

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

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LOK SABHA

Friday, the 29th July, 1955

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

12 Noon.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

REPLIES TO MEMORANDA FROM MEMBERS re: DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (RAILWAYS), 1955-56.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of certain further statements containing replies to certain memoranda received from Members in connection with Demands for Grants (Railways) for 1955-56. (See Appendix III, annexure No. 1.)

UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION BILL

PRESENTATION OF REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEE

श्री शाहीगंज (पुना मध्य): मैं विरहविद्यालयों में संयोजन तथा स्तर निर्धारित करने के हेतु और इस प्रयोजन के लिए एक विरहविद्यालय अनुदान कमीशन स्थापित करने की व्यवस्था

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करने वाले बिल सम्बन्धी संयुक्त समिति की रिपोर्ट पेश करता हूँ।

INDIAN COINAGE (AMENDMENT) BILL

Mr. Speaker: The House will now proceed with the further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri Arun Chandra Guha on the 28th July, 1955:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Coinage Act, 1906, be taken into consideration."

There are also amendments for circulation of the Bill moved by Shri Khub Chand Sodhia, Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath and Shri Raghubir Sahai on the 28th July, 1955. Of the time allotted to this Bill, roughly two hours have been availed of yesterday. The balance of the time will be availed of now.

Shri Kamath (Hoshangabad): Is the time taken by the Prime Minister yesterday also included?

Mr. Speaker: He was not replying to the debate; he was intervening in the debate.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee (Calcutta North—East): Sir, I am happy that I am in a position to welcome this measure and I say so because this has been awaited for a long time and it is a good thing that Government has now come forward with its support of the decimal system of coinage. I should like to say also that I find something like pleasant irony in the

[Shri H. N. Mukerjee]

fact that it is Mr Guha who is piloting this Bill in our House. I find from the proceedings of the Council of States that when a non-Official Bill almost exactly in the same terms as the Bill now before us was brought before that House, it was Mr. Guha who had objected and raised certain doubts and difficulties. I do not want to hammer this point, but I do wish to say that it is a pleasant irony that Mr. Guha who has advanced certain arguments against the Indian Coinage (Amendment) Bill has changed his mind.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

I am very happy that he has done so. I wish also to say, Sir, that I do not understand why Government made a certain statement on that occasion which required to be followed up, but which, so far as we know, has not been done as yet. On that occasion Mr. Guha said when the Bill was finally thrown out by the House because of the opposition of Government—it was said then that "Government is of opinion that before the decimal system can be introduced in coinage, it should be introduced in standards and weights and measures and similar other things". I do not want to delay this legislation: on the contrary I wish this Bill to be put on the statute-book as quickly as ever it can. But I wish at the same time to say that Government should proceed scientifically. Yesterday the Prime Minister told us how the Government is trying to do so, because this is a period when we are having certain plans and unless we proceed scientifically, those plans cannot be properly implemented.

Mr. Guha has also said in the Statement of Objects and Reasons that this is the most opportune time for the introduction of this Bill. I was quoting from the proceedings of the other House dated the 5th March, 1954; if Government on the basis of experts advice at its disposal could

say through its authoritative exponent that before the decimal system can be introduced in coinage, it should be introduced in standards and weights and measures and similar other things, then, it is up to Government to see that its statements are made seriously and with real intent, because the opposition to this measure has come particularly from people who say that after all, it is not coinage which is to be taken into consideration, that the variegation in our country over weights and measures is bewildering and that something ought to be done about it. Yesterday the Prime Minister told us that as far as science was concerned, the metric system is the only system which science knows and the metric system should no doubt be introduced as soon as it ever can in the system of our weights and measures.

We know that this idea of decimal coinage has a long history. We know also how Mahatma Gandhi's views expressed in 1946 or so had been brought into the picture in order to postpone the introduction of the decimal system. But it is a good thing that Government after all has made up its mind. I take it that those experts to whom reference was made by the hon. Minister in the other House, and who had reported, according to his statements in the House that it would take about 15 years or so in order to introduce the metric system in three instalments spread over 5 years each, also have changed their opinion. I am sure those experts who had advised Mr. Guha in 1954 have changed their opinion in regard to the decimal coinage; I hope again that these experts would change their opinion in regard to the time-lag of 15 years or so before the metric system could be properly introduced.

While welcoming the adoption of the decimal coinage as soon as it ever can be, I say that if the units

of value measured do not correspond to the units of mass or length measure by similar ratio, that is, in octonal or decimal multiples or sub-multiples, the ease in computation is spoilt. The existing sub-division, of the coinage corresponds to the sub-division, that is, one-half, one-fourth, one-eighth, one-sixteenth and so on and so forth, and we have the *tola*, *kaccha*, *chhatak*, *pao*, *seer* and *maund*. Therefore, by the application of the present system of calculation, the small traders and private individuals can easily calculate the prices in different units and to them this process appears to be very easy. That is why there has been objection put forward by many people who seem to think that the introduction of this new system is going to cause havoc in our economy, especially in our village life. I do not think that havoc will be caused quite so easily, because I know that our people have got used to a certain system of computation; but it will be very much simpler when they get used to the decimal system and there would be so much economy in the sphere of human labour and so much economy in the economy in the sphere of accounting. Wastage of paper, time and so on and so forth could so easily be avoided and altogether the country will benefit in very quick time. When our people get used to the decimal system, they can do the calculations very accurately. I do not know if we have tried at any time to teach arithmetic to little children. It is a hell of a job; it is very difficult for them to remember all the different varieties of computation and we have got to drill them into their minds. But if we teach the decimal system which, today, the world over is claimed as the only scientific system right from childhood, we can get these children to understand certain subjects much more quickly, much more comprehensively and much more capably than they are doing at present.

Actually what happens is that proficiency in accounting and in multi-

plication is not necessarily a concomitant of proficiency in mathematics. We are aware of Einstein not being able to do certain sums. Actually the highest reaches of intellectual achievement are open to people who learn not merely the intricacies of arithmetical calculation, but who find out the basic principle of things. That is why the decimal system is so very important from the scientific point of view, from the intellectual point of view. From the point of view of the economy of the country also, it is extremely important and helpful. That is why it should be introduced as soon as ever it is possible.

There has been expressed almost unanimous objection in this House to the use of the foreign word *cent*. It was perhaps the French who in modern history developed the metric system comprehensively and they used the expression *centime*, one-hundredth part of a franc. So, *cent* became popular. There is no reason why we should have *cent*. So many other alternatives have been suggested: *satamsa*, *Paisa* etc. *Paisa* seems to be much simpler and more widely acceptable than *satamsa*. The rupee of course, may remain. *Chakra*, known in Kerala is not by any means necessary, because rupee is easier for the whole country. I feel that the weight of the new coins to be introduced must have some integral relationship with metric units so that the common man may use these coins by permutation and combination for weighting gold and similar articles from half a gram to 10 grams and more by the addition of a particular coin which would exactly weigh 10 grams. This is a thing which Government should set its mind to. I do not want to delay this legislation. Otherwise, I might have thought that perhaps a very quick programme set to a Select Committee might have helped to improve this measure a little. I do not know if Government at this stage is willing to wait for a

[Shri H. N. Mukerjee]

fortnight or so, so that we can incorporate in this Bill certain provisions which appear to us to be very important. If the Government want to go ahead, and later on bring out these details, I do not mind. I do not myself understand all the intricacies, in practical detail, of this Bill. But I feel when I am told about it, that it would be better if Government waited for a fortnight so that we could get all these things incorporated into this Bill.

Certain points have been raised about the period of transition. The Prime Minister agreed that the period of transition is going to be a difficult period. I am sure in our country, exploiting the ignorance of the majority of our people, hordes of money-changers would come into the picture. I want to know from Government what special steps they are going to take as far as this aspect is concerned. I want Government to take very serious steps about making sure that the transition period is not inordinately long, because, if the transition period is long, the confusion in the minds of our people will also be accentuated.

