

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

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HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Tuesday, 31st March, 1953.

The House met at Two of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

2-50 P.M.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

AGREEMENTS IN RESPECT OF THE PROPRIETORY RIGHTS OVER ATOMIC MINERALS

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of each of the Agreements entered into between the President of India and the Rajpramukhs of Part B States (except Jammu and Kashmir) relating to the proprietary rights of the State over atomic minerals. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 25.]

ESTATE DUTY BILL

PRESENTATION OF REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): I beg to present the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to provide for the levy and collection of an estate duty.

HYDERABAD COINAGE AND PAPER CURRENCY (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) BILL—*contd.*

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The House will now take up further consideration of the motion:

"That the Bill to extend the period during which Hyderabad

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coins and notes of the denominational value of one rupee may continue to be legal tender, to repeal the Hyderabad Paper Currency Act No. II of 1327F and to make certain other incidental provisions, as passed by the Council of States, be taken into consideration."

I have to observe that normally when time is fixed or particular dates are allotted for Budget discussion this period is not interrupted by any other work. I was obliged to put down this work here on the ground that this has to receive the assent of the President today. It is unfortunate that yesterday evening Government did not take care to keep the proper quorum here. Otherwise I would have got on with this work.

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri M. C. Shah): As I said yesterday, I am grateful to the hon. Members of the House for welcoming this measure. In the course of the debate certain suggestions were made by some hon. Members. The most important of them was that ample facilities should be given for conversion and exchange of Hali Sicca to Indian currency. I may inform the House that we had already made ample arrangements for these exchange facilities on a very big scale. We had authorised the Government of Hyderabad to spend up to one lakh of rupees in publicity and were prepared to give as much facility as possible. We were in correspondence with the Hyderabad State Government on that point also. But then representations came that if these one rupee and smaller coins were not to be treated as legal tender for an extended period there might be some difficulty in the rural areas, that there might be exploitation of the poor by certain unscrupulous elements. Certain Members of Parliament waited in deputation on the Finance Minister and the Government of the Hyderabad State also made representations. On a review of the whole position the Government of

[Shri M. C. Shah]

India have come to the conclusion that for two years more this currency, one rupee coins and smaller coins shall remain legal tender.

At the same time, in order to give more facilities to the poorer classes of people, the Government of India have agreed on the representation of the Hyderabad State Government, that not only small coins will be legal tender for two years, but some additional coins of smaller denomination (eight annas and below) will be issued, as far as available and necessary. So the suggestion that all possible facilities for exchange and conversion should be given to the people of Hyderabad State has already been under the consideration of Government. We shall also write to the Hyderabad Government to do the needful in the matter. Now, as there are two years more for this purpose, I am sure that there will be no hardship to the poorer people in the rural areas and they will avail of the facilities granted to them for a further period of two years.

Then there were other points raised which have no bearing on the subject and I do not think any reply to them is necessary. It was suggested that there should be coordination between the Centre and the Hyderabad State Government. I can assure the House that on this point there is sufficient co-ordination between the State Government and, the Centre, so there need be no anxiety on that score.

It was stated that all the assets and liabilities of the currency and coinage should be taken over by the Centre and all the currency must come to the Centre. I may say that the moment the Hyderabad State integrated with the Union all the assets and liabilities, as far as currency and exchange were concerned, became the assets and liabilities of the Centre. So, there ought to be no apprehension on that score either.

About currency in circulation certain figures were quoted. But I may inform the House that those figures were not absolutely correct. According to our information on the 25th February 1953, the volume of one rupee coins in circulation were to the extent of Rs. 8.33 crores and currency notes of Rs. five and above were to the tune of Rs. 35.60 crores, that is a total of Rs. 43.93 crores. We are sure that in the course of these two years all this currency and coinage will be covered into Indian currency.

With these words I commend this Bill for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill to extend the period during which Hyderabad coins and notes of the denominational value of one rupee may continue to be legal tender, to repeal the Hyderabad Paper Currency Act No. II of 1927F and to make certain other incidental provisions, as passed by the Council of States, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There are no amendments to any of the clauses. I shall, therefore, put all the clauses together.

Shri V. G. Deshpande (Guna): I would like to make one observation.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: On what?

Shri V. G. Deshpande: On the Bill.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am afraid the hon. Member has missed the bus. If he has any observations pertaining to the Third Reading he may do so.

Clauses 1, 2, 3 and 4, the Title and the Enacting Formula were added to the Bill.

Shri M. C. Shah: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill be passed."

