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THE  
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

2907

2908

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Thursday, 26th March, 1953

The House met at Two of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part 1)

3 P.M.

COIR INDUSTRY BILL

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill\* to provide for the control by the Union of the Coir Industry and for that purpose to establish a Coir Board and levy a customs duty on coir fibre, coir yarn and coir products exported from India.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the control by the Union of the Coir Industry and for that purpose to establish a Coir Board and levy a customs duty on coir fibre, coir yarn and coir products exported from India."

The motion was adopted.

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

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—contd.

The Prime Minister, Minister of External Affairs and Defence (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): Some little time ago, this House discussed the estimates in regard to the External Affairs Ministry. In discussing foreign policy, it was often stated that foreign policy

was essentially a national policy of a country. Emphasis may vary and conditions sometimes may introduce some refinement here and there, but essentially it was a national policy. Now, if that applied to foreign policy, much more of that argument applies to defence policy. A defence policy should essentially be a national policy, though, undoubtedly, opinions may differ as to whether emphasis should be made on one aspect of it at one time or another aspect. Also, essentially a defence policy has to keep wide awake. It depends on so many factors

If I may give some kind of a rough and ready equation about defence, I would say that defence consists of armed forces, plus their equipment etc., plus the industrial production of the country, plus the economy of the country, plus the morale of the people, plus the international relations or international position. All these are important, every one of them affecting each other. And the first thing to realise is that defence does not consist merely of the armed forces. Essentially, and more and more, it consists of the strength behind those armed forces, the strength of the nation's economy, the industrial capacity of that nation to produce goods required for defence etc., and other things that I have mentioned.

Now, I have followed personally to some extent, and from reports, the speeches that have been delivered, and we have tried to profit by them. Some of my colleagues in the Defence Ministry have already answered some of the arguments. We shall naturally profit by any criticisms that appear to us to be worthwhile or legitimate. Most of those criticisms, however, either deal with what I might call secondary aspects of our defence, or with such things as pay and allowances and conditions of service. Now, these are important of course. But if the House will permit me, I would rather deal

\*Introduced with the recommendation of the President.