minister himself intervened and explained how with the metre-litre and all that system we have to move with the times, and that a universal system should be adopted in this country also—though it was not quite universal—all this has been said more than once. What we wanted to know about this Bill is how all these matters....

Mr. Speaker: He is coming to that. Certain other Members had raised certain objections. Shri Yashpal Singh had raised a certain objection and he has gone away after raising it.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Two hon. Members spoke about this....

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: I did not say.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Not you; two other Members said about it.

Shri Nambiar: Only one Member.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: My esteemed friend Mr. Kamath may kindly hear with me a few minutes. I am fully

aware that this Bill was passed in 1956. I am coming to the point. All the points that my hon. friend has raised ridiculing this decimal system have no relevance because these have been discussed threadbare and accepted by Parliament. This is only an amending Bill.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: I am sorry again to interrupt him. What I said was why have this amendment from decimal point 975 to 9747? What I said was, instead of decimal point 9747, it should be decimal point 974652. That was my question. I want answer to that. I did not object to the earlier thing at all.

Shri Nambiar: The whole difficulty is, both these figures are unintelligible to us.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Members will listen to the Minister with patience.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: He is misrepresenting me.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: May I plead for some patience?

Mr. Speaker: He will kindly just look towards me and he will find me a very patient like me.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: I know, Sir. But my hon. friend always interrupts me. That is my difficulty.

My hon. friend raised a question as to why have all this decimal system. Why have this change and why not that? He gave some figures. Well, he reeled off certain figures but that was no scientific basis. These things are based on scientific basis. Let me read the original Section 5 in the Act; the unit of time is given. (Interruption).

Mr. Speaker: He will have to go on in spite of these things.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: I am just trying to give one ear to that side as to know what is going on there.

Mr. Speaker: I would advise him not to give that ear also to that side.

1687 (A) LSD—8.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: All right, I will give both the ears to this side.

Now, my esteemed friend Mr. Kamath raised this point.

It has relevance to this. Under section 5(2) of the Act which was passed in 1956, a second means $1/31,556,925.975$.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Why this .9747? I agree to that, not to this.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: That was passed in 1956. I do not exactly remember what my friend said then. But since then, science has advanced so far that they have wanted a more accurate figure. (Some Hon. Members: Oh!) I do not understand this "oh, oh" business. We are living in an age of sputniks where accurate measurement of time and of distance and of weight, everything has got to be calculated. We look aghast at sputniks being fired. How are these things being achieved? It is by accurate measurements of time, weight, distance and so on. So these are basic things. Science is based upon accuracy. Science and technological knowledge is advancing every day so much so that its definitions are becoming more and more exact and precise.

Now, it is in this sense that this .975 has been moved by one decimal more. It is a tribute to the accuracy of science, to the labours that the scientists have put in to bring it more accurate. My friend thinks; what is the application of this second; we are talking so much here in this House, we are spending our time here and outside and elsewhere; has it got any relevance to this fractional definition. My information is that...

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: My information is that it is .974652.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Why? On what basis?

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: What is your basis, tell me; I will tell mine afterwards.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: My hon. friend was not here when I made the earlier speech. This has been accepted after discussions by the scientists at international conferences and accepted by international bodies, to which we are signatories. Prof. Krishnan of the National Physical Laboratory, a distinguished scientist, an F.R.S., represented India at that conference, and he also discussed these things, and it has been accepted. We are a signatory to this. That is why we are accepting this figure and not Mr. Kamath's, which has no basis.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Tell me your basis.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Now, he has explained it. He should try to understand that it was decided at an international conference and we are a signatory to that agreement. They have agreed there that this should be the basis and therefore on the basis of that agreement we are adopting this.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: I am entirely at one with you, Sir, when you say that we want to adopt international standards. But I want to know, if he can enlighten us, why and how the figure .975 has now been transformed into .9747. What happened then at that conference? If he could tell us....

Mr. Speaker: It would not be possible for him.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Let him admit it. We are then satisfied. Let him say so.

Shri N. Dandekar: What is the ble for him.

Shri N. Dandekar: What is the precise measurement of the year 1900? How was the year 1900 measured in 1960?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: I am coming to that. (Laughter).