Shri Kamath asked yesterday with considerable force that Government should try to elicit the opinion of our people. I have also heard the Prime Minister, who said that it is not necessary in matters of a technical character to elicit the opinion of the country, which may not be informed opinion. I would like to say that certainly Government have been at fault in so far as it has not tried to popularise the metric system and the decimal system. It has not done so. I remember one of the very first questions I asked in this House was in regard to the introduction of the metric system and decimal coinage. I did so because in my constituency in Calcutta, there happens to be the headquarters of the Indian Decimal Society, with which also I am in some way associated. I asked this ques-

tion. The answer was extremely discouraging. It was negative. We have seen how last year Government came forward with a dilatory proposition that in principle Government liked this kind of thing, but Government think that there is enormous difficulty in the way and therefore nothing can be done about it. As far as Government are concerned, the people have not been told about the soundness of the metric system. Shri Kamath very rightly pointed out that so much literature has been produced and millions of our money have been spent in producing literature of various sorts which usually do not go to produce the results that perhaps they are intended to produce. But, surely we can bring this accusation against Government that Government have not tried to tell our people the reasons for the introduction of this system. Now, Government will have to make up for past default. I say that Government should announce very soon when this new system is to come into operation. Before that, Government must carry on a raging and tearing campaign all over the country, especially in the countryside, explaining how the change-over is to take place. There is very great force in Shri Kamath's contention as far as this question is concerned. I hope the Minister when he replies will tell us something about the intention of Government in this regard.

I have heard Shri Tulsidas yesterday trying to point out that the major part of our trade is still with non-metric countries and that therefore perhaps it would be better for us to go slow. He did not oppose this measure with gusto because, I think, he was between two minds. There is always the force of obscurantism operating in our minds. There is the force of habit. We do not want to change certain things to which we have been accustomed for generations. Surely business people also, while they realise that there are certain advantages to be got out of the decimal

system, do not want to switch over to the other system when everything is in a flux. Change appears to partake of the character of some kind of revolution. Therefore, he was between two minds. That is why he did not oppose with gusto. But, he pointed out that most of our trade is with non-metric countries. I say that the whole pattern of our trade is beginning to change. Our international trade should be such that we should not be dependent upon our commercial intercourse only with a certain set of countries. That has happened so far. That is why our railways are depending for their equipment on certain countries and our railways have to wait because those particular countries do not choose to send the equipment we have asked for in time. Our Plan gets obstructed because of our link-up with certain countries, and certain countries alone. The process has started by which our international trade will be really and truly international.

As far as the metric system is concerned, this is a system which is accepted all over the world. As Shri A. C. Guha said, in Asia, we are one of the only two countries left over which have not yet adopted the metric system. I shall therefore repeat that I welcome this measure. But, I want Government to tell us exactly how they are going to explain to our people the actual change-over and the process of change-over. I wish Government to give us an assurance that the cent will not be introduced in this country and that we shall have some kind of an Indian equivalent. I want Government also to say what they are going to do with regard to the adoption of the metric system as far as our weights and measures are concerned. All these things are inter-connected. I am anyhow very glad that this long-awaited measure at long last is going to be on our statute-book.

The Minister of Revenue and Defence Expenditure (Shri A. C. Guha): I am very glad that this Bill has re-

ceived almost the unanimous support of this House except the two solitary dissentient voices. I should like to meet some of the points raised by the last speaker, Shri H. N. Mukerjee. He referred to my speech in the other House in reply to a non-official Bill. I think if he had carefully heard my speech yesterday, he need not have referred to this matter because I myself mentioned in the speech that at one stage it was the advice to the Government by an Expert Committee that it will take 15 years. That 15 years would not start from November 1954 when the debate in the other House took place. It was some time in 1946 or 1947 that the experts advised the Government. Even now I think that if we are to implement this Bill and subsequently the other Bill regarding weights and measures, I think 15 years would really be consumed in the process of total implementation of the metric system in all respects.

He also mentioned that I said that the metric system in coinage should be preceded by the metric system in weights and measures. That also I mentioned in my speech yesterday. That was the original idea, but now it has been decided that it would be easier to introduce the metric system in coinage first and then the metric system in other subjects. Anyhow, that is not any point against the Bill as such only tried to score a few points against me personally. But, some other Members, particularly Shri Sodhia and Shri Kamath, had objection from the people's point of view, and Shri Kamath has said it has not been properly publicised the public has not been given a chance to represent their views. Yesterday the Prime Minister mentioned that this matter has been before the public for a number of years. I myself mentioned in my introductory speech that this matter was discussed in the Central Assembly as late as 1946 and subsequently also there have been several discussions on this matter.

Shri Kamath: It was withdrawn afterwards.

Shri A. C. Guha: Not withdrawn. The House had a sudden end and the Bill was allowed to lapse. It was not withdrawn. I mentioned also that due to the disturbed conditions in the country after partition and after the achievement of independence when the political and social conditions in the country were somewhat uncertain and the Constitution also had not been framed, it was decided that the Government should not proceed with the Bill at that time.

Anyhow, the only other point mentioned by the Members is about the nomenclature to be put. The Government have no particular fascination for the term "cent" and I mentioned yesterday that we should wait for any helpful suggestions from the Members of Parliament regarding suitable Indian names, and the Prime Minister yesterday mentioned here that we did not mind even retaining the old name *paisa*. Our only difficulty would be that there must be an interim period of three, four or five years during which both the new and the old coins would be in circulation, and so there should be something to distinguish the new coins from the old coins, even as regards their names. That is the only difficulty. If the *paisa* of the new value is to be in circulation along with the *paisa* of the old value, there is likely to be some confusion among the public and, as Shri Gadgil mentioned yesterday, some clever businessmen would take advantage of the ignorance of our people. That is the only difficulty and hence the necessity to make some sort of distinction between the new coin and the old coin...

Shri Heda (Nizamabad): "Naya *paisa*" and "purana *paisa*".

Shri A. C. Guha: There was one suggestion that the new one should be called "naya *paisa*" as long as the old *paisa* is also in circulation and the gradually when the old *paisa* is withdrawn we can start minting

the new *paisa* without this word *naya*.

Shri S. S. More (Sholapur): Will there also be *naya anna*, *naya two annas*, *naya four annas*, *naya eight annas* and *naya rupee*?

सरकार ए० ए० सहगल (बिलासपुर) :
बे सब विद्वान् कर लिए जायेंगे ;

Shri S. S. More: I want a reply from the Government and not from you.

Shri V. G. Deshpande (Guna): He is the Government.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Half a rupee will be half a rupee. quarter rupee will be quarter rupee.

Shri S. S. More: May I make a submission? If this *naya* is accepted as part of the coin's name, then it will have to be carried from the lowest.

Shri A. C. Guha: When we come to the relevant clause, I shall move certain amendments. Then the Members will know how we intend to work in this matter. Anyhow, we have no objection to retaining some of our old nomenclature. The only difficulty would be to avoid confusion between the new coin and the old coin.

I should now reply to the point of Shri Tulsidas that 60 per cent of our trade is with the non-metric countries and 40 per cent. is with metric countries. I do not know how this system of coinage can create any difficulty as regards our foreign trade. Whatever may be the system of our internal counting. I do not think it can in any way affect our foreign trade in any respect. So, I am glad this Bill has a hearty reception from the Members of this House.

Shri V. G. Deshpande: Hot reception?

Shri A. C. Guha: Yes, hot reception also. I do not want to take any more time. These are the only two points which required some clarification, about the nomenclature of the new

coin. We agree. Yesterday also in my introductory speech I said there must be propaganda now to teach the public as to the implication of this new coin and the old coin.

