

[Shri T. T. Krishnamachari]

either by the West Bengal Government or the Assam Government in this matter is concerned, whatever may be the equities of the situation, they are entirely competent to do whatever they have done. I might also mention that while perhaps the labour has felt that it has not been properly dealt with, the action taken by these State Governments has resulted in arresting the closure of estates. This morning's newspaper tells me that certain estates are being re-opened. So, from the point of view of keeping the estates going and also providing employment for labour, their action seems to be on the right lines. I cannot go farther into the matter, because I am not competent to do so.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri rose—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have just now heard the hon. Minister, and as for the hon. Member he has given me a very long and detailed explanation as to how this House ought to take this matter into consideration. I only wanted to make one point clear, and I have got that information now. I consider that this is a matter which is primarily the concern of the West Bengal Government. When it takes action setting out what the minimum wages concerned should be, this Parliament has no revisional jurisdiction over that action. Hon. Members may also remember that this matter has from time to time been brought up before this House in some form or other. Already, there has been a half-an-hour discussion the other day regarding minimum wages when the Labour Minister was here and said that he was going there and that he would arrange for a tripartite conference and so on.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: He would be going there next week.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: As the hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry said just now, this matter of the closure of tea plantations and gardens was also raised in this House on many occasions. If the Bengal Government, with a view to relieving or avoiding the closure of tea gardens, has to make some adjustments, that matter cannot be brought up here by way of an adjournment motion. After all, let the hon. Minister of Labour return. Then, there are also ample opportunities for hon. Members to raise this matter before the House and make further suggestions during the discussion on the Budget and the Finance Bill. Therefore, I think that

this is not a fit adjournment motion for me to give my consent.

The Secretary will now read certain messages and lay certain papers on the Table of the House.

MESSAGES FROM THE COUNCIL OF STATES

Secretary: Sir, I have to report the following two messages received from the Secretary of the Council of States:—

- (i) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 97 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Cantonments (Amendment) Bill, 1952, as reported by the Select Committee, which has been passed as amended by the Council of States at its sitting held on the 18th February, 1953", and
- (ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 97 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Live-stock Importation (Amendment) Bill, 1953, which has been passed by the Council of States at its sitting held on the 18th February, 1953."

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

- (1) CANTONMENTS (AMENDMENT) BILL.
- (2) LIVE-STOCK IMPORTATION (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Secretary: I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) The Cantonments (Amendment) Bill, 1952 as reported by the Select Committee which has been passed as amended by the Council of States, and
- (2) The Live-Stock Importation (Amendment) Bill, 1953 as passed by the Council of States.

REPORTS OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Shri B. Das (Jajpur-Keonjhar): I beg to present the following:—

- (1) Fourth Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the

"Import and Sale of Japanese Cloth";

- (2) Fifth Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Appropriation Accounts (Railways) and (Posts & Telegraphs), 1949-50 and Audit Reports thereon.

[Placed in Library. See IV. O.O. (60)]

INDIAN TARIFF (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Tariff Act, 1934.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

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

The motion was adopted.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I introduce the Bill.

ADMINISTRATION OF EVACUEE PROPERTY (AMENDMENT) BILL

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The House will now proceed with other Bills, Shri A. P. Jain.

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Administration of Evacuee Property Act, 1950, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

The report of the Select Committee has been before the House for some time. The Select Committee has made certain changes which are not of a major character but which nonetheless improve the Bill very greatly. It is not necessary for me to give any explanation about the changes made by the Select Committee, because they are detailed in the report and speak for themselves. Two minutes of dissent have been appended to the Select Committee report. One of them is by Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani. In fact that minute is more an expression of opinion than any major difference from the majority report. Shri Deshpande has appended another minute of dissent. His whole approach to the problem is contrary to the approach with which I brought

this Bill before the House. Our intention was to remove the hardships which the Evacuee Property Act has been causing upon those of our nationals who have no intention of migrating to Pakistan.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There is too much talk in the House. I request hon. Members not to carry on any conversation inside the House.

Shri A. P. Jain: Shri Deshpande wants to make the provisions of the Administration of Evacuee Property Act more rigid, which naturally will add to the difficulties of those to whom we wanted to give some relief. Therefore, it is not possible to see eye to eye with the various matters which he has urged in his minute, because they go contrary to the very spirit of the Bill. In fact all along that I have been in charge of this Ministry I have been feeling that the Evacuee Property law is an extraordinary law, which has been forced upon us against our desire and against our intentions. If Pakistan had played the game that is, if the displaced persons who have come over from West Pakistan had been allowed to enjoy their properties, to receive the rents and to benefit out of those properties, we would not have felt the necessity of prolonging this legislation. But Pakistan has acted otherwise and therefore we have been forced to keep this legislation on the Statute Book. I am happy that we are reaching a stage now, preferably in agreement with Pakistan, when the necessity for the Evacuee Property law may cease to exist. The House is aware that we have certain schemes under consideration for the disposal of the evacuee properties and if that comes about, as I hope, the necessity for this law will be very much diminished and I do hope that the sooner this law terminates the better it is for everyone of us.

I will add one word more. Among the list of amendments that have been tabled by various Members of the House, I find that some relate to the jurisdiction of the civil courts. They have suggested that the civil courts should have jurisdiction in this matter and that matter. Now the whole scheme of the evacuee property law has been to exclude the jurisdiction of the civil court and to create a hierarchy of officers who are dealing with evacuee matters. Maybe there have been difficulties; maybe that sometimes justice may not have been done—and it is not always done even in the civil courts—yet on the whole