Mr. Speaker: I do not think his answer is to be laughed at. That answer that he has given is quite understandable.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Sir, I am reading from a scientific book, a publication by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on Metric Measures:

"Up to the last few years, the second of time was the fraction 1/86,400 of the length of the mean solar day."

For several calculations it was not possible, because in astronomical calculations and other things there were some errors....

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Astrological or astronomical. (Interruptions).

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: You want me to deal with a scientific subject and explain to you?

Mr. Speaker: When he was reading, probably he read it as 'astrological' and they want to ascertain whether really it is astrological or astronomical.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Astronomical. I am sorry, my friend is obsessed with astrology.

Mr. Speaker: They probably misunderstood it.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: And I can also understand why he is not able to fully comprehend it, because he confessed that he is a student of chemistry and not of physics.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Of physics and chemistry. What were you a student of? What did you study?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Now, let us hear him.

The hon. Minister might go on with his speech without any comments against any Members

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Then it goes on:

"It is from a study of the orbital motions.....

The requirements of the physicists, however, are much finer....

Meanwhile, the adoption of an astronomical standard more stable than the mean solar day was absolutely necessary. For this purpose, the enormous amount of work on orbital motions accomplished from 1875 to 1926 has been profitably utilised. It was shown that the annual translatory motion of the earth around the sun was not subject to the same unpredictable irregularities as its motion of rotation. The period of the tropical year is not influenced by meteorological or geophysical phenomena which affect the length of the day."

Shri Nath Pai: We are now convinced.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: How this 1900 comes in, I am trying to explain.

"As a result of the correspondence between the International Committee of Weights and Measures and the International Astronomical Union, the following definition of the second was promulgated in the month of October, 1956 by the International Committee.

"The second is the fraction $\frac{1}{31,556,925,9747}$ of the tropical year for 1900 January 0 at 12 hours ephemeris time'."

I cannot understand this, I cannot explain, nor can you or any one here. (Interruption). This is the definition given by an international body of scientists.

An hon. Member: He does not know.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: If you want a scientist to pilot this Bill, you will require half a dozen scientists, because it deals with chemical substances; it deals with amperes measure also and therefore an electrician must come; it deals with physics, chemistry, electricity and every expert must come here.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: What did you study?

Mr. Speaker: How is that relevant, as to what he studied?

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: He asked me and therefore I am asking him. Let him not refer to my studies.

Mr. Speaker: Has he finished now?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: If the time is up, I shall say I have finished. I wish to add only one or two words.

Several hon. Members said that people in the villages do not know what the metric system is and that the system has been introduced to create confusion and facilitate the exploitation of the poor. Before this metric system was introduced there were no less than 150 different types of seers and maunds in this country. The length measures were also different. Hon. Members will themselves know that in their own constituency, from place to place, from one place of their constituency to another, there was a difference in measurement of length and weight. Even now, in remote villages it is still persisting. What we have tried by introducing this in 1956 is to have one system of measurement, weight, length and our currency throughout the country. Litre is litre throughout the country now; kilo is kilo throughout the country, and paisa is paisa throughout the country. At the time the paisa was introduced the same sort of jibes were thrown. But is it not a fact that now we have forgotten the paisa and anna. The younger generation do not know that anna

[Shri S. V. Ramaswamy]

consisted of twelve pies, and sixteen annas amounted to one rupee.

श्री श्रीकार लाल बेरवा (कोटा) : दो आने के कितने पैसे मानें ?

श्री इन्द्रजीत लाल मल्होत्रा (जम्मू तथा काश्मीर) : बारह पैसे मानें ।

श्री श्रीकार लाल बेरवा : तो यह चार पैसे कह चले गये ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : अभी थोड़ी देर के बाद हम आने मूल जायेंगे तब फिर दो आने के पैसे नहीं बनाने पड़ेंगे ।

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: The younger generation have forgotten the old system. It is we of the older generation who are still having our old memories.

