

[Mr. Speaker]

yesterday as to why this should not be considered separately, and it was replied. What is the use of repeating a question as often as opportunity arises.

श्री गणपति राव : मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. We have heard enough. There is no use spending away time on matters which have been concluded.

ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL*

The Minister of Law (Shri A. K. Sen): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Essential Commodities Act, 1955."

The motion was adopted

Shri A. K. Sen: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS AND ELECTION PETITIONS) RULES—contd.

Mr. Speaker: The House will now take up further consideration of the motion relating to modification of the Representation of the People (Conduct of Elections and Election Petitions) Rules, 1956, moved on the 9th September, 1957. The time allotted was 2 hours out of which 51 minutes have already been taken. The balance is one hour. How long will the hon. Minister take to reply?

The Minister of Law (Shri A. K. Sen): About 15 minutes.

Mr. Speaker: Then we have 45 minutes. Hon. Members will have 5 to 10 minutes each. I will try to accommodate as many Members as possible.

Shri Tangamani (Madurai): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the 17th July, 1957, the hon. Minister of Law was pleased to lay on the Table of this House amendments to the Representation of the People (Conduct of Elections and Election Petitions) Rules, 1956. In this notification, Sir, rules 41A to 41J are included which seek not only to amend rule 41 but also rules 56, 57 and 58.

Enough has already been said by a number of Members yesterday on the new mode of election which is sought to be introduced by this amendment. 41A deals with the new method, namely, "voting by marking the ballot paper shall be followed in elections at specified polling stations". I shall not develop that particular point further. I would only like to refer to the new clause 41J, sub-clause (3) which reads as follows:

"The returning officer shall also reject a ballot paper used at a notified polling station—

(a) if votes are given on it in favour of more candidates than there are members to be elected, or

(b) if no vote is recorded thereon.

(2B) A vote recorded on a ballot paper used at a notified polling station shall be rejected if the mark indicating the vote is placed on the ballot paper in such a manner as to make it doubtful to which candidate the vote has been given."

I would like to give my own experience about this practice which was adopted in Madras two years ago. In