Shri Sinhasan Singh (Gorakhpur Distt.—South): The rupee coin now contains 16 annas. Will the 16 annas be part of the metric system or part of the old system? How are they going to link the rupee with the anna?

Shri A. C. Guha: As I stated yesterday, the value of the rupee will remain the same. Only it will be divided into 100 lowest units and consequently the intermediate units also will be divisible by ten.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: What is Government's anticipation of the likely period of transition when the old system and the new system will co-exist and....

Shri A. C. Guha: It may take four or five years' time.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee:.....what are Government's views in regard to meeting people's difficulties during this period because I was saying that the money-changers would have a hey-day; and what are Government intending to do in regard to putting a stop to any kind of depredation on the people's economy? There is no answer to that.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: They will prosecute those people who are unnecessarily making profit.

Shri S. S. More: There is no provision in the Act for that.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: If they ask for more, they will be cheating.

Shri Kamath: May I seek a clarification? The Prime Minister yesterday said:

".....undoubtedly we should go on gradually with public education and all the rest of it; it may take two years, three years, four years, five years, for the complete change to come, I cannot

say—if we do not start it now, it will seriously affect our developmental and planning work....."

This is delightfully vague.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is that also a part of the question. What is the point of clarification?

Shri Kamath: May I know from the Finance Minister whether they have formulated a phased programme for this entire plan of decimal coinage?

Shri Heda: May I also ask a question? The Government have some experience about this change of currency in Hyderabad. Formerly, we had the Hyderabad currency and now we have introduced the Indian currency there. The ratio was Rs. 7 Hyderabad currency to Rs. 6 Indian currency. Moreover, we had six paises for one anna, whereas in the Indian currency we have only four paises for one anna. What is the Government's assessment of the difficulties that the so-called illiterate, but not ignorant, persons faced because of the change from Hyderabad to Indian currency? Will both the coins be allowed to be used here as we did in the case of Hyderabad during the transition period?

Shri S. S. More: Hyderabad will have three currencies.

Shri A. C. Guha: These questions have all been answered by me. I have stated that it will take four to five years' time to withdraw all the old coins, and I think that even if our mints work at full speed, it would take three to four years for them to put into circulation sufficient number of new coins for use by the public.

As for the point raised by Shri H. N. Mukerjee, I would like to say that there will be a preparatory stage of three to five years, when no extensive changes would be enforced, but intensive education and dissemination of information on the decimal system of coins, weights and measures would be carried out, and wherever

[Shri A. C. Guha]

practical, gradual introduction of the metric system would be encouraged. In more concrete terms, the programme would comprise the following:

(i) the Government of India to introduce the decimal system of currency in which weights and dimensions of coins should be related to the metric system;

(ii) intensive education and propaganda, including teaching in elementary and secondary schools and in technical and engineering institutions; schools to keep samples of all standard metric weights and measures;

(iii) press and radio publicity;

(iv) public speeches and press conferences....

And there are so many other items in this. So, we shall be doing all sorts of propaganda and teaching, so that this difficulty, which is understood almost by everybody, namely that the clever people will try to take advantage of the ignorance of other people, may to a great extent be avoided.

Shri Raghavalah (Ongole): Will Government utilise all the machinery from the lowest official to the highest official, that is, the revenue-collecting machinery, the banks, tehsils etc. to avoid delay and to lessen the difficulties of the ordinary man in the street in the villages in exchanging these old coins for the new ones?

Shri A. C. Guha: Naturally all sorts of things will be done to avoid the difficulties of the people.

Since there has been a reference to Gandhiji's opinion about this matter, I think I should read out to the House from the letter that Gandhiji wrote in October, 1946. This is what he has written:

"My opinion is that the matter should be dealt with only by a national government on its merit.

I would prefer to keep my mind still open. My previous objections are to be re-examined. Could you not wait till the present political crisis is over? The question of these reforms in coinage, weights and measures may be taken up by our own Parliament when formed."

I think I have given sufficient reply to the points raised.

Shri Bogawat (Ahmednagar South): This was omitted by the hon. Member yesterday when he referred to Gandhiji's opinion.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I shall now put the amendments to the vote of the House, unless hon. Members who have given notice of them desire to withdraw them.

Shri K. C. Sodhia (Sagar): I do not want to withdraw my amendment.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I shall put that amendment to vote now.

The question is:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 31st December, 1955."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Then there is Shri Kamath's amendment. It is almost the same thing except that the date has been extended to 26th January, 1956.

Shri S. S. More: It will not be necessary to put that to vote now.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: In Shri K. C. Sodhia's amendment the date is 31st December, 1955, while in Shri Kamath's it is 26th January, 1956. The date alone is different.

Shri S. S. More: But circulation itself is opposed.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: When circulation itself is opposed, the question of date is only consequential. So, the other two amendments are barred.

I shall now put the original motion to the vote of the House.

Shri Kōmath: What about the motions for reference to a Select Committee?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Both of them have been withdrawn.

Shri S. S. More: No names were given.

Shri Vallatharas (Pudukkottai) rose.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is not a question of your withdrawing. No names were given, and therefore I did not treat them as moved.

Shri Vallatharas: Not on that basis. Whatever the basis is, a wrong impression should not be created that because we had not given names, these amendments were withdrawn. Quite strangely enough, yesterday a ruling of the Chair was given that there were more prominent men than the Movers of amendments, and so there was no priority for the Movers of amendments to move their amendments and state their reasons for the consideration of the House. Once that position was lost, we did not see any meaning in having those amendments on paper. That is why they were withdrawn.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I never said that there are more prominent men. I am sorry. All Members are prominent here.

Shri Vallatharas: The position is this. First, the hon. Minister moves his motion, and he states the reasons. But more important than his motion is an amendment to the motion which seeks some other channel of expression. Unless the whole House hears our arguments, how would it be able to consider our amendments? Yesterday, I had been pushed back even farther than beyond the back benches, and there were more prominent people from whom we heard so many things. Once that distinction has come to happen, where is the meaning in

moving that amendment and expecting a chance to express our views on the same?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: All that I can say is this. No hon. Member need be under the impression that he is pushed back, unless he wants to push back himself. Of course, we shall try to deal with all hon. Members. And as far as possible, hon. Members who have tabled amendments will be given an opportunity.

Shri S. S. More: On a point of procedure. I want to seek a clarification on one point, because yesterday also I raised that question, namely, whether when a motion for circulation or a motion for reference to a Select Committee has been made it was not necessary that that motion should be formally moved. Regarding other verbal amendments, it may be said that they shall be taken to have been moved, because they require to be dealt with only at a further stage. But when a motion for circulation has been made, or a motion for reference to a Select Committee has been made, it has to be positively moved on the floor of the House, and in the latter case together with all the requisite names, etc. But that part was skipped over somehow.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That would go out of its own accord.

Now, the question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Coinage Act, 1906, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2.—(Insertion of new section 14 etc.)

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Government have given notice of an amendment to this clause, evidently after having considered all the various points that have been raised in the House.

Some Hon. Members: We have no copies of that amendment.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Copies would be circulated presently.

Shri Raghavachari (Penukonda): May I submit that this amendment is completely different from the original clause, and that the two are far apart? So, may I request that you might be pleased to adjourn the consideration of this to some other later hour, so that we can see the amendment in the meanwhile and then say something. The amendment just circulated contains wholly new matter; the names of the coins would be as Government decide.

Shri A. M. Thomas (Ernakulam): The only thing is with regard to the nomenclature, and that is left to Government.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Let us hear the hon. Minister. As the hon. Members go on hearing the hon. Minister if they find any difficulty, then let us see. The hon. Minister has only incorporated section 6 of the Act here to the extent that it applies at present. Government have always got the power under section 6 of the original Act to give any denomination, to mint any coin, to decide the number of coins and so on.

