

The Minister of Revenue and Expenditure (Shri Tyagi): He is giving his experience. Was he lubricated, Sir?

Shri S. S. More: When I was inside the Congress we were fighting the Britishers. There was no question of lubrication as a matter of fact. The question of lubrication, Mr. Tyagi knows from his own experience, arose after the 15th August, 1947 and not before that. So, my submission is in the Bombay State, Sir.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I think coconut oil is sufficiently lubricating and it is unnecessary to go to the Bombay State.

Shri S. S. More: I accept what you say, Sir. If Bombay State is not to be placed under cannon fire, I am not going to dispute what you say, Sir. This coconut oil and oilseeds are being utilised by the present Congress Government as I have said as lubricants.

My submission is that the Minister in charge was very prolific in saying that he stood by the principle of election and when the time comes he will submit these proposals to some examination and possibly he may introduce the element of election. Now, Sir, why this double process of legislation? Let the Vice-President of the Agricultural Council remain *ex-officio* President of this Committee for some time. If by that time the hon. Minister, who is new to his job and therefore bubbling with enthusiasm, scans all these provisions and if he is really convinced that the *ex-officio* President is over-worked then let him introduce the principle of election and give all these 26 or 27 persons the power of electing their own Chairman. Possibly there may be some claimants for some office here or for some office there; they will have to be satisfied, they will have to be patronised and for all these purposes this power is being taken over by the Executive. Sir, I do not wish to make a very long speech. I oppose this particular clause with all the vehemence that I can command.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Sir, I do not think that what my hon. friend has said calls for an answer from me. He has delivered his vehement opposition so far as Congress and everything that the Congress and the Congress Governments do and he has taken hold of the coconut and on the basis of it administered some new abuses to us. If he analyses the composition of this Committee, he will find that what he fears may be what

he might have probably himself done if he was in this place has not been done by the Government.

Shri S. S. More: I have not followed him, Sir.

An Hon Member: He spoke English.

Shri S. S. More: Not intelligible English.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Sir, it is not the intention of Government to push any Congressman to any position, good, bad or indifferent. I do not think it can be said at any rate so far as the composition of these Committees is concerned; I think that this criticism is really out of place as far as this Bill is concerned or this clause is concerned.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That clauses 4, 5 and 6 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 4, 5 and 6 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

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

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

INDIAN OILSEEDS COMMITTEE (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Oilseeds Committee Act, 1946, be taken into consideration."

This Bill follows very closely, Sir, the pattern of the Bill which has been accepted by the House just this minute. There is in this Bill also a new definition of the word "mill". It has been suggested:

"'mill' means any premises in which or in any part of which oilseeds are crushed or are ordinarily crushed with the aid of power."

The word "power" has been explained in the explanation.

Here also the constitution of the Committee remains more or less the same. There is very little change excepting the change of the nomenclature so far as the Vice-President of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research is concerned. He used to be called heretofore as Vice-Chairman.

Then so far as the other amendments are concerned we have sought to eliminate the distinction between A and B class States. Formerly, there were all these different States and we have now allocated one representative to each one of these States bringing in Hyderabad, Madhya Bharat, Rajasthan and Saurashtra. So far as the other amendments are concerned, also they are more or less verbal changes. There is no intention to bring about any radical modification nor will it in any way change the character or composition of the Committee. We have, for instance, in one of the clauses merely a change in the spelling, because the spelling has in the meantime been altered. Cawnpore is now spelt with a K—Kanpur. There used to be a Chamber called the Muslim Federation of Commerce to which we had given representation in the previous Act. This Federation no longer exists and this amendment seeks to omit that portion. Most of the points regarding the principle of election etc. have already been disposed of and I do not propose to take any more time of the House.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Vice-President of the Council is proposed to be the *ex-officio* President of these commodity Committees. How many commodity Committees are there?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: There is a very large number of them.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is he an expert in all these subjects?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: The point is that the whole situation is likely to change hereafter. There may be different Vice-Presidents. After all, there are two things, namely the administration section and the research section, so far as these Committees are concerned. Even if the Vice-President is not an expert, he looks to the administration, and so far as the research sections are concerned there are other people who are on the Committee to look after that aspect. Therefore, it is not really necessary in every case that he should be an expert. All these Committees are essentially administered by the Central Government and therefore it is good that a man who looks to the administration of all these

Committees has knowledge of the working of all the Committees. He merely looks after the administrative side and does not pose himself to be an expert nor does he interfere in anything that refers to research. There is a clear distinction between the supervision so far as research is concerned and so far as administration is concerned.

