

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: When a day is decided on this, there will be a debate.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have to inform the hon. Members that I have received the following letter from Shri A. K. Basu:—

"For reasons of health I have to be in Switzerland for a month or two. I would, therefore, request you to be kind enough to obtain the leave of the House for my absence during the forthcoming Session of the House."

Is it the pleasure of the House that permission be granted to Shri A. K. Basu for remaining absent from all meetings of the House during this Session?

Leave was granted.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

TARIFF COMMISSION REPORT ON RETENTION PRICES OF TATA STEEL AND GOVERNMENT RESOLUTION THEREON

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of each of the following papers under subsection (2) of Section 16 of the Tariff Commission Act, 1951:—

- (i) Report of the Tariff Commission on the fair retention prices of steel produced by the Tata Iron & Steel Co. Ltd. (1953);
- (ii) Ministry of Commerce and Industry Resolution No. SC(A)-2 (96)/52, dated 20th July, 1953 [Placed in the Library. See No. IV R 159 (22).]

COLLECTION OF STATISTICS BILL —concl.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The House will resume consideration of the motion moved on the 5th August, viz.,

"The Bill to facilitate the collection of statistics of certain kinds

relating to industries, trade and commerce be taken into consideration."

Shri N. C. Chatterjee (Hooghly): Sir, on the eve of India's Independence Day I ought to remind you that most of the foreign firms in India were expecting that some concrete steps would be taken by the Government to hasten the pace of Indianisation both in the commercial and industrial field as well as in other sectors of national life. After all, Sir, independent India demanded that the country's nationals should have an adequate place in all organisations controlling their economic life and development. Indeed, we know that many foreign firms had reconciled themselves to this position and they promoted many of their Indian executives to senior cadres. But, Sir, for some reason, some inscrutable reason, I must say the Government of India has not been very watchful, and as watchful as the circumstances warranted, and that made the foreign firms feel somewhat complacent. The result has been that from complacency there has been a drift against progressive Indianisation. And, as I gave you some facts, there has been a neglect of our nationals in foreign firms. As a consequence, there have been good many complaints against discrimination. Ultimately, New Delhi has been energised into action by the volume of complaints.

How far the charge of deliberate discrimination and victimisation is correct can only be realized if proper data and statistics are collected. The Government is stating in the Statement of Objects and Reasons:

"Though Government can exert pressure to make certain firms submit returns, it is expedient that Government should be armed with powers to compel all concerns (including Managing Agency firms) engaged in (a) trade and commerce with foreign countries, (b) inter-State trade and commerce, (c) trading firms or Corpora-