Shri Nand Lal Sharma (Sikar): This amendment seeks to substitute an entirely new clause. That is moreover the only clause which forms the main body of the Bill.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I agree. But let us hear the hon. Minister. If there is anything extraordinary, certainly we can always adjourn. Anyhow, let us see.

Shri A. C. Guha: I beg to move...

Shri Kamath: Let us adjourn the discussion.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He is explaining it. If there are unresolved difficulties, let us see. Adjournment is always there.

Shri A. C. Guha: This more or less retains the same wording.

I beg to move:

In page 2,

for lines 9 to 26 substitute:

"Decimal system of coinage.—

14(1) The rupee shall be divided into one hundred units and the new coin representing such unit may be designated by the Central Government, by notification in the Official Gazette, under such name as it thinks fit and the rupee, half-rupee and quarter-rupee shall be respectively equivalent to one hundred, fifty and twenty-five such new coins and shall, subject to the provisions of sub-section (1) and sub-section (2) of section 13 and to the extent specified therein, be a legal tender in payment or on account accordingly.

(2) All coins issued under the authority of this Act in any denominations of annas, pice and pies shall, to the extent specified in section 13, be a legal tender in payment or on account at the rate of sixteen annas, sixty-four pice or one hundred and ninety-two pies to one hundred new coins referred to in sub-section (1), calculated in respect of any such single new coin or number of such new coins, tendered at one transaction, to the nearest new coin, or where the new coin above and the new coin below are equally near to the new coin below.

(3) All references in any enactment or in any notification, rule or order under any enactment or in any contract, deed or other instrument to any value expressed in annas, pice and pies shall be construed as references to that value expressed in new coins referred to in sub-section (1) converted thereto at the rate specified in sub-section (2)."

If you compare the original clause with the amendment, you will find only this change, that for 'cents' we

have put in 'units'. This is the material change that we have made; otherwise, the whole thing remains as it is. As I indicated a few minutes ago, the difficulty is how to differentiate the new coin from the old coin. If we give just exactly the same designation, it will lead to further confusion. So we have kept this thing open now. We shall consult some experts; we shall come to a decision within a few days and then we shall announce it. This is as regards what name we shall put for the lowest unit. We shall place our decision on the Table of the House. The formula we have put in here meets all the objections raised on the floor of the House yesterday as regards the use of cent and also some preference shown for some Indian names, particularly those prevalent now. The only difficulty is to make some distinction between the new and old coins. We have kept this thing open, we shall consult some experts, some old historians, numismatists and others; we shall come to certain decision and we shall announce it and also place it on the Table of the House.

An Hon. Member: Who are the 'old historians'?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Amendment moved:

In page 2,

for lines 9 to 26 substitute:

"Decimal system of coinage.—14

(1) The rupee shall be divided into one hundred units and new coin representing such unit may be designed by the Central Government, by notification in the Official Gazette, under such name as it thinks fit and the rupee, half-rupee and quarter-rupee shall be respectively equivalent to one hundred, fifty and twenty-five such new coins and shall, subject to the provisions of sub-section (1) and sub-section (2) of section 13 and to the extent specified therein, be a legal tender in payment or on account accordingly.

(2) All coins issued under the authority of this Act in any denominations of annas, pice and pies shall, to the extent specified in section 13, be a legal tender in payment or on account at the rate of sixteen annas, sixty-four pice or one hundred and ninety-two pies to one hundred new coins referred to in sub-section (1), calculated in respect of any such single new coin or number of such new coins, tendered at one transaction to the nearest new coin, or where the new coin above and the new coin below are equally near to the new coin below.

(3) All references in any enactment or in any notification, rule or order under any enactment or in any contract, deed or other instrument to any value expressed in annas, pice and pies shall be construed as references to that value expressed in new coins referred to in sub-section (1) converted thereto at the rate specified in sub-section (2)."

Shri Bogawat: My amendment will be useful to the people of the country. I submit that instead of the Minister's amendment, my amendment be accepted.

Shri Raghavachari: The Minister says that he finds it difficult to find a name that he should give and that in a few days he will be in a position to choose one after consulting 'old historians' and other people. The point simply is this. After they have made up their mind and have given a specific name, then it will be time for us to consider it further. So this may well be postponed for three or four days when he will have consulted the old historians and others and given a definite name.

Shri Gadgil (Poona Central): I have no objection so far as this amendment is concerned, but if this splitting up is to end with one-fourth,

[Shri Gadgil]

that is 25, and there is no further splitting up, there may be difficulty. For example, if I go to the bazaar and want to buy a thing for 24 units, am I to pay for 25 units or carry the load of 24 units? So I suggest that there should be a further lowering of the denomination.

Shri A. C. Guha: I gave examples yesterday. There will be some coins for 10 units, for 5 units; there may also be coins for one and two units.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (Gurgaon): Five and ten units only.

Shri A. C. Guha: No, the others may be necessary.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I find that there is absolutely no radical change effected in the amendment as compared to the original clause in the Bill. Sub-clauses (2) and (3) are word for word the same as the original sub-clauses (2) and (3), except that the word 'cent' is not there. In sub-clause (1) the word 'cent' has been changed into 'unit' and nothing more. This is in pursuance of the desire expressed that we ought not to import new nomenclatures but retain the old nomenclatures as much as possible. The only further point is that the old nomenclature of annas, pies and so on is retained, until it goes out of use. The other thing is, what is the value of the anna in terms of 100 units of the other coin, and which other coins may be necessary below 25 units. Under section 6 of the Act, Government can call these by any name. That is why the names are not given in the body of the Act, because they have the right to change the names from time to time. Under these circumstances, there is no purpose in putting off the consideration of this Bill. All the other things will be done by notification. If necessary, we can ask the hon. Minister to place the notification here on the Table of the House.

Shri A. C. Guha: I have already said that I shall place the notification on the Table of the House.

Shri S. S. More: My difficulty is this. According to this latest amendment, one rupee will be split up into half rupee and quarter rupee.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is there already.

Shri S. S. More: But there are further smaller coins, and in the absence of any specific legislative or statutory authority, will it be possible for Government to issue the smaller coins, say, one anna and two anna worth pieces?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: By notification.

Shri S. S. More: As far as I read it, this is an authority to Government for issuing coins of a particular denomination. Barring this denomination, any other issue will be not possible.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Under section 6 of the principal Act, Government can issue any kind of denomination below a rupee.

Shri B. S. Murthy (Eluru): In the same amendment, it is stated that the rupee will be divided into 100 units. Therefore, there will be no difficulty.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Now, this amendment is before the House. In view of this, some of the other amendments may go out.

Shri Bogawat: My amendment is: In page 1, line 11,

after "cents" insert "and ten cents be equivalent to a coin called one cent-anna and one cent be called one pice".

If this amendment is accepted, I think the whole difficulty will be solved. No doubt, we want a change; we want our national coin, national emblem, nomenclature and everything, and I must thank the Government for having introduced this Bill, though late, though some people are very angry that this Bill is introduced; they think that if this is brought into effect, there would be difficulties

to ignorant and illiterate people. But anyhow, we have to do that.

Shri Gadgil: Mixed denomination.

Shri Bogawat: Yes. Let us have some denomination for ten cents also. Then instead of 64 pice, let us have 100 pice, and let us have a new name for that pice. If this is done, even ignorant and illiterate people would not be deceived. This is a very easy way of naming the coin, because people know what is an anna, and ten such annas would make one rupee. Yesterday also, my hon. friend, Shri Gadgil, suggested that there should be some such thing as 10 cent coin which should be named one anna or something like that. So I have brought in this amendment. If there is some such nomenclature even for the lowest coin, cent-pice or something like that, there would be no difficulty. We know that our one rupee is going to be divided into 100 parts, instead of 64 pice. Now 64 cents will come to one anna. Instead, there should be a coin named cent-anna equivalent to 10 cents, which means that it is one-tenth of a rupee. In this way if we give names to the coins, then there will be no difficulty in book-keeping, accountancy and other transactions. In the circumstances, when we want a change, the change should be effected, but it should be effected in such a way that there would be no difficulties created for the poor and ignorant people. Otherwise, they would be robbed, and there would be no chance of anybody going to a court of law to prosecute a man because he is cheated for two, three or five annas. These difficulties will be there and my request is that in this very Bill, if we incorporate that amendment and name the ten cents as one cent-anna, then much of our purpose will be served.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Government has given up cents altogether.

