

**COPYRIGHT BILL**

**Mr. Speaker:** The House will now take up discussion of the motion for the concurrence in the recommendation of the Rajya Sabha for reference of the Bill to a Joint Committee of the Houses. As the House is aware, 2 hours have been allotted for this purpose.

The motion was moved by the Deputy Minister and placed before the House on the 12th March, 1956.

Is the speech of the hon. Minister over?

**The Deputy Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das):** I have concluded my speech. I have got two amendments to be moved.

**Mr. Speaker:** All right I shall read the motion first and then he can move the amendments.

"That this House concurs in the recommendation of Rajya Sabha that the House do join in the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Bill to amend and consolidate the law relating to Copyright made in the motion adopted by Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 16th February, 1956 and communicated to this House on the 21st February, 1956 and resolves that the following members of Lok Sabha be nominated to serve on the said Joint Committee, namely, Shri B. S. Murthy, Shri N. C. Laskar, Shri Nageshwar Prasad Sinha, Shri Fulsinghi B. Dabhi, Shri Joachin Alva, Shri T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar, Shri S. V. Ramaswamy, Shri Birakisor Ray, Shri D. C. Sharma, Shri S. C. Samanta, Shri Gurmukh Singh Musafir, Shri M. Hifzur Rahman, Dr. Suresh Chandra, Shri C. P. Mathew, Shrimati Tarkeshvari Sinha, Seth Govind Das, Shri Rohanlal Chaturvedi, Shri C. R. Basappa, Dr. Lanka Sundaram, Shri U. M. Trivedi, Shri V. G. Deshpande, Shri N. B. Chowdhury, Shri Sadhan Chandra Gupta, Shri Bahadur Singh, Shri Frank Anthony, Shrimati Sucheta

Kripalani, Shri M. S. Gurupada-swamy, Shri V. Veeraswamy, Dr. Mono Mohan Das and Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad."

**Dr. M. M. Das:** I beg to move:

That in the motion—

(i) for "Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani" substitute "Shri Ramji Verma".

(ii) That at the end of the motion, the following be added:

"This House also recommends to the Rajya Sabha that the said Joint Committee be instructed to report on or before the 16th August, 1956".

These amendments are self-explanatory and I do not think I should explain them.

**Mr. Speaker:** Amendments moved:

(i) That in the motion—

for "Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani" substitute "Shri Ramji Verma".

(ii) That at the end of the Motion the following be added:

"This House also recommends to the Rajya Sabha that the said Joint Committee be instructed to report on or before the 16th August, 1956".

**BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**

**The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha):** I have written a letter to you on the programme for the session. This week's programme which we have placed before this House has been prepared on the basis that the House may be requested to sit for seven hours instead of six hours, from this week. The programme is going to be pretty heavy and unless, we sit for longer hours during the whole session, we may not be able to finish the whole work. So, it would be better if we sit for eight hours, or at least for seven hours a day, say, from 10-30 to 5-30 or from 11 to 6, as the House chooses.

**Shri Kamath (Hoshangabad):** We can extend the duration of the sitting from next week onwards.

**Mr. Speaker:** We will carry on from 11 to 5 during the first week. We have enjoyed a holiday and therefore, in continuation of the holiday, one is not likely to enjoy sitting for a longer number of hours together. From next week, we will sit from 11 to 6.

**The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh):** We can sit from 10-30 to 5-30.

**Shri Dabhi (Kaira North):** We can sit from 11 to 6 so that some of us can finish the meals and come.

**Mr. Speaker:** Yes; I thought as much. So for the whole of this week, we will sit from 11 to 5 and try to finish off the work in order to take up the work that awaits us further. During this week, therefore, we will sit from 11 to 5 and from next week we will sit from 11 to 6.

**Shri U. M. Trivedi (Chittor):** You had promised last time that if a holiday occurs during a week, that will be made up by holding a sitting on the Saturday following. But supposing some more holidays creep in, that is to say, if an additional holiday is declared, what is the position?

**Mr. Speaker:** It has always been the practice to have a sitting on Saturday when a holiday intervenes in the course of any week. Otherwise, we do not sit on Saturdays.

**Shri U. M. Trivedi:** That is all right so far as the sittings which we have already fixed. But supposing there is a new holiday, say Tilak Jayanti, which is declared, and supposing that holiday occurs in a week where there is already a holiday, how will we have one day more to make up for such a holiday?

**Mr. Speaker:** We do not naturally have two Saturdays in a week. In a week, there can be only one Saturday. So, whatever be the number of holidays in a week, we can only sit on

the Saturday of the concerned week in lieu of the holidays.

#### COPYRIGHT BILL—contd.

**Dr. Rama Rao (Kakinada):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I welcome this Bill because the intention is to protect the rights of writers on the one hand and of the reading public on the other. There are many defects in the Bill which I am sure the Joint Committee will remedy. I am going to point out only one or two of them. Meanwhile, I want to say that the writers belong to one of the most unfortunate sections of the public. Many people, with very few exceptions have to struggle hard in their lives.

The copyright has been mostly used for the benefit of the publishers and the poor writer very often sells out the copyright for a small sum. You know that the works of the famous Bengali writer, Sarat Chatterjee, have been translated into many languages; but, he has sold out his copyright for a very small amount.

The intention of the Bill is to protect the rights of writers, but I do not think it can serve that purpose unless the State comes into the picture in a bolder way. Since our object is to have a socialist pattern, I think the Central Government and the State Governments should take up the business of publication of books in the various languages. The State can give a decent royalty to the writer and publish books at reasonable prices. This will help the reading public also. In ancient days, there was no copyright. Education was free; publication was free; everything was free and writers were patronised by rulers. Now the State has to take up that business and publish books on its own. I hope the Government will extend its Publications Division so as to include some more languages and help the writers to have a decent living and encourage them in their work.

Secondly, it is a welcome sign to know that there will be a greater demand amongst the public for books.