

RUBBER (PRODUCTION AND MARKETING) AMENDMENT BILL

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Rubber (Production and Marketing) Act, 1947.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Rubber (Production and Marketing) Act, 1947."

The motion was adopted.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: *I introduce the Bill.

RESOLUTION RE. FIVE YEAR PLAN—*Concid.*

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The House will now proceed with further discussion on the following Resolution moved by the hon. the Prime Minister:

"This House records its general approval of the principles, objectives and programme of development contained in the Five Year Plan as prepared by the Planning Commission."

I thought there would be discussion for one hour but it has been reduced by the short notice questions. I will call the hon. Minister at 12. I will allow Members who have not spoken yet five minutes each.

Shrimati Maydeo (Poona South): I am very thankful to you, Sir, for allowing me at least five minutes. I feel it is a privilege to support the Resolution placed before the House. I had heard with interest and care the speeches made by the Opposition parties in the last few days but I thought that when they attacked and criticized the Plan, the words did not come from their hearts but from their mouths because before resuming their seats they could not but appreciate the toil and the pains the Planning Commission Members had taken to place before this House such a comprehensive Plan. As the time at my disposal is very short, I will just take up the points which I want to say. I agree with Dr. Mookerjee and the hon. Minister that health is of utmost importance to our country and some more allocation should have been made. At the same time I feel that the amount allotted for the indigenous systems of medicine is far less than it should be. Out of Rs. 17,87,00,000, only Rs. 35 lakhs have

been allotted for the indigenous systems of medicine which include the Ayurvedic, the Unani, the Homoeopathy and the nature cure. I think that even it was accepted by foreigners that indigenous systems of medicine are, of course, very valuable and important. It is stated in the Report of the Health, Survey and Development Committee—3rd volume of the Bhoire Committee—

"The fact that indigenous medicine plays such a very important part in the life of the Indian people is frequently minimized or even ignored. And yet it represents a very tangible reality that must be faced openly whenever plans are elaborated for improving the health conditions of the country particularly since its population is growing rather than diminishing. New indigenous schools are being founded. They are subsidised by the Governments in several Provinces. The Osmania University of Hyderabad has a Medical College which is a Unani Medical College. The Medical Practitioners' Act of Bombay of 1938 admits graduates of indigenous schools to the Medical Register."

At first sight it seems strange that these ancient indigenous systems are able to compete with modern scientific medicine. It was not strange in the 17th and 18th centuries when the two worlds first entered into contact. At that time European medicine was developing new theoretical foundations but in practice, in the treatment of disease it was hardly more effective than Greek, or Hindu, or Arabic medicine. But today? Nobody can deny that scientific medicine during the last hundred years has made tremendous strides. Bacteriology and immunology have permitted us to combat communicable diseases most effectively and to eradicate many of them. Modern surgery is able to save thousands of human lives that would have been lost only fifty years ago."

That means it would not be proper to under-estimate the modern bacteriology and surgery, but at the same time we must take care of our indigenous systems so that they may not die. I would like to say that the Government has made real efforts and appointed Committees after Committees, first the Yodh Committee, then the Chopra Committee and then the Pandit Committee but even after their reports are out, for the last four five years things are at a standstill. In

*Introduced with the previous recommendation of the President.