

## HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Thursday, 20th November, 1952

The House met at a Quarter to  
Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

11-45 A.M.

INDIAN MERCHANT SHIPPING  
(AMENDMENT) BILL

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to enable effect to be given to an International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, signed in London on the tenth day of June, nineteen hundred and forty-eight, to amend the provisions of the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1923, relating to life-saving appliances, wireless and radio navigational aids and to other matters affected by the said Convention.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to enable effect to be given to an International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, signed in London on the tenth day of June, nineteen hundred and forty-eight, to amend the provisions of the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1923, relating to life-saving appliances, wireless and radio navigational aids and to other matters affected by the said Convention."

The motion was adopted.

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: I introduce the Bill.

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SUGAR (TEMPORARY ADDITIONAL  
EXCISE DUTY) BILL

Shri Ramaseshaiah (Parvathipuram): The amendment which I moved yesterday reads thus:

In page, 1 line 25, omit "and six annas".

The present Bill has come into existence as a result of the reduction of the price of sugarcane from Rs. 1-12-0 to Rs. 1-5-0 per maund. I feel that this reduction is unjust. The price of sugarcane at the beginning of the year when the present standing crop was planted, was Rs. 1-12-0 per maund. The hon. Food Minister at that time gave indications that the Government were very eager to expand and encourage sugarcane production in the country. He promised several concessions and other facilities for the sugar manufacturers, with a view to encourage them to produce more sugar than they used to. The Government also fixed targets for each factory, and in the case of sugar manufacturers who exceeded the target, the extra sugar was declared to be free from controls of price as also movement. The present crop having been planted under such conditions, the sugarcane grower naturally expected that the price would remain the same for the present season also. But unfortunately the Government have reduced the price by As. seven per maund, just before the harvest. This amounts to Rs. 12 per ton, and for a grower who expects a yield of 20 tons per acre the fall in income would be Rs. 240. I beg to submit that for a poor grower this fall in income by Rs. 240 results in a real calamity. By no manipulation of agricultural economics can anybody say that Rs. 1-5-0 per maund would be a paying proposition for the grower. In South India the average yield of cane varies from 15 to 30 tons per acre. For a grower who gets 15 tons per acre, the gross income will be about Rs. 535 according to the present rate. As against this, he will have to spend