Shri S. S. More (Sholapur): May we have an assurance from the Government that when nominating the Vice-Presidents for these Committees they will take care to appoint only experts who really know something and can create confidence in the minds of the public that they are chosen for merit and not for party reasons?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is it not understood that in every act of the Government the best men are chosen?

The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Oilseeds Committee Act, 1946, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We shall now take the Bill clause by clause.

Clause 2.— (Amendment of Section 2, Act IX of 1946)

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 3.— (Amendment of Section 4, Act IX of 1946)

Shri K. K. Basu (Diamond Harbour): I beg to move:

(i) In page 2, line 23, for "six" substitute "nine".

(ii) In page 2, line 24, for "four" substitute "six".

(iii) In page 2, line 25, for "two" substitute "three".

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

(i) In page 2, line 23, for "six" substitute "nine".

(ii) In page 2, line 24, for "four" substitute "six".

(iii) In page 2, line 25, for "two" substitute "three".

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 4 and 1, the Title and the Enacting Formula were added to the Bill.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

ESTATE DUTY BILL

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the levy and collection of an estate duty, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Shri Khandubhai Kasanji Desai, Shri Narahar Vishnu Gadgil, Shri Dev Kanta Borooah, Shri R. Venkataraman, Shri Nityanand Kanungo, Shri Feroze Gandhi, Shri Tribhuvan Narayan Singh, Shri Basanta Kumar Das, Shri Balwantrao Mehta, Prof. Shriram Narayan Agarwal, Shrimati Anasuyabai Kale, Shri P. T. Chacko, Shri N. Keshavaiengar, Shri U. Srinivasa Malliah, Shri S. Sinha, Shri C. D. Pande, Shri Tek Chand, Shri Harinar Nath Shastri, Pandit Munishwar Dutt Upadhyay, Shri Sadath Ali Khan, Shri Radheshyam Ramkumar Morarka, Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tripathi, Shri N. C. Chatterjee, Shri B. Ramachandra Reddi, Shri K. A. Damodara Menon, Shri K. S. Raghavachari, Shri Tulsidas Kilachand, His Highness Maharaja Sri Karni Singhji Bahadur of Bikaner, Shri V. P. Nayar, Shri Kamal Kumar Basu, Dr. Lanka Sundaram, Shri B. R. Bhagat, Shri Mahavir Tyagi and the Mover, with instructions to report by the last day of the first week of the next session."

Sir, this measure has had a rather long and chequered history. As far back as 1925, the Taxation Enquiry Committee recommended the levy of such a duty, but it was decided not to take up the matter in view of the impending constitutional discussions. When at a later period the Government intended to introduce a measure of this kind it was found that the then Government of India Act was not quite clear on the point whether the Central Legislature was capable of or had the powers to enact a measure imposing an estate duty. Subsequently this difficulty was removed by

an amendment of the Government of India Act by the British Parliament and a Bill to levy estate duty was introduced in 1946. This Bill lapsed by efflux of time and in 1948 another Bill was re-introduced and the second Bill passed through the stage of the Select Committee, which considered it carefully and reported on it. The report was presented to the House in March 1949, but it could not be taken up for further consideration later owing to heavy pressure of other legislative work. This Bill too lapsed on the dissolution of the Provisional Parliament.

The present Bill follows the lines of the preceding Bill as reported on by the Select Committee and was introduced in August last. At one time I thought that it might not be necessary to refer it again to a Select Committee, but on further consideration I came to the conclusion that it would be much better if a Select Committee of the newly elected House were to have an opportunity of bringing its deliberations to bear on the Bill in view of its very great importance. It is not necessary at this stage to go into the detailed provisions of the Bill except to refer to the broad outlines, which I shall presently do. The object at present is to ask the House to accept the general principles on which the Bill is based.

A reference to the Statement of Objects and Reasons will show that the social justification for the measure is that it is one of the positive steps which could take in the direction of reducing the existing inequalities in the distribution of wealth, and thus arriving at a more acceptable social order by correcting certain amount of mal-distribution. The economic justification is that it would go some way towards assisting the States in the financing of their development schemes. In their draft outline report the Planning Commission had also stressed the need for undertaking legislation to levy death duties in India as early as possible and to my knowledge they have not changed their views in this respect.

On account of the federal financial integration of Part B States the present Bill, unlike its predecessor, extends to Part B States, ~~excluding~~ the State of Jammu and Kashmir which is outside the jurisdiction of the Bill.

The House is aware that estate duty on agricultural land falls within the State legislative list, but at the suggestion of the Select Committee on the last Bill and with a view to securing