The Minister of Planning (Shri B. R. Bhagat): We have also forgotten.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Yes, but still we enter into mental calculations to convert the naya paisa into anna and find out whether the price has increased or not, we who belong to the older generation and who have been brought up in rupees, annas and pies. But the younger generation have not been affected by it. Now the younger generation is also being brought up in the metric system in the matter of lengths and also in weights. It is true that in the remotest villages it has not yet percolated in spite of the strenuous efforts made by the Central Government and the State Governments.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: I beg to move:

"That the question be put".

Mr. Speaker: It is not clear to me still, and, therefore, I shall allow the hon. Minister to continue.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: The enforcement portion is with the States. We do a lot of propaganda through all

the media, through the newspapers, through posters, through the radio, through the films and other things. But as you know, India is a vast country, and our people live mostly in the villages, and it does take time to percolate these new ideas and new systems in the remotest of our villages. We try our utmost. Eight years have gone by, and I believe that we have covered about 90 per cent in the matter of the metric system. There is a balance of about 5 to 10 per cent which still remains, and that is in the remotest inaccessible areas.

By and large, the House has been pleased to accept this amending Bill.

Shrimati Yashoda Reddy (Kurnool): It is a fact that in the villages it has not percolated. But the hon. Minister has not answered the point raised from the other side that the Ministry itself while giving the figures about production of cloth and cotton had not used the metric system but had given the figures in terms of yards and bales.

Shri S. V. Mamaswamy: We have both the figures in metre etc. But by some mistake, the figure was given in yards.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1956, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: There are no amendments to the clauses. So, I shall put all the clauses together to vote.

Shri Nambiar: There is an oral amendment by Shri Kamath, for changing the term 'figures' to 'digit'.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: If you waive notice, I can move it, because I had not given notice of it earlier.

Mr. Speaker: At this moment it will not be possible unless the hon. Minister accepts it. Is the hon. Minister prepared to accept it?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: May I know whether you have admitted it?

Mr. Speaker: I can admit it only if the hon. Minister is prepared to accept it. Is he prepared to accept it?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: No.

Mr. Speaker: I shall now put all the clauses together to vote.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Clause 4 may be put separately, because I would like to offer a few remarks on it.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill

Clause 4—-(Amendment of section 5

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: I rise on a point of quorum....

Mr. Speaker: Now, we shall take up clause 4. Shri Kamath.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Mr. Speaker, Sir....

Shri Ranga (Chittoor): There is no quorum in the House.

श्री हुकमचन्द कडवाय (देवास) :
प्रध्यक्ष महोदय, हाउस में क्वोरम नहीं है।

Mr. Speaker: Shri Ranga is pointing out to Shri Kamath that there is no quorum, not to me, I think.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: I bring it to your notice that there is no quorum in the House.

Mr. Speaker: All right, the quorum bell is being rung. Now, there is quo-

rum. The hon. Member can start his speech.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: By your leave, I should like to make a few observations. The hon. Minister, who has blossomed into a neo-scientist, in the course of his speech has tried to give some sort of *raison detre* or rational explanation for this change which is sought to be made, and he tried to weave words or spin words into his statement and tried to clarify why the term 'tropical year' has been introduced, and why the tropical year for 1900 has been chosen. I would like to have from the hon. Minister a further clarification on this matter how and in what manner the tropical year for 1900 differs from the other years. He confessed that previously the second was defined as a fraction of a day, and the second was calculated like that, but now it is defined in terms of year. In what manner and why does the tropical year for 1900 differ from the other tropical years which have gone before or which have come after? Secondly, how does the tropical year differ from the temperate or Arctic year? We are all in parts of the same terrestrial globe, whether Arctic or Polar or temperate zones. How does the year in the tropics in point of dimension or size or in other respects, differ from a temperate year or an Arctic year? If there is no difference between the temperate year, the Arctic Year and the tropical year, why should the tropical year be selected for this kind of computation?

An Hon. Member: It is an international standard.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: I know that it is an international business, and I agree that we have to abide by the international form. It was decided at some international conference, and I am sure they must have offered some rational explanation why the tropical year for 1900 should have been selected, and not 1899 or 1901 or 1904 or 1947 when we attained our Independence and became free. All

[Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath]

this explanation should be given why this particular year has been taken. Surely, it cannot be something arbitrary. I am sure that somebody must have been sent as our delegate to this conference, and he would have given some report as to what happened, and what transpired there, and what discussions took place there. A resume of the discussions may be placed on the Table; if the hon. Minister could not tell us now, he may place a resume of the discussions on the Table of the House.

