

[Shri Vishwanath Reddy]

present a large number of people in our country, particularly in the areas where prohibition is in vogue, who simply do not want this policy so much. That is why they are having an attitude of complete apathy to this programme. How to educate these people is the main problem. As the Mover of the Resolution himself has admitted, it is not prohibition that has failed, but we have failed prohibition. I welcome this statement of the Mover of this Resolution. This statement clearly indicates the main canker in the enforcement of the prohibition policy. The purport of my amendment is also to see that we educate the country in such a way that they take active interest in it. I need not here detail the various ways by which the prohibition law is broken in the various States and the various expedients that the anti-social elements are following. I am not worried about that provided the bulk of the population side the policy of the enforcing authorities when an anti-social or un-social element indulges in such an activity. But it is very regrettable that the bulk of the population do not simply care to consider how greatly these anti-social elements injure our national character. This is to be met only by propaganda and education over a long period. If we try to enforce prohibition throughout the country when the people are in such a state of apathy, it is very difficult to see that this policy will be enduring. The public opinion sooner or later will be so much against the policy that we will be forced to go back on that very policy and we might be forced even to scrap our prohibition laws. That is more dangerous or more unwarranted than staggering of the programme.

It has also been said that all the political parties are in support of this policy. I have no doubt that all political parties are really interested in seeing that prohibition is enforced one day or other. But to some of them it is just an ideal; and to some it is practical politics. As far as the Congress Party is concerned, they feel that it is practical politics, whereas the bulk of the opposition parties feel that it is just now in the stage of a fad, in the stage of an ideal. It should be staggered in such a way that the real and effective co-operation of the people of this country is obtained through education. Therefore, I too feel that unless a great deal of co-operation is available

from the people of this country, it is very difficult to enforce programme of this nature which is essentially a social legislation. As I have already said, social legislation can only be enforced when the bulk of the population are actively behind it. I submit that at the present moment the bulk of the population are not actively behind it. Therefore, I do feel that this programme should be gone through with a great deal of caution and a little more slowly than is envisaged in the Resolution.

#### POINT OF ORDER RE : PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE

**Shri Kamath (Hoshangabad)** : On a point of order, Sir, the hon. Minister for Home Affairs placed a document, a draft Bill for the reorganisation of States, on the Table of the House. Anyway he said so at about three o'clock or five minutes past three. But I find that the copy is not on the Table of the House. Is it in order that a document laid on the Table should not be available to the Members during the sitting of the House?

**Mr. Chairman** : One of the hon. Members of this House took it on loan saying that he would return it after some time.

**Shri Kamath** : Is it proper? In the House itself one should see it.

**Mr. Chairman** : It was just lying on the Table. Since he said he would return it, it was thought that he would return it and it would be available for other hon. Members also and so the Speaker allowed him perhaps on the assumption that he would see it in the House and return it. A search is being made for the hon. Member and the copy. According to the Minister of Home Affairs a copy will be available to the Members today or tomorrow.

**Shri Kamath** : The practice moreover is that as soon as a copy is laid on the Table, simultaneously copies go to the library but there is no copy in the Library either.

**Mr. Chairman** : I can understand it. It should be as the hon. Member says. But so far as the copy on the Table is concerned, I have explained how things have happened.

**Shri A. M. Thomas (Ernakulam)** : May I in this connection humbly request you for one thing? The hon.

Home Minister stated that copies would be available today or tomorrow. Having regard to the importance of the Bill and the anxiety displayed by all Members of every section of this House, I would humbly request you to direct the Government to supply copies today itself because it is such an important Bill.

**Shri Kamath :** Some of us are leaving Delhi today.

**Mr. Chairman :** The wishes of the hon. Members have been voiced by Shri Kamath and Shri Thomas and I think Government will do the right thing. It will be supplied to them as soon as possible.

**Shri Kamath :** This is setting up a bad precedent. It is not available on the Table or in the Library.

**Mr. Chairman :** It should not only be in the Library. All Members are anxious that it should be supplied to them and I have said that it will be done as soon as possible.

**Shri Kamath :** It may mean Monday even. Who knows? Tomorrow is a holiday and the day after is Sunday.

**Mr. Chairman :** I also was very anxious to see it.

**Shri A. M. Thomas :** The Chairman himself went from place to place.

**Mr. Chairman :** I think it will be supplied today or tomorrow and whatever has been said in this House will be taken note of by the Members of the Government.

**Shri Kamath :** I want your ruling. A document is laid on the Table of the House but it is not made available to the Members when the House is sitting.

**Mr. Chairman :** This rule was not broken. The Speaker allowed the copy to be lent on the presumption that it would be returned soon. A search is being made for the hon. Member and the copy and as soon as it is available, it will be here. Now let us proceed with the Resolution.

#### RESOLUTION RE. FIXING A TARGET DATE FOR PROHIBITION

**Shri A. K. Gopalan :** I support the amendment moved by Dr. Rama Rao and oppose the first original Resolution moved by Shri Narasimhan. In oppo-

sing that, I have to make it clear that I am not opposed to the principle of prohibition. The motion moved by Shri Narasimhan says that a target date should be fixed by the Planning Commission for completing nation-wide prohibition. A date may be fixed after one or two years and within that period there should be nation-wide prohibition. That is the idea behind it. As far as this subject is concerned, it is not a question of a ruling party. It is a national question. So, if it is suggested that only the ruling Party is interested in this, it means that others are insincere about it. I think it is not correct to say so. We oppose it because we know what the facts are. If it is enforced in the other parts of the country as it is being done in certain places now, there will be no effect at all; it will be worse. That is why we want a phased programme to implement it.

I will give an example. Today in Malabar there is prohibition. In Travancore-Cochin, there is no prohibition in some districts. Supposing this Resolution is accepted and a date is fixed and prohibition is enforced in the whole of that State, I am sure certain people who live on toddy-making in my State and Malabar and some other parts of South India will go out of employment. In Travancore-Cochin there is acute unemployment and the people are suffering very much. A community of people are engaged in this work in the South. If this is enforced within one year or two years, without any training for these persons, certainly it will adversely affect them. Not only that. It will also be unsuccessful. They will go to Malabar where illicit distillation is almost like a cottage industry. They will learn how to do it and they will adopt it. This Resolution while talking about fixing a target date does not talk of the places where priority should be given, how it should be enforced and how to remove the defects found in certain places where it has been enforced already. I have no time and so I will not go in great detail but this is what the Andhra Prohibition Enquiry Committee say in their report :

"In the villages we have visited, we were told that most of the old addicts continued to drink. New addicts have also joined them... while drinking was formerly confined to the lower classes in villages and urban areas, the drink habit