Shri Bogawat: We have left everything to the Government by notification in the official Gazette. But we

must give such a name so that the poor, ignorant people are not cheated. If any nomenclature is to be given, it should be given before the Parliament and all the Members must understand what name is to be assigned, so that the difficulties may be resolved here, and it should not be left to the Government to name it in the Official Gazette by a notification.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: In the clause 14(1) there is a mention of one-rupee, half-rupee and quarter-rupee and there is no mention of the equivalents of two annas and one anna. I can understand, as pointed out by you, that a particular section of the Indian Coinage Act gives that power to the Government, but when there is a specific mention of one-rupee, half-rupee and quarter-rupee, why should we not mention about two annas and one anna also? If there is no mention made about these three, then I can understand that Government can make the new subdivisions, but when specifically these three names are given, it is open to objection if we leave out the rest here. Where is the harm if we put in two more sub-divisions? The one corresponding to five paisas will be one anna, and the one corresponding to two annas will be 10 paisas. There will be no difficulty.....

Shri B. S. Murthy: We are not able to understand.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: I was submitting that the half-rupee will be equivalent to 50 paisas. Let us assume for the time being that the paisa is there and in that case a half-rupee will be equal to 50 paisas and a quarter-rupee will be equal to 25 paisas. I was submitting that similarly if we say that one anna will be equal to 5 paisas, what is the harm? What is the difficulty here when we want the metric system? Similarly, 10 paisas will be equal to one-eighth rupee or two annas. My humble suggestion is that if these two sub-divisions are also mentioned (*Interruption*). I do not know why

[Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava]

my friends are laughing. It is a simple question of arithmetic, though it is something psychologically not so easy to understand.

Shri S. S. More: Will a rupee be equal to 20 annas then?

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: No. Our rupee will be equal to 10 annas.

Shri S. S. More: If each anna be equal to 5 paises and if a rupee is equal to 100 paises, then by the simple arithmetic which is not beyond the understanding of my hon. friend, one rupee will be equal to 20 annas.

Shri Gadgil: You can easily imagine what will happen in the bazaar after this Bill becomes an Act.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am afraid before it goes to the bazaar we are trying to enact one here!

Shri Kamath: Shape of things to come in the country outside.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I hope not.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: My friend is quite correct that 100 divided by 5 will come to 20 and he will give me credit for that I was wrong in suggesting that one anna will consist of five paises. Since a rupee, half-rupee and quarter-rupee are specifically mentioned here, we must also indicate the further sub-divisions.

Shri S. S. More: I support that.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: It must be complete by itself, and the further sub-divisions must be there.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: May I ask the hon. Minister to explain?

Shri A. C. Guha: There has been some confusion in the mind of my friend. In this Bill we are simply...

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Minister has said that in two or three days' time historians will come to his help and they will give us a solution. If so, what is the hurry for this today? Why not we have

this three or four days later or even a week later, because this is a novel experiment we are making?

Shri A. C. Guha: I have not said three or four days. I think it will take some time, may be 15 days or more.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We have two months more before us. We have not even started the 1st August. If the hon. Minister had said "It is all right as it is and there is absolutely no question of placing it before the House", then once and for all the House would resign itself to expect the notification. On the other hand, if we go half way and say that we will do this very soon, then hon. Members evidently want it sooner placed before the House. If this is put off till the end of the session, what is the harm?

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: I was reinforcing your point by another argument. We want paisa to be specifically mentioned here in the Bill.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: This long amendment by the hon. Minister has been permitted to be placed before the House although normal notice to Members has not been given and I persuaded hon. Members to accept it. Under those circumstances, let it not be misunderstood that we are rushing through this matter. Immediately we are not going to change the denominations. After the hon. Minister ascertains the views of those people, he can place them before the House. After all, we have only half an hour more and in that half-an hour I do not know how much controversy there will be on this matter. If the hon. Minister could satisfy these people outside, it will then be passed unanimously.

Shri V. B. Gandhi (Bombay City-North): May I make a suggestion?

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: I formally propose in this House that the further proceedings with regard

to this Bill be adjourned so that both these matters may be considered—the further sub-divisions as well as the denominations.

Shri A. C. Guha: As regards the further sub-divisions, there will be no difficulty.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: The denomination should be settled in the House. I am very glad that this amendment says that the division will be into 100 parts only. We want that the denomination should be put as *paisa* and we do not want to leave it to the Government. We want to move those amendments and desire that the House will decide this now. It should be *paisa* and nothing but *paisa*.

1 P.M.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The House is committed to the principle in the Bill that a decimal system of coinage will be introduced in this country. There is no going back on that. The consideration motion has been carried already. The only further question is about the half rupee, quarter rupee etc. They are also standing there. What is their value in terms of annas, pies and so on? What is the intention? All these points have to be thought of so that any inconvenience may be avoided. If the hon. Minister can take two or three days or even a week to consult and then place these things before the House, it will be better.

Shri A. C. Guha: I think there has been some confusion in this matter. We have been trying to equate the existing coins—rupee, half rupee and quarter rupee which will continue even under the new coinage—with the new system. As for the other old coins, there will not be any two anna pieces. With regard to these coins, I gave you samples yesterday that we are going to make one cent or one *paisa*—whatever the lowest unit be called;—then two of that unit, five of that unit and ten of that unit—all will be there. I gave the samples.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Will you call it *paisa*?

Shri A. C. Guha: The difficulty is this how can you differentiate the new one from the old one if you call both of them *paisa*? After four or five years, the old coins will be removed but even then this will be called cent *paisa*. Government requires some powers to change the name even after four or five years. For this interim period. (*Interruptions*). I do not like to be interrupted.

For this interim period, there must be some prefix or suffix—whatever be the name we may put for the last unit. But after the interim period of four or five years, the old coins will be withdrawn. Then again we may have to change the names of the coins. If we call it '*naya paisa*' it cannot continue to be so when the old coins are withdrawn. So, the word '*naya*' would be eliminated. So, even then we may have to change again the name of the lowest unit.

Shri Bogawat: What difficulty would be there to change the prefix after five years. Would there be any difficulty?

Shri A. C. Guha: We can change it only if we have got the authority.

Shri Bogawat: You can amend it.

Shri S. S. More: Can they not adopt different designs for the new *paisa* so as to distinguish it from the old *paisa* so that people by themselves can start saying that this is *naya paisa* and the other is old *paisa*. The design will do the trick and there is no necessity then for the Government to make any particular change.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): I ventured to say yesterday that, speaking for myself, and I think for many in this House, I would like of course the rupee and *paisa* to continue. It would be on various points an advantage. I think and I hope that this will be done. I have not gone into these difficulties—what will happen during the certain intervening period—the

[Shri Jawaharlal Nehru]

technicalities of it. But I can—if the House so desires—give an assurance that if any difficulties arise in the way of calling it *paisa* we will come to the House and then discuss it with them. I think we agree to call it *paisa*. We just do not see eye to eye about this intervening period—about the difficulties that might arise and then possibly they have to come to the House for legislative changes. It is really the technical part of it—not the real part of it. In regard to the real part, there is full agreement.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is contemplated here to make further divisions of the coins by notification; it is so under the original Act also. I venture to suggest that the notification may be placed on the Table of the House so that hon. Members may have an opportunity to discuss it.

