

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

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HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Tuesday, 29th July, 1952

The House met at a Quarter Past
Eight of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

9-15 A.M.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

REPORT OF INDIAN DELEGATE ON WORK-
ING PARTY CONFERENCE ON STANDARD
INTERNATIONAL TRADE CLASSIFICATION

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report of the Indian Delegate on the Working Party Conference on Standard International Trade Classification held at Bangkok in January, 1952. [Placed in Library. See No. P—40/52.]

STATEMENTS SHOWING ACTION TAKEN
BY GOVERNMENT ON ASSURANCES ETC.

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): I beg to lay on the Table the following statements showing the action taken by Government on various assurances, promises and undertakings given during the various sessions shown against each:

(1) Supplementary Fifth Session of
Statement I Parliament, 1952

[See Appendix XI, Annexure No. 28.]

(2) Supplementary Fourth Session of
Statement V Parliament, 1951

[See Appendix XI, Annexure No. 29.]

(3) Supplementary Third Session of
Statement III Parliament (Second
Part), 1951

[See Appendix XII, Annexure No. 4.]

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(4) Supplementary Third Session of
Statement III Parliament (First
Part), 1950

[See Appendix XII, Annexure No. 3.]

(5) Supplementary Second Session of
Statement III Parliament, 1950

[See Appendix XII, Annexure No. 2.]

(6) Supplementary First Session of
Statement V Parliament, 1950

[See Appendix XII, Annexure No. 1.]

(7) Supplementary November-December
Statement IV Session,
1949 of the Constitu-
ent Assembly
of India (Legisla-
tive)

[See Appendix XI, Annexure No. 30.]

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL
RESEARCH

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the House that upto the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, 12 nominations were received. Subsequently eight Members withdrew their candidature. As the number of the remaining candidates was thus equal to the number of vacancies in the Committee, I declare the following Members to be duly elected: Shri K. G. Deshmukh, Pandit Algu Rai Shastri, Shri Hira Singh Chinaria and Dr. Indubhai B. Amin.

PREVENTIVE DETENTION (SECOND
AMENDMENT) BILLEXTENSION OF TIME FOR PRESENTATION
OF REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEE

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): I beg to move:

"That the time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Bill further to amend the Preventive Detention Act, 1950, be extended upto Wednesday, the 30th July, 1952."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Bill further to amend the Preventive Detention Act, 1950, be extended upto Wednesday, the 30th July, 1952."

The motion was adopted.

CENTRAL SILK BOARD (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Central Silk Board Act, 1948, be taken into consideration."

The principal object of this Bill is to make the working of the Silk Board more efficient. The House will be aware that after the passing of the Silk Board Act of 1948 it was expected that the Silk Board would take a great deal of interest in the silk industry and be able to put it on a firm footing. I cannot say that the Board has not done anything—actually the Board itself meets once a year and its Standing Committee generally meets twice a year—but in actual practice it seems that the constitution of an autonomous body of this nature to look after the silk industry has been a trifle premature because the industry itself is not very well organised. Hon. Members in this House who had raised questions at the time when the Tariff (Amendment) Bill was discussed had complained that the protection granted to the silk industry was not adequate. Instances have been put forward in this House where in particular areas the industry is in a very parlous state. It is true that much of the complaint made in this House has a basis of fact behind it. We also found that in their report the Tariff Board could not recommend protection for this industry beyond December 1952, not because they were not willing to do so, but because they felt that all the facts of the case were not presented to them by the industry. Perhaps in view of the unorganised state of the industry it might have been better if the Silk Board itself had undertaken this work of presenting all the facts before the Tariff Board. These and other facts have made the Government sit up and examine whether we could not make this Board work more efficiently. Within the limits of the information that I possess and my own ideas of how we could develop this industry, I felt that close attention by Government was necessary for a period of time before the Board could function as an autonomous body, and it is

with this view that I have brought forward this amending Bill.

The amending Bill has one major provision—it might be called major if hon. Members think that it is a major change. It seeks to take away from the Board its power of electing the Vice-Chairman and allow the Government to nominate that person. At the present moment the Board has no Vice-Chairman. The term of office of the last Vice-Chairman has elapsed and no Vice-Chairman has been elected again. The Government felt that in the circumstances, if the Vice-Chairman happens to be for the time being an official—and he will also then be a member of the Standing Committee—he will be able to give close and personal attention to the industry which by being merely a member of the Board which meets once a year he may not be able to do. Also, there was this question of the autonomy of the Board which creeps in every now and again, and the manner in which the Board functions, and its relations to Government, are extremely unsatisfactory. In fact, I have been asking for information from the Board—I have not got it. I have sent down officers to find out what is happening—very little has come forward by way of help. So I have felt that the time has come when, at any rate for a period of time, this Board has to function as a department of Government if the industry is to be benefited at all by this Board. One might say that the appointment of a Vice-Chairman who is an official is a retrograde step. It might be, I quite concede, but the industry must be organised and be able to take care of itself before we can leave it to the Board to manage its affairs. And according to my view, by reviewing the work that has been done since the Act came into force, I think the Board has not been able to look after the work that was entrusted to it and to help the industry materially.

Hon. Members here have complained about grant of licences for importation of raw silk. Again, some other Members, and certainly the industry, have complained that the silk mills do not have enough of silk yarn for carrying on their work. Government have been trying to do their best in regard to licensing. They want to keep the industry going, at the same time ensure that the local raw silk industry does not suffer. I think concentration in the hands of a Government official who is in charge generally of this type of work and leaving it to him to adjudicate between the rival claims of the local raw silk industry and the mill industry would produce better results