

17.58 hrs.

**SOCIAL CUSTOMS (CURTAILMENT OF EXPENDITURE) BILL  
BY SHRI JHULAN SINHA**

**Shri Jhulan Sinha (Siwan):** I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for curtailment of expenditure on social customs and for matters connected therewith be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 31st December, 1960."

The main purpose of this Bill, as will appear from the Statement of Objects and Reasons, is, firstly, to give an impetus to the people in small savings investment. Secondly, this Bill is aimed at removal of social evils prevailing in the country in respect of every unjustified and beyond means expenditure on social customs, mainly birth, marriage and death

We all know that this country has been having a very hard time in meeting the expenditure on its development plans. We have been having very heavy taxation from the people, we have been having small savings and borrowing schemes; we have been having loans also from people and last but not the least we have been borrowing from other foreign countries also to meet the expenditure that the country has to incur on the plans that it has adopted for its development. There is a very heavy sector long untapped in this country for so many years and the matter has attracted the attention of all those interested in public affairs.

18 hrs.

My impression is that this country spends a very heavy amount unnecessarily on the observance of rituals

specially connected with birth, marriage and death. I have absolutely no grudge when the people observe the religious part of it by *mantras* and other things concerning directly according to the spirit in the Vedas and other religious books, but the heavy expenditure on these items does not seem to be justified in any way, specially in the present set of things obtaining in this country. When the country has had to go with a begging bowl to Russia, to America and to so many other countries, it will not be a justifiable position for this country to take up to allow its people to spend not according to their choice but according to their forced circumstances and beyond their means. We all know how the problem of very heavy indebtedness is obtaining in this country particularly in the rural sections. We have also had the opportunity of listening to debates in this House and we find that even Government servants are reported to be indebted.

**Mr. Speaker:** How long will the hon. Member take? Is he concluding?

**Shri Jhulan Sinha:** I am not. I have just now started.

**Mr. Speaker:** Then he may continue on the next day.

18.01½ hrs.

**BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**FIFTY-THIRD REPORT**

**Shri Rane (Buldana):** Sir, I beg to present the Fifty-third Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

18.02 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, August 16 1960|Sraavana 25, 1882 (Saka).*