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LOK SABHA

Tuesday, 14th December, 1954.

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair.]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

11-56 A.M.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

APPROPRIATION ACCOUNTS, DEFENCE SERVICES, 1952-53 AND COMMERCIAL APPENDIX THERETO AND AUDIT REPORT DEFENCE SERVICES, 1954.

The Minister of Revenue and Defence Expenditure (Sbri A. C. Guha): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of each of the following papers, under article 151(1) of the Constitution:

- (i) Appropriation Accounts of the Defence Services for the year 1952-53. [Placed in Library. See No. S-483/54.]
- (iii) Commercial Appendix to the Appropriation Accounts of the Defence Services for the year 1952-53. [Placed in Library. See No. S-484/54.]
- (iii) Audit Report, Defence Services, 1954 (including Report on the Appropriation Accounts of the Defence Services and the Commercial Appendix thereto for the year 1952-53) [Placed in Library. See No. S-485/54.]

CORRECTION OF ANSWER TO STARRED QUESTION

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): The statement, "My colleague tells me that the appointments were made in consultation with us", made by the Prime Minister in reply to a supplementary by Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha arising from question No. 862 asked in the House on the 13th September 1954, was inaccurate as subsequent enquiries revealed that the appointments of U.N. Observers are not made by the U.N. Organisation in consultation with the Government of India. Monthly lists of Military Observers and staff of U.N. are, however, received by us. I therefore, seek the permission of the House to correct the earlier statement which may be substituted by the following:

"My colleague tells me that the appointments were not made in consultation with us."

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

STATEMENT RE: ORDER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): On Tuesday, the 7th December 1954, I announced on the floor of the House the order of Government business for the remaining part of the session. As some unavoidable delay has occurred in introducing the Prevention of Disqualification (Parliament and Part 'C' States Legislature) Amendment Bill, 1954, this Bill will be put down for consideration and passing after the voting of the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of Andhra.

[Shri Satya Narayan Sinha.]

As it has since not been found possible to provide for the reference of the University Grants Commission Bill in this session to a Joint Committee, it is proposed, time permitting, to provide for the consideration and passing of the Tea (Amendment) Bill which was passed by the Rajya Sabha on 30th November, and laid on the Table of this House on 2nd December 1954. I find that according to the present time allocation order, adequate time for this short and non-controversial Bill will be available on Saturday, the 18th December, 1954.

TEA (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL

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

"That the Bill further to amend the Tea Act, 1953, be taken into consideration."

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair.]

Hon. Members who have read the contents of the Bill will realise that the scope of this particular measure is to raise the cess on exports now being levied for the purpose of the administration of the Tea Act and for the functioning of the Central Tea Board from Rs. 2 per 100 lbs. to Rs. 4 per 100 lbs. The existing rate of Rs. 2 per 100 lbs. yields about Rs. 85 lakhs a year, which is more or less enough to cover the expense of the Tea Board, and a certain amount of limited propaganda for our tea in foreign markets.

12 Noon.

Sir, the House would recollect that, when it passed the Tea Act some time back last year, it had laid down as part of the duties of the Board under section 10(2)(b) to promote by such measures as it thinks fit, better working conditions and provisions for the improvement in the amenities and incentives of workers. It has not been found possible to undertake this task to any considerable extent largely because of the paucity of funds

available. The Tea Board has, in the past, made certain attempts. In fact, I think, all along they have allocated about Rs. 4 lakhs since 1951-52. They could not set up an organisation for this purpose or even investigate into the condition of workers. They had to depend very largely on State Governments' co-operation. The net result is that a very large quantum of even this amount of money is not being spent. It is the intention of Government to take up this obligation laid down on the Central Tea Board under section 10(2)(b) seriously and chalk out a plan for rendering so much aid and facilities to workers as is possible.

It is with this object, primarily, that we are coming before the House to raise the cess from Rs. 2 to Rs. 4. I would also like to say that in our view the Rs. 85 lakhs or so that might be realised by the increased cess is not intended for the pure and simple purpose of providing amenities and facilities for workers; it may even be spent on rehabilitating the smaller gardens and for development of the tea industry as a whole, even for which purpose the existing funds available allow no room.

Hon. Members may very well ask: "We are passing this measure. How is it going to be spent?" A programme will have to be made for the purpose, so he included in the Budget and the approval of the House sought for the purpose of appropriating a particular amount for: (a) providing amenities and facilities for workers, and (b) for the purpose of affording facilities to the smaller tea gardens. I am particularly mentioning this fact, because my hon. friend Shri N. M. Lingam, when we were discussing this question in a different context the other day, drew my attention to the need for some effort on the part of Government and the Central Tea Board for the purpose of rehabilitating smaller gardens.

Sir, the measure before the House is comparatively simple. The objects