Shri A. C. Guha: I have already agreed to that.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: We shall place it on the Table of the House; I would go a step further and say that as soon as the notification is placed, we will bring it before the House for discussion if it wants to.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Under the Defence of India Act previously, if a person gave less money in exchange to any person he was prosecuted and punished. Now, 25 cents will be equal to a quarter rupee. There are these two cents, five cents and then there is the quarter *anna*, etc., In between the two also, some ratio will have to be fixed. If this ratio is fixed and there are also rules that no person shall give less than 16 pice for 25 cents or 25 cents for 16 pice, it would be all right. A person who contravenes this shall have to be prosecuted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is there in sub-clause (2).

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Today there is no rule by virtue of which

we can prosecute any person. As I understand, the rule is therefore the purpose of finding out what the ratio would be. But so far as the penal clauses are concerned as we had in the Defence of India Rules, there are none. If we do not have a penal clause there will be exploitation and the poor and the ignorant people will be made to suffer.

Shri S. S. More: We are trying to facilitate matters for the illiterate and ignorant sections of the community who will be dealing more with smaller coins than currency notes and larger denominations. Their interests have to be safeguarded. The Penal provisions have to be inserted and prosecutions are to be provided and people are to be given an assurance that they will not allow them to be cheated by any unscrupulous persons. As lawyers we feel that it ought to be part of a particular statute. Clause (2) gives a sort of a method or calculation as to what is equal to what. But mere calculation is not enough. Breach of these calculations will have to be punished and in order to punish them penal clauses will have to be incorporated in this measure. Therefore, as you very kindly suggested, if the consideration of this motion is postponed for a couple of days or for four or five days, all these difficulties can be got over with more thought.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: We are all agreed that every care should be taken so that the masses of people who may be using the coins of lower denominations must be protected. But what the hon. Member said surely amounts to cheating. If a person wants to pass off one coin for another, that is cheating and the criminal laws are adequate to deal with such cases. Must we have a special law for this particular purpose? Surely, if one wants to pass off one coin as if it was another, that is cheating.

Shri S. S. More: It is exploiting the calculation. He is not passing off

a coin as if it is another. The matter is whether the calculation between the old coins and the new units is properly observed or not and this, I believe in all humility, will not be covered by the present legislation and it is for the Government to consult their law officers. It is a matter on which no off-hand opinion can be expressed here.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I do not think it is necessary to consult them because the ratio is given here. Whoever takes more, cheats if it is done intentionally.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: It is not cheating, to say the least. In all places of pilgrimage, people are receiving 63 pice or 62 pice for one rupee. That is not cheating at all.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We are going far beyond. When a change-over has to be made as in the case of Hyderabad, there may be normally unwary persons who may be led to pay a little more here and there. But if it becomes habitual with regard to any particular person, people will only be too chary and will see under the ordinary law of the land that he does not take more than what is legally due to him.

Therefore, such provisions need not be made. So far as the denominations are concerned the hon. Minister has said that in keeping with section 6 coins may be coined at the mint for issue under the authority of the Central Government of such denominations—not higher than one rupee—and designs and of such metals or of mixed metals of such compositions as the Central Government may by notification in the official gazette determine. As far as coins below a rupee are concerned they will certainly issue a notification and the hon. Leader of the House has said that the notification will be placed on the Table of the House. He has also said that if it is found necessary some time will be devoted for discussion and making suggestions as to whether the notification may be accepted as it is or

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with some modifications. In view of all this I do not think it is necessary to proceed further with any of these amendments and the amendment of the hon. Minister may be considered.

Shri Kamath: May I make a request? In view of the difficulty and controversy that have arisen in this House, which is perhaps a foretaste of what is going to happen outside, I frankly see no reason why your salutary proposal, to adjourn the debate till such time as the Government makes up its mind on the matter of designation, denomination etc. etc., should not be accepted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: In view of the statement already made, now there is no difficulty.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: What Mr. Kamath says would mean a long day. Once the principle is accepted then we start working and thinking all this out. When the House has accepted the principle, as I have said, so far as the legal points raised by some hon. Members opposite are concerned, we are prepared to consider them fully. I do not see why this Bill should be delayed. If necessary we shall come with an amendment of this, that or anything else to make that clear because we are all interested in seeing that no confusion is caused and nobody should be allowed to cheat in this way. If that has not come within the law then we shall bring a small amendment to make that clear. Our whole inclination and desire is to keep the paisa. The slight technical matters will have to be examined. We shall place this matter before the House quite in good time before the actual thing is done so that the House will have every opportunity to consider it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Now, does any hon. Member want to speak on this amendment? Such of those hon. Members who have already had an opportunity to discuss this need not speak now.

Shri Nand Lal Sharma: I have not spoken on the Bill.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: In view of the discussion that took place just now, this discussion will conclude at 1-30 P.M.

Shri Nand Lal Sharma: I want to know one thing by way of information. This amendment has been put up without any previous notice. Is it open to the Members to put up amendments to this amendment even now?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member may say all that he wants.

Shri Nand Lal Sharma: I am asking whether we can give amendments now?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He can state the amendment. I have no objection. I will allow it.

श्री नंद लाल शर्मा (सीकर) :

**महालक्ष्म्यं च विद्महे विष्णुपत्न्यं च धीमहि
तन्नो लक्ष्मीः प्रचोदयात् ॥**

मैं इस धारा का विरोध करने के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूँ। कल मुझे यह जान कर अचम्भा हुआ कि सार्व भारत के प्रतिनिधियों की इस संसद् में जहाँ दशमलव पद्धति का समर्थन किया गया और कहा गया कि वह हमारे प्राचीन भारत की प्राचीन गणित पद्धति का एक भाग है और उसका आविष्कार पन्द्रह शताब्दी पूर्व किया गया किसी ने कहा कि पांच छः शताब्दी पूर्व किया गया—वहाँ किसी ने यह नहीं सोचा कि हमारी वर्तमान मुद्रा में भी हमारी प्राचीन पद्धति का संकेत पाया जाता है या नहीं। हमारे प्राचीन वाल्मीकि रामायण को उठा कर देखिए। उसमें इस बात का उल्लेख है कि अश्वमेध यज्ञ के अवसर पर जिन बालकों ने रामायण गा कर सुनाई, उनको—लव तथा कुश को—राम ने दस हजार मुद्रा पुरस्कार के रूप में देने के लिए लक्ष्मण को आज्ञा दी। भारत में प्राचीन काल में रत्न और स्वर्ण की मुद्रा का प्रचलन प्रसिद्ध था। जिन मित्रों

ने कहा है कि दशमलव पद्धति का आविष्कार प्राचीन भारत में हुआ था, उनको शुक्ल धनुर्वेद संहिता की इन पंक्तियों से भी अवश्य परिचित होना चाहिए:

एता च त्रयश्च मे त्रयश्च मे त्रयश्च मे पंच व मे और

चतस्रश्च मे अष्टौ च मे जाषि जाषि

मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि गिनती की सब पद्धतियों में से केवल दशमलव पद्धति ही सब से उत्तम और सरल नहीं है—और भी कई गिनती की पद्धतियाँ हैं। कल हमारे प्रधान मंत्री ने एक यूनिफार्मिटी की बात कही। उन्होंने कहा कि साइंटिस्ट लोगों को अपनी लैबराटरीज में मापने और तोलने के लिए जिस पद्धति का अनुसरण करना पड़ेगा, अपने नित्य के जीवन में भी हम को उस पद्धति का अनुसरण करना चाहिए। मैं समझता हूँ कि एलोपैथी और आयुर्वेदिक शास्त्र जिस प्रकार से औषधि खाने को कहते हैं, साधारण प्राणी अपने भोजन में उनकी आज्ञा का पालन तो नहीं करता है कि मैं ने इतना विटामिन खाना है, इत्यादि। वह तो समय और आवश्यकता के अनुसार भोजन करता है। यूनिफार्मिटी का यह अर्थ नहीं है कि नाक और टांग एक जैसी बन जायें या सिर और पैर को बराबर बना दिया जाय। हर बात का प्रोपोर्शन होना चाहिए।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : माननीय सदस्य को विदित है कि सभा ने विधेयक के सिद्धान्त स्वीकार कर लिया है। इस खण्ड में हम ने केवल यह विचार करना है कि रूपय का विभक्त अठन्नी, चवन्नी, आना, पाई, पैसा आदि में होना चाहिए अथवा नहीं।