Shri V. G. Deshpande: I rise to oppose the Bill and make an observation. I do not find any reason why this discrimination is being made in the case of Hyderabad State. There was currency in the case of all the different States and now all those currencies have been stopped and here we find that a new lease of life is being given to this currency. I can understand the hardship of the rural people. But now the Hyderabad Government is allowed to issue more smaller coins like eight annas.

Hon. Members: No, no.

Shri M. C. Shah: I am afraid the hon. Member was not present yesterday. The Hyderabad State will not issue any new currency after this Bill is passed.

Shri V. G. Deshpande: While replying to the Debate the hon. Deputy Minister said that smaller coins will be issued in the next two years

Shri M. C. Shah: What I stated was small coins of the denomination of eight annas and less, if necessary, for the purpose of just removing the difficulties of the poorer classes for which the hon. Member is so anxious.

Shri V. G. Deshpande: So, it will be issued. That is what I am opposing.

Dr. Suresh Chandra (Aurangabad): This is just wasting time of the House. All this has been discussed yesterday.

Shri V. G. Deshpande: I protest against this remark.

Swami Ramananda Tirtha (Gulberga), rose—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: If the hon. Member had not been interrupted he would have finished by this time.

Shri V. G. Deshpande: What I want to observe is that the Government of Hyderabad should not be allowed to issue any more new coins, even of smaller denominations on the plea that the poorer classes would be benefited. I want that the 'Char Minar' should go away completely.

Dr. Jaisooriya (Medak): If I have heard the hon. Deputy Finance Minister rightly, he said by this step they are taking over all the assets and liabilities. Am I to assume, therefore, that the Government of India will take up the responsibility for the Government promissory notes that the Government of Hyderabad have issued up till now.

3 P.M.

Shri M. C. Shah: That question does not arise. The question is about currency and coinage and the reserves for their backing. And we have taken all those assets and liabilities as far as currency and coinage are concerned. That is what I have stated very clearly.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."
The motion was adopted.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The House will proceed with the further discussion of the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of States. **Shri R. D. Misra** was in possession of the House.

श्री आर० डी० मिश्र (जिला बुलन्द-शहर) : माननीय अर्थक्षेत्र जी, कल में यह कह रहा था कि मैं अपने होम मिनिस्टर को मुबारकबाद देता हूँ कि उन्होंने देश में शान्ति और व्यवस्था को बनाये रखा। जिस वक्त यह देश आजाद हुआ उस वक्त इस देश में अशान्ति फैली हुई थी और इस देश के आदमी खूँखार बन चुके थे और एक दूसर की जान के गाहक बने हुए थे, ऐसे नाजुक समय में इस मिनिस्टर ने उम्दगी से काम किया और आज उसी का यह नतीजा है कि आज देश के अन्दर हम शान्ति देखते हैं और जो हमारी हुकूमत डगमगाती और बदलती हुई दिखाई देती थी, वह अब मजबूत हो गयी है। हम यह भी जानते हैं कि भारत के आजाद होने के बाद देश में जो हम प्रजातंत्र कायम करना चाहते हैं, उसके विरुद्ध बहुत सी ताकतें इस प्रयत्न में लगी हुई हैं कि यहाँ पर इस देश में प्रजातंत्र कायम न हो और उन्होंने मुस्तलिफ़ शकलें अख्तियार कर ली हैं और मुस्तलिफ़ पार्टियाँ कायम कर दी हैं, वह यह नहीं समझते कि आज देश में प्रजातंत्र संविधान बन जान से देश में प्रजातंत्र राज्य स्थापित हो गया है, हमें इस देश के एक २ नागरिक को प्रजातंत्र का सिद्धान्त सिखलाना है, उन्हें प्रेम का सबक देना है ताकि हम सब आपस में मिलकर ऐसे सुसंगठित हो जायें ताकि हमारा यह देश बलवान और शक्तिशाली हो। जब कि हम इस काम में लगे हुए हैं, उस वक्त हमारे देश की कुछ शक्तियाँ इस काम में बाधक बन रही हैं और इस हाउस में जहाँ हम आकर बैठे हुए हैं हम देखते हैं कि रोजमर्रा मुखालफ को बहुत काफ़ी मौका मिलता है और वह काफी बहस करते हैं और दलीलें देते हैं जब प्रेसीडेंट एड्रेस (address) आता है तब भी वही एक राग अलापा जाता है, बजट पेश होता है तो तब भी वही राग अलापा जाता है।