Mr. Speaker: I do not think that that would be necessary. I have been here for a short while listening to the debate. What I have understood is this that that international body took that year to work upon and then came to the conclusion that a second was the fraction of that year, because they had been working on that year.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: I quite understand. I am whole heartedly at one with you that we should conform to international standards, because we all want one world and one world government to which Shri D. C. Sharma has referred. I only wanted to know the reason, prompted by my curiosity.

Mr. Speaker: I am just trying to convey my own understanding, and what I have understood while I have been here for a short while. The hon. Member may kindly resume his seat for a minute.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: I thought as you were not standing, I could stand.

Mr. Speaker: Because of that, should one continue to be standing?

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: That international body worked on a particular year and that year was 1900, and after working on that year, they came to this conclusion that a second was the fraction as defined here of that year. They took that year and

worked upon it and then arrived at this fraction by their scientific computations or whatever that might be. I do not claim that I have any special knowledge of that.

Therefore, now to ask why they did not take any other year to work upon would be beside the point. They must have taken some year for their computations. They took 1900 for that purpose. They might have taken 1947 also, as the hon. Member has said; then, perhaps, the fraction might have been different, and it might be a different fraction of another year which they had taken. They have chosen one particular year and then arrived at this conclusion that a second must be the fraction as given here of that particular year. This is the impression that I have gained. I do not say that I have any special knowledge of the subject.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: With your permission, may I read out from the scientific journal giving the explanation? I submitted to the House earlier that the definition of the second has been arrived at after correspondence with the International Committee of Weights and Measures and the International Astronomical Union. That is the definition that is being incorporated in this Bill in place of the earlier one. That is explained by the following paragraph, which reads thus:

"This text requires some explanation."

The tropical year has nothing to do with temperature.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: I said 'temperate year'.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: It has nothing to do with the Arctic year or the Antarctic year.

That paragraph reads further as follows:

"The tropical year is the interval between two consecutive

vernal equinoxes, the equinox itself being the "instant when the sun crosses the celestial equator, its declination then being zero."

"The length of the tropical year diminishes slowly by half a second per century. According to the American astronomer S. Newcomb, its duration in days..."—

I need not trouble the House with these details and technicalities—

"The length of the tropical year for t-0 has been adopted as the constant standard".

"t" is the time counted in centuries starting from 31st December 1899 (or better still 0 January 1900) at Greenwich mean noon.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: One word more with your permission. I have got profound faith and complete confidence in your wisdom.

Mr. Speaker: I do not claim any such thing.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Your explanation which preceded the Minister's has helped us more than the Minister's explanation.

I would like to know why it was that this year 1900 was chosen, and whether before 1900 all the seconds that had been computed by humanity were all wrong.

Mr. Speaker: I hope ignorance would be bliss.

The question is:

"That clause 4 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 4 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 5, 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: I move:

"That the Bill be passed".

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed".

The motion was adopted.

16.43 hrs.

MINERAL OILS (ADDITIONAL DUTIES OF EXCISE AND CUSTOMS) AMENDMENT BILL

The Minister of Planning (Shri B. R. Bhagat): I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Mineral Oils (Additional Duties of Excise and Customs) Act, 1958, be taken into consideration".

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshangabad): Is the oil in litre or metre?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: It is excise—a very mundane affair.

I find it necessary to recapitulate briefly the circumstances under which the Additional Duties of Excise and Customs were originally levied in 1958. As the House will recollect, Government were, as a result of discussion with the oil distributing companies, able to secure a reduction of prices in respect of certain categories of mineral oils effective from 20 May, 1958. These reductions were different for different products, but individually being of small amounts, it was thought that the benefits if reflected in the ceiling prices of sale of the products by the oil distributing companies was not likely to reach the consumers.

16.45 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

It was accordingly decided that the monies accruing from the negotiated price reductions should be appropriated to the Consolidated Fund of India. This decision was given effect to by a levy of additional duties of excise and customs by an ordinance issued on