श्री नंद लाल शर्मा : मैं समझता हूँ कि मुझे धारा २ पर बोलने का अधिकार है।

दूसरी बात यह है कि हमारे यहाँ पुरुष की सोलह कला मानी गई है।

बाइश कलाओं में पुरुष,

इसी प्रकार चन्द्रमा की सोलह कला हैं। उसकी चौंसठ कला भी मानी गई है। सूर्य की बारह कला के अनुसार फिर बाहर अंश कर दिए गए हैं।

इसी आधार पर हमारे यहाँ रुपए, आने और पैसे की व्यवस्था चल रही है। उसका भी एक वैज्ञानिक आधार है। इसलिए इस व्यवस्था को समाप्त करते समय हमें इस बात का ध्यान रखना चाहिए। यहाँ पर एक व्यापारी ने कह भी दिया है कि वर्तमान पद्धति के कारण कैलकुलेशन में कोई कष्ट नहीं होता है। उनका कहना है कि इसकी तुलना में दशमलव पद्धति के द्वारा इतनी जल्दी कैलकुलेशन करना सम्भव नहीं है।

मुझे इस बात की प्रसन्नता है कि अब संज्ञा-धित धारा में "सेन्ट" शब्द का परित्याग कर दिया गया है। परन्तु अभी तक यह निश्चय नहीं किया गया है कि यदि सेन्ट न होगा, तो उसके स्थान पर कौन सा यूनिट होगा। यद्यपि अभी मुझे रोक दिया गया है कि इस बिल पर सिद्धान्ततः हम अपने जो विचार प्रकट कर चुके हैं, उनके बागे अब कुछ कड़ने का कोई अधिकार नहीं है, परन्तु मैं इतना निवेदन अवश्य करना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार इस विषय में एक बार फिर विचार करे। जैसा कि मेरे कई पूर्व वक्ता भी कह चुके हैं, इस परिवर्तन में दस पन्द्रह करोड़ रुपए का व्यय होगा, जनता को कष्ट होगा और हमारे व्यापार के क्षेत्र में भी बहुत सी बाधाएं उपस्थित होंगी। मैं बताना चाहता हूँ कि अपनी प्राचीन गणित पद्धति का ध्यान न कर के केवल दशमलव पद्धति को अंगीकार कर के और रुपए के वर्तमान स्वरूप को हटा देने से जनता को कोई विशेष लाभ नहीं होगा। जनता को लाभ तभी होगा, जब कि उसके पास रुपया आएगा। आज तो यह अवस्था है कि कागज का पैसा है और कागज का रुपया है, जो कि पानी पड़ने और अग्नि से दो मिनट में शान्त हो जाता है। इस परिस्थिति में लंबोर्टरी के अन्दर जो गणित पद्धति है वह किसी प्रकार का लाभ जनता को नहीं पहुँचायेगी। जनता को लाभ पहुँचाने का तो मार्ग दूसरा है। इसलिए मैं इस धारा का विरोध करता हूँ और कहता हूँ कि प्राचीन पद्धति का अवश्य अनुसरण किया जाए।

Shri Vallatharas: It is a highly desirable piece of legislation which has come at a very late date. In 1950, the inter-ministerial committee

which was set up to consider the favourable and the unfavourable aspects of this question of introducing metric system in India concluded on one sitting by saying that they wanted to know whether the Government accepted the principle of the metric system for adoption in this country and they refused to go into details. So, it has to be taken that there has been efforts on the Government side as to whether they could adopt this system to any extent. After 1950, even the Finance Ministry was not able to decide. As late as October, 1954, an impression or the opinion of the Finance Ministry, as I am able to gather from this report, was that these smaller denominations which are not much in use and not affecting the foreign trade need not at all be thought of now and the decimalisation of coinage may succeed the introduction of the metric system of weights and measures and may not precede it. A bold step has been taken by the Planning Commission to settle all those controversies and they came up with the firmest opinion as to how to sponsor this proposal in view of the Five Year Plan. The last and final touch, the consolation touch, was given by the hon. Prime Minister and I think this legislation is very highly desirable.

Now, in Delhi you can see how quarter-anna pieces are un-familiar and how the pies and pice have gone out of vogue. Even the worst-clad beggar in the street approaches us and asks *Charanna dijiye*. When the lowest money standard of the beggar has come up to four annas, why should you not raise 192 parts of the Rupee to 100 parts and calculate the pie as the 1/100 part of the rupee? After all, it comes to this: the new *paisa* is equal to 1.92 original pies. The man in the street, whether a villager or a townsman, will be able to understand this new *paisa* as one which is almost equivalent to two original pies. There is no difficulty in understanding it at all, unless the maddening cries of statisticians go to show otherwise. The poor people

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are more intelligent in many respects than highly educated people. As a matter of fact, I wish this legislation to be introduced within a year. All the difficulties which these statisticians and the inter-ministerial committees and scientists have been worrying about are without any meaning now, under the structure of our planned economic system. People have begun to feel what the community project is, what the national extension service is, and what the country is. Whether the Five Year Plan succeeds or not, there is a decisive intention on the part of the people that the Plan must be pursued to its good end or bitter end, whatever it be. So, in that way, it is better we ease the public transactions and save the public from so many troubles, squabbles and cheatings and this and that. Nobody is going to be cheated, and if anybody is going to be cheated, it is only by 08 per cent. All the atrocities that are often committed by so many existing traders in the designed standards and measures and in the standards of the weights and measures necessarily must be put an end to at the earliest opportunity possible. So, the Planning Commission had thought it fit to introduce a small measure first which does not create much difficulty as a prelude to the introduction of the major metric system in weights and measures. I strongly appeal to the Government to consider this matter of taking steps for minting these *paisas* within a particular date not exceeding 12 or 24 months—taking the needed time to mint the requisite number of the new *paisas*. They must give notice that within that period the *paisa* system will be enforced on such and such a date after which period the *pies* will be withdrawn. I have got some touch with the rural population. Even in the villages, the standard of the coins which the people use is not the *pie*. In my own native State the smallest coin was one cash which was $1/320$ th of a rupee. Now, in that area which is dried up and which is visited by scarcity conditions,

the people's conception of the lowest term of money has come to the standard of a quarter-anna and not the old cash or *pie*. Under these circumstances, it is quite natural that this 192nd part of a rupee may vanish and that the one-hundredth part may come in. Whether it is good or bad is not the question now. We have come into the modern fashion and we have to adjust ourselves in a line with international requirements and standards. It may be, in the course of things, as we have got hopeful signs of international situation amicably rising up, that the common standards for all nations in this world would be set up in respect of coinage, weights and measures, and in inter-dealings of several nations and several societies of the people. I am not at all pessimistic in this aspect I wish to submit that this good piece of legislation which has been introduced after so much decision and determination at this stage would be allowed to be implemented expeditiously and not be laid idle for five years under a wrong conception that people want time. On the other hand, tell the people through the radio and through public platforms and meetings that the new *paisa* is equal almost to two *pies* of the older type. We can introduce the new currency as early as possible. The expeditious implementation of this system should be carried out. I congratulate the Government on their having come to a great decision.

Shri V. G. Deshpande: I want to move an amendment to the amendment proposed by the Government to clause 14(1). I want the new one rupee coin to be called the decimal rupee equivalent to the present 100 *paisas* and they shall be legal tender. If I am permitted to speak, I will explain it within two minutes.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is out of order.

Shri V. G. Deshpande: How is it out of order?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: So far as the rupee is concerned, there is no intention to touch the rupee. The hon. Member knows that this is an amending Bill. Only certain sections of the original Act have been sought to be amended. So far as section 6 of the original Act is concerned, the rupee will continue to be the legal tender. The coins of such denomination not higher than a rupee may be minted for issue under the authority of the Central Government. It says:

"of such denominations and designs and of such metals and of makes of metals of such composition as the Central Government may, by notification in the official gazette, determine."

Shri V. G. Deshpande: I want only the rupee to be the new coin. I do not want any other designation.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The rupee is not to be changed.

Shri V. G. Deshpande: I want that there should be another decimal rupee. That is all.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The rupee will remain as the rupee. The subsidiary coins making up a rupee will be changed. Instead of the rupee being divided into 192 pies and 16 annas as now, that is, instead of the present 1/192nd and 1/16th parts of a rupee, there will be 1/100, 1/50 and 1/25 parts and so on.

Shri B. S. Murthy: By creating a decimal rupee, there must be some other coin to which this rupee should be the decimal. Therefore, his amendment is out of order.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The rupee is the standard, and it ought not to be touched. Any other subsidiary coin or fraction of that is proposed and can be proposed. Therefore, I am sorry I cannot allow his amendment.

Shri V. C. Deshpande: Can I not oppose the clause? I feel that if the Minister had brought this clause in the form which I propose, it would

avoid all the trouble in the transition period about which we are all anxious. Within two minutes I would explain the position. My point is that the paisa is the unit which is understood by everybody. If we have got a rupee with the present 100 paisas as the units, we would not require a change, and people would understand it. On the new coin we could write that a decimal rupee is equal to 100 paisas which would be equal to the present Rs. 1-9-0. Otherwise, it would be a confusing thing. Similarly, we could split up the rupee into paisas and it could be understood by the simple rule of thumb. If the rupee is also changed into the decimal system, and if the people know that the new rupee is the decimal rupee equal to 25 annas or so even in the transition period, there would not be any difficulty.

Of course, I accept your principle, but we can discuss and evolve a scheme whereby no trouble would be caused to the public. Though we are committed to the principle, I warn the Government against hurrying over this matter. The whole House is prepared to accept that we should not cause any trouble or harassment not only to the villagers, but to all of us.

Shri A. C. Guha: I do not think that there is anything for me to add further to what the Prime Minister has said. He has already given the assurance that the notification of the Central Government will be laid on the table of the House and if necessary there can be a debate on the notification, so that the House will fully know what is the designation we are going to put etc. If necessary the House may also discuss that point.

I have already stated the technical difficulties particularly for the interim period during which both the old coins and the new coins will be current. For that particular period we will have to see that the least amount of confusion and difficulty for the people may be caused. Simply out of the anxiety in my mind that only the least amount of confusion is caused, we like to have this power, and later on

[Shri A. C. Guha]

we shall select the new name. It may be that after the interim period, after four or five years when the old coins will be withdrawn completely, we may have to change the name slightly. For these reasons, I think that this amendment should be accepted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

In page 2,

for lines 9 to 26 substitute:

"Decimal system of coinage.—

14(1) The rupee shall be divided into one hundred units and the new coin representing such unit may be designated by the Central Government, by notification in the Official Gazette, under such name as it thinks fit and the rupee, half-rupee and quarter-rupee shall be respectively equivalent to one hundred, fifty and twenty-five such new coins and shall, subject to the provisions of sub-section (1) and sub-section (2) of section 13 and to the extent specified therein, be a legal tender in payment or on account accordingly.

(2) All coins issued under the authority of this Act in any denominations of annas, pice and pies shall, to the extent specified in section 13, be a legal tender in payment or on account at the rate of sixteen annas, sixty-four pice or one hundred and ninety-two pies to one hundred new coins referred to in sub-section (1), calculated in respect of any such single new coin or number of such new coins, tendered at one transaction, to the nearest new coin, or where the new coin above and the new coin below are equally near to the new coin below.

(3) All references in any enactment or in any notification, rule or order under any enactment or in any contract, deed or other instrument to any value expressed in annas, pice and pies shall be

construed as references to that value expressed in new coins referred to in sub-section (1) converted thereto at the rate specified in sub-section (2)."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 2, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 1.— (Short title and commencement).

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I hope there are no amendments to this clause.

Shri Kamath: I have a little suggestion to make; I will not take much time. As this is claimed to be a radical, even revolutionary measure and as my amendment for circulating the Bill for eliciting public opinion thereon has not been accepted by the House, I would earnestly suggest that the date on which the Bill shall come into force by notification by the Central Government may be some date in 1957, a year of revolutionary significance for India. I also suggest that during the one and a half or two years before the Act comes into force, there should be an intensive publicity and education drive among the people, so that they can understand the implications as well as the complications of this new measure.

Shri A. C. Guha: The hon. Member has not made any point; he has only suggested that publicity should be given.

Shri Kamath: The date of commencement should be in 1957.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 1 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill

The Enactment Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

Shri A. C. Guha: I beg to move:

"That the Bill as amended, be passed."

I do not like to say anything more. There has been sufficient discussion on this Bill and I think that the Government will take sufficient steps to minimise the difficulties of the people in the interim period. Publicity work will be done and every step to educate the people in the metric system will be taken. As I have already stated, another measure from the Commerce and Industry Ministry will be coming before this House in due course for implementing the metric system in the weights and measures. As originally said, I hope that within the period of about 15 years it will be possible for the Government to introduce the metric system in all the centres.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

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

The motion was adopted.

LAND CUSTOMS (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Minister of Revenue and Defence Expenditure (Shri A. C. Guha): I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Land Customs Act, 1924, be taken into consideration."

This is a very simple Bill. We are going to extend some of the sections of the Sea Customs Act also to land customs. Under section 9 of the Land Customs Act, certain sections of the Sea Customs Act are already applicable to land customs also. But the House may recollect that during last session we passed a Bill amending the Sea Customs Act and certain sections were added to the Sea Customs Act. We want those sections to be introduced for the land customs also.

I do not like to say anything in this connection now. If there be any points mentioned by the Members, I shall reply to those points. This is a simple measure and I hope that the Bill would be passed.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Land Customs Act, 1924, be taken into consideration."

Shri Kasliwal (Kotah-Jhalawar): The hon. Minister in moving that the Bill be taken into consideration has said that this is a very simple measure. In the Statement of Objects and Reasons also it is said that:

"The object of the Bill is to include in the existing Schedule to the Land Customs Act, 1924 the new provisions contained in the Sea Customs (Amendment) Bill, 1954."

I have carefully examined some of the provisions of the Sea Customs (Amendment) Bill which has become an Act, which are proposed to be incorporated in the Land Customs (Amendment) Bill. If you please see the Schedule which is proposed to be amended, you will see section 25 of the Sea Customs Act, which was amended by the Sea Customs (Amendment) Bill of 1955. It reads like this:

"In the proviso to section 25 of the Sea Customs Act, 1878 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act), for the words "without payment of duty", the following shall be substituted, namely:—

"without payment of duty if no drawback in respect of the goods has been allowed under section 43B, and on payment of duty equal to the amount of the drawback if drawback has been allowed under that section."

I would like to know from the hon. Minister which particular section is being made applicable now, whether it is section 25 as amended by the Sea Customs (Amendment) Bill is being incorporated or whether it is the old section 